



E1. NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND COMMENT SUMMARY



MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE AND ASSOCIATED PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT
PLANNING

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CITY OF CHICO

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
INVITATION TO A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

October 14, 2004

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and the Public

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in accordance with Section 15021 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Chico (the City), as Lead Agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update. Pursuant to Sections 15082(a) and 15375 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City has issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide Responsible Agencies, Trustee agencies, and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. The City is requesting the views of responsible and trustee agencies, as well as the public, as to the scope and content of the information which should be addressed in connection with the preparation of the EIR.

A 30-day public review period is being conducted on the proposed NOP to begin on Friday, October 15, 2004 and end at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2004. During this time period, the NOP and all documents referenced therein shall be available for public review at the City of Chico Planning Division office, 411 Main Street, Second Floor, Chico, California, 95928, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION/SETTING: Bidwell Park is located in the City of Chico, approximately 92 miles north of Sacramento, 72 miles southeast of Redding, and 170 miles northeast of San Francisco. Bidwell Park extends in a northeasterly direction from near downtown Chico approximately ten miles into the Sierra Nevada/Cascade foothills. Bidwell Park is bisected by Big Chico Creek, a perennial stream which traverses the entire length of the Bidwell Park in an east to west direction. State Highway 99 traverses the lower portion of Bidwell Park in a north to south direction. The regional location of Bidwell Park is shown in **Exhibit 1** and the extent of the project area is depicted in **Exhibit 2**.

Bidwell Park is home to a variety of important and sensitive natural resources, including native plant communities, sensitive natural communities, and special-status plant, wildlife and fish species. Several special-status plant species, including white-stemmed clarkia, rose mallow, California beaked rush, and Butte County checkerbloom are known to occur in Bidwell Park; many other special-status plant and wildlife species have the potential to occur in its diverse habitats. Big Chico Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon and is home to five resident species of native, non-game fish and many aquatic invertebrates. The creek and its tributaries also serve as an important wildlife corridor, linking the habitats of the foothills with those of the Sacramento River.

Developed uses within Bidwell Park include a wide variety of recreation facilities, such as trails, children's play area, picnic areas, and restroom facilities. Developed areas include One Mile Recreation

Area, Five Mile Recreation Area, Hooker Oak Recreation Area, Bidwell Park Golf Course, Cedar Grove Picnic Area, Kiwanis Community Observatory, and Horseshoe Lake area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is an update of the existing Bidwell Park Master Management Plan, which was originally approved by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission on July 31, 1989 and adopted by the City of Chico City Council on January 2, 1990. The existing Master Management Plan includes a vision for Bidwell Park and strategies to achieve the plan's goals and objectives. While some sections of the Master Management Plan (i.e., trail manual, vegetation management, signage, volunteer programs, and circulation) have been updated since its adoption, a comprehensive update is now proposed. The Master Management Plan Update will incorporate the 1995 Upper Park acquisition of 1,417 additional acres, which is now part of Bidwell Park, and will establish uses and management goals for this area. The update will also reflect new rules and regulations that affect public use, resolve planning issues, and provide opportunities for public input. Further, the Master Management Plan Update will include potential updates and expansion of existing management goals, guidelines, and policies to more accurately reflect current planning topics, as described below.

The Master Management Plan Update will reflect the current status and goals for One Mile Recreation Area, the Walnut Orchard, Lost Park, Annie's Glen, and Cedar Grove Picnic Area, as well as consideration of other recreation improvement proposals, including disc golf. Overall design standards for Bidwell Park will be updated and expanded to include new standards brought about by the recently acquired acreage. Zoning and resource information for the new addition will be integrated into all elements of the Master Management Plan Update. In addition, the Horseshoe Lake area will be the focus of site-specific planning.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The proposed project has the potential to affect the following environmental elements, which will be analyzed in the EIR: aesthetics, air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology/soils; hazards/hazardous materials; hydrology/water quality; land use and planning; noise; open space/recreation; transportation/circulation; utilities and services, and cumulative impacts. Please refer to the summaries below for a more detailed discussion of issues to be addressed in the EIR. Comments from the public and agencies will help the City define the final scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR.

Natural Resources. The management of invasive species threatening native ecosystems is an important management issue; current practices will need to be evaluated and considered for integration into the Master Management Plan Update. Other potential outcomes include a field guide or manual for invasive weed removal and a weed abatement plan with adaptive management strategies. The proposed project will consider an intensive approach to the restoration of native riparian woodland in Lower Bidwell Park and the Walnut Orchard. Vegetation management in Annie's Glen and encroachment of non-native vegetation at Lost Park are other issues to be addressed in the Master Management Plan Update.

Cultural Resources. Bidwell Park contains significant archeological and historic sites, and the protection of these sensitive resources is an important aspect of the Master Management Plan Update. Existing cultural resource information will be reviewed and integrated into the Master Management Plan Update. Goals and guidelines for the protection of cultural and historic resources and opportunities for interpretation will be identified.

Fire Management. Fire management in the fire-prone areas of Upper Bidwell Park is an important planning issue. Fire protection and signage alerting the public to the dangers of wildfire in Bidwell Park are issues to be addressed in the Master Management Plan Update. The fire management plan will be integrated with the vegetation management program.

Security, Safety, and Public Health. An important planning issue that will be addressed in the Master Management Plan Update is emergency response procedures for Upper Bidwell Park. The proposed project will include considerations of security issues associated with trails, facilities, and access. The use, locations, and acceptable alternatives to chemical toilets in Upper Bidwell Park will also be evaluated.

Traffic and Circulation. Considerations of circulation will focus on overall circulation and specific considerations such as limits on motorized vehicles at certain locations (e.g., South Park Drive) and trail access in Upper Bidwell Park.

Trail Planning and Maintenance. A trail plan for Upper Bidwell Park is the desired outcome of the Master Management Plan Update, which will include new trails and/or closure of bootleg trails. Other considerations will include erosion of existing trails, access connectivity, sensitive resources, and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, where applicable.

Interpretation and Education. While education opportunities for the lower areas of Bidwell Park are well established, opportunities for interpretation and education in Upper Bidwell Park will be addressed in the proposed project.

Water Quality and Hydrogeology. Water quality is an important concern for resource management in Bidwell Park. The potential for current and proposed management practices to result in discharge of pollutants into surface or ground waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, oxygen or turbidity) or ground water flow and quality will be addressed in the Master Management Plan Update.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The EIR will address emergency response in Upper Bidwell Park. Any potential health hazards associated with implementation of the Master Management Plan Update will also be addressed. The EIR will also include an analysis of whether current or historical activities on or adjacent to the project area may have resulted in significant contamination by hazardous materials or wastes.

CEQA issues that are not expected to be addressed in the EIR include agricultural resources, mineral resources, population and housing, and public services, as implementation of the Proposed Master Plan Update is not expected to have the potential to affect these resources/issues, or these resources are absent in the planning area.

REVIEW PERIOD: Due to the time limits mandated by State law (30-day response period), comments about the scope of the EIR must be sent no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2004**. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may contact Senior Planner Brendan Vieg at (530) 895-4744. Written comments regarding the Notice of Preparation may be sent to the City of Chico Planning Division, Attn: Brendan Vieg, P.O. Box 3420, Chico, CA 95927 or e-mailed to bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us

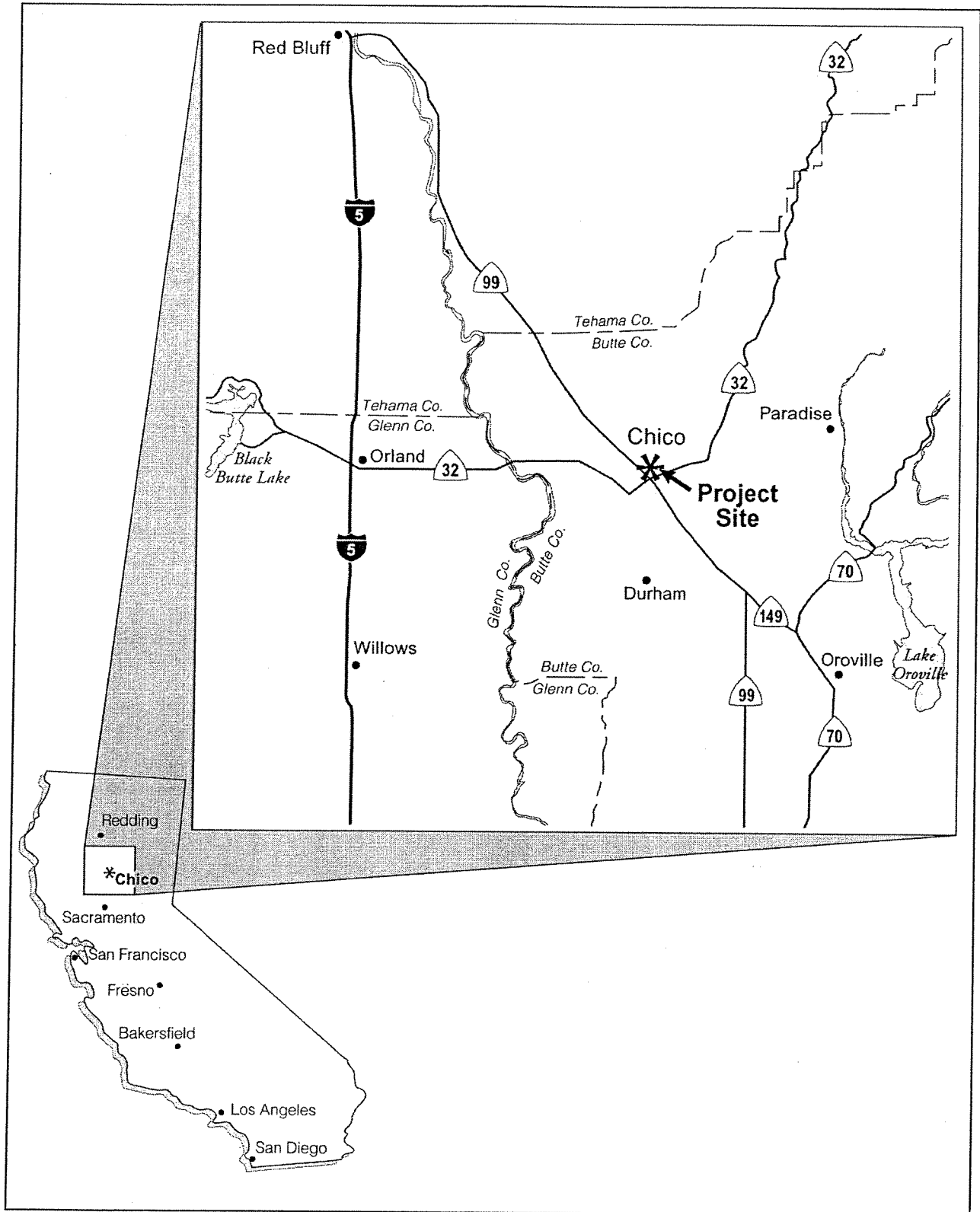
EIR Scoping Meeting

A public Scoping Meeting on the EIR has been scheduled for the following date:

**Thursday, October 28, 2004 at 6:30 P.M.
Conference Room 1, City Council Chamber Building
421 Main Street, Chico, CA**

This public scoping meeting is intended to inform the public about project details and to gather any specific comments about information or issues that should be included in the EIR and/or the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update. The scoping meeting will begin with a description of the proposed project, followed by an overview of the EIR and planning process.

For additional information about the EIR Scoping Meeting, you may contact Senior Planner Brendan Vieg at (530) 895-4744 or via e-mail at *bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us*

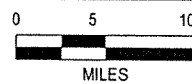


Source: EDAW 1997

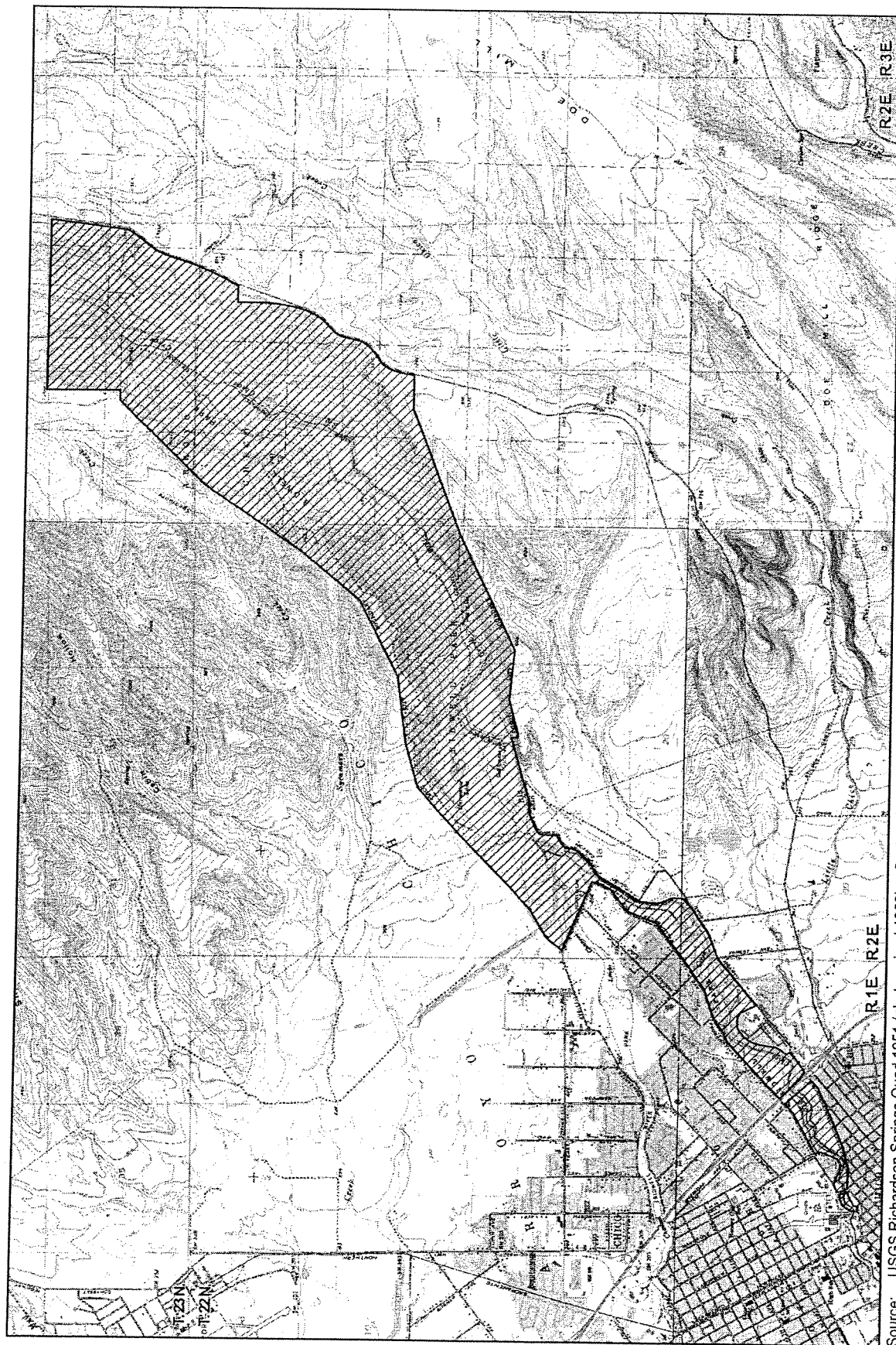
Regional Location

EXHIBIT 1

NOP Bidwell Park Master Plan/EIR
P 04110032.01 10/04



EDAW



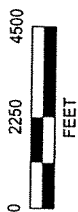
Source: USGS Richardson Springs Quad 1951 (photorevised 1969) -- Contour Interval 20 Feet / Paradise West Quad 1980 -- Contour Interval 40 Feet
 USGS Chico Quad 1948 (photorevised 1978) -- Contour Interval 5 Feet / Hamlin Canyon 1951 (photorevised 1969) -- Contour Interval 20 Feet

Project Location

NOP Bidwell Park Master Plan/EIR

P 04110032.01 10/04

EXHIBIT 2



EDAW

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan Update/EIR

NOP Response Summary

Date Received Name	Comments
10/22/04 Rick Helman, Caltrans	No comment.
10/24/04 Michael Jones, Chico	- Address impact of restricting recreation opportunities in Upper Park on: a) Human health: current restrictions effectively penalize people who are attempting to pursue healthy activities. b) Greenhouse gas emissions and global warming: current restrictions force people to drive greater distances for recreation elsewhere. c) Rare plants outside the park: Current recreation restrictions encourage people to recreate in other areas that may have greater numbers of rare plant species. - Address how Butte County Checkerbloom responds to trail construction and if such disturbance creates favorable conditions for its growth. - Address whether disc golf mimics historic and prehistoric grazing and browsing activity by knocking down non-native annuals to the benefit of native plant species. Are there certain times of the year when this activity would be most favorable or detrimental? - Address the need to bring all Upper Park trails up to trails Manual standards. - Address air quality and soil erosion impacts of park users driving on dirt portion of Upper Park Road. Could the dirt section be converted to a bike path that is closed to vehicles and would this increase use of Upper Park with reduced impacts? - Consider creating a Class A wheelchair accessible loop from 5-Mile parking lot, up the north side of the creek to Golf Course Bridge and back on the south side via Centennial trailhead. - Address "reclaiming" Lost Park to establish a path from Bidwell Mansion to One-Mile to encourage non-motorized connectivity. - Consider combining Middle and Lower Trails along the old diversion ditch berm to achieve year-round accessibility and sustainability. - If trails are brought up to standard, can they be opened to bikes and horses in the wet season without significant impacts? - Provide an all-weather route for mountain bikes by eliminating the ford between Ten-Mile and Upper Park road; a bridge there would reduce current erosion and safety hazards. - The City's sphere of influence doesn't include the area north of Upper Park where significant visual impacts are occurring. The City must address what it can do to protect the park from outside impacts, for example by expanding its sphere of influence or expanding the Park to the north if land becomes available.

Date Received Name	Comments
10/28/04 Andrea Bowman, Chico	• Limit cars in Upper Park to reduce noise, air, erosion and safety hazards. • Replace car use with golf-cart sized electric train-style transport for which users could pay for individual or season pass. • Preserve nature by limiting group activities. • Dedicate a place for vagrants since they are already here and need a place to stay; coordinate with mental health services and police.
10/28/04 Larry Stemple, Tues-Thurs Ride Club, Chico	• Address land usage, transportation/trails, Upper/Middle/Lower Park, erosion.
10/28/04 Erik Helbing, Corning	• Erosion from bikes: work with bike stores and store owners to help establish respect for the land among all bikers. • Address the visual impacts of land use changes outside the park on park users. • Further limit cars on dirt portion of road in Upper Park.
10/28/04 Rachel Oriana Schrader, Chico	• Continue disc golf use in "new acquisition" area. • Close roads in Upper and Lower Park to vehicles unless handicap or other special permit is evident. • Maintain existing level of park services. • Address visual impacts to park users at entrance to Upper Park and on ridge overlooking Upper Park.
10/28/04 Ed McLaughlin, Chico Velo Cycling Club	• Concerned about circulation in and through Bidwell Park: adjacent development will present new pressures and demands. • Willing to serve on committee addressing circulation.
10/28/04 Michael Jones, Chico	• Address hazards posed by dangerous trails. • Improve safety of Ten-Mile trailhead by relocating it 0.1 mile west of Santos Ranch Road.
10/28/04 Gloria Bettencourt	• Preserve the natural aesthetic of Bidwell Park.
10/28/04 Blair Snyder, Chico Rod & Gun Club	• Maintain existing approved uses.

Date Received Name	Comments
10/28/04 Lon Glazner, Chico Disc Golf Club	- Specify (statute, policy, criteria, etc.) how the City determines “significant environmental effect,” addressing both direct and indirect physical changes and providing examples. - Consider cumulative effects of specific activities based on the whole of the EIR project, e.g. how does disc golf effect blue oak population throughout the Park. - Per CEQA 15022 C, the City should prepare a list of categorical exemptions from the EIR including: - Section 15301 G re: new copy on existing on- and off-premise signs. - Section 15306, addressing experimental management, resource evaluation activities that lead to an action which a public agency has not yet approved or funded. This supports the “spring course proposal” made 10/25 by the Chico Disc Golf Club and the interest in placing test infrastructure on 2 holes as the disc course to evaluate future infrastructure benefits. - Section 15323, normal operations of facilities for public gatherings. Consider the past history of facility use and continued expectations for future use. - Refrain from calling disc golf the reason for blue oak death without proof that a tree’s demise is not due to the myriad other arthropods, diseases or fungi known to inhabit oaks.
10/28/04 Tom Haithcock, Chico Creek Nature Center	RE NOP suggestion that Upper Park education and interpretive activities are not as established as in Lower Park, please acknowledge that Chico Creek Nature Center has been serving as THE Interpretive and Information Center for all of the park since it was authorized to do so in the original BPMMP. Throughout the school year naturalists lead K-6 students from a 5-county area on a variety of hikes. Similar programs are offered monthly to adults throughout the year.
10/29/04 Jeff Mott, CSUC, Big Chico Creek Ecol. Reserve Manager	- BCCER and Bidwell Park share many of the same management issues. - Fire management: BCCER has a program that also improve habitat. Consider working together to extend BCCER fuel break from the shared property line to Hwy 32 along Ten Mile House Road. - Offer of help to improve dirt roads on Chico Canyon and Ten Mile House Roads. - Implement a bullfrog eradication program. The pond along Ten Mile House Road is a bullfrog reservoir.
11/1/04 Jackson Shedd, Chico	- Implement a bullfrog eradication program. - Consider re-introducing native frogs to the Park.
11/8/04 Janice Condon, Chico	Expand the number of “automobile-free” days at the park, e.g. 5 days no autos and 2 days for handicapped only.
11/8/04 Frank Condon	Address safety issues of allowing non-handicapped cars in Upper Park. Current road users drive at unsafe speeds posing hazards to pedestrians and cyclists. The City should encourage people to exercise and walk rather than drive.

Date Received Name	Comments
11/12/04 Patsy Schutz, Chico	• Leave the park unimpaired for future generations. • Effective land management must consider sound, scientific information about soil resources to prevent recreational impacts from degrading ecosystem function or becoming irreversible. • Provide education to visitors on soils/soil erosion in the park. • The NRCS office in Chico is a great resource for soil information. • Attached an NRCS article, "Rangeland Soil Quality – Water Erosion."
11/14/04 Randy Abbott, Chico	• Clarify whether this update and scoping includes the Annie Bidwell Trail project and the Disc Golf Course project or if these will receive further environmental review at the end of the update process. • All comments refer to the disc golf course area (if not explicitly noted in this summary). • Address consistency of disc golf course with General Plan and current zoning. • Aesthetics: ○ Identify the aesthetic value of the disc golf site and address direct and cumulative impacts to the site's aesthetic value as a result of increased use. ○ Address indirect impacts of the disc golf course on adjacent lands (e.g. loss of scenic value). ○ Define policy changes needed to establish an 'aesthetically impactful facility' if it is determined in the EIR that the sport of disc golf is inherently damaging to aesthetic resources and there are no known methods to mitigate for that loss. • Biological resources ○ Define the plan for monitoring, replacing and recruiting native trees. The loss of a viable native tree nursery as a direct and indirect impact of the disc golf site should be quantified and mitigated. ○ Survey rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals and provide mitigation plan for resources identified on or near the disc golf site. ○ Identify which wildlife species use the project site as habitat and how the development and projected use of the site affects those species. Provide mitigation for habitat loss or impact. Be sure to address consistency with park master management policy. ○ Address the size of the disc golf course, its direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the park management objective to "conserve and protect natural resources." ○ Address the disc golf course potential to cause fragmentation of diurnal wildlife movement along the lava cap ridge top and encourage wildlife to seek paths across Highway 32. ○ Address wetlands protection and rehabilitation. ○ Identify all areas of mitigation on- or off-site. ○ Specify City's requirement to monitor and implement mitigation. ○ Cumulative impacts to biological resources: quantify current park use and projected use levels.

Date Received Name	Comments
Randy Abbott, Chico (cont'd.)	○ Establish understanding of rates of impact to a resource and the rate of recovery required from an impact to develop a management plan for disc golf that may address seasonal closure, annual shifting of holes, etc. • Cultural resources: Blue trunk rock shelter is a minor cultural site at an undisclosed location within the disc golf course that needs greater protection. • Soils and geology: ○ Address soil impacts and intensities appropriate to soil's ability to withstand a particular use. Identify whether there is an acceptable level of soil degradation and how such degradation will be monitored. ○ Assess soil's role in providing habitat for blue oak and how degradation of the soils may affect plant habitat. ○ Describe age and depth of soils at disc golf site as well as soil replacement methods that may become necessary to reestablish a healthy ecosystem. • Hazards ○ Identify the cliff area as a hazard and study the relationship of disc course layout to such hazard. ○ Study potential for disc golf injury to park users off the course. ○ Address safe design of facility road access. ○ Address fire hazard as a result of illegal smoking in the dry season; the City doesn't enforce their no smoking policy. • Planning ○ Provide thorough review of existing policies and plans relating to land use and planning. ○ Inconsistencies with existing policies, required mitigation, policy changes needed to accommodate the project and unmitigatable conditions need to be brought to light now to minimize need for further reviews. ○ Identify the long term mission for the park, define management policies and address how disc golf fits in. • Open Space/Recreation ○ The City should have designated the disc golf project as having potentially significant impacts on IS. Reasons: disc golf is now on land zoned OS-1, disc golfers are displacing other categories of recreational users in an area with a world-class viewshed and the intensity of use has increased the physical deterioration of the site. No one can deny that the golf course has had an adverse physical effect on the environment. • Public services: ○ ID need for and cost of providing restrooms, garbage receptacles and trash pickup as part of maintenance analysis. ○ Address educational signage and trash pickup along disc golf course. ○ If course stays where it is, address maintenance costs related to upkeep of the course, trail maintenance and long-term mitigation measures. • Transportation and circulation: ○ ID plan for safe entry and exit from highway 32. ○ Accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic at the disc golf site.

Date Received Name	Comments
Randy Abbott, Chico (cont'd.)	○ Understand needs of other recreationists at the disc golf area – where do they walk, picnic etc. – so that the site can be planned for the fullest public benefit. • As a former disc golfer, he never imagined the impacts of his sport. Observation of the damage led him to stop playing – he loves Bidwell Park more than the sport and thanks the City for expanding the park. He asks the City to not turn its back on Annie Bidwell's deed and a 100 year legacy of protecting natural resources and instead take steps to ensure its preservation for generations to come.
11/14/04 Randy Abbott, Chico	• Annie Bidwell trail comments ○ The project is currently undergoing environmental review but new trail alignments pose potentially significant cumulative and indirect impacts. ○ Address potential for impacts to creek bank vegetation and habitat as a result of changing user habits, particularly in creating potential for new increased off-trail creek access. Please look at other creekside trails to assess cumulative impact. ○ Survey existing south bank wildlife and habitat to include the entire riparian zone on the south side of the creek. ○ Study use patterns on the south side of the creek to determine if trail alignments need to be redefined. Address the manageability of existing trail conditions and then the options for realignment and potential for environmental damage from each option. ○ Define what areas on the south side are currently not accessed by the public and the beneficial effect this may have on wildlife. ○ Explain how the trail meets park management policies without unnecessarily impacting the park's resources. ○ Address total restoration of abandoned trails. ○ Problems with existing trail relate to lack of maintenance, lack of signage, lack of effort to close bootleg trails; how does a new trail plan make a difference in these problem areas? ○ Identify all designated and bootleg trails and address the need to close bootleg trails.
11/15/04 Gail Williams, Butte County Air Quality Mgmt. Dist.	• No comment.
11/15/04 Suellen Rowilson, CNPS Mt. Lassen Chapter	• Include detailed analysis of adverse environmental impacts of existing developments and proposed projects and cumulative impacts on all sensitive plant species and plant communities in the project area. • Base the analysis on thorough, scientifically defensible inventory and mapping of all plant communities and associated sensitive plant species, soils and underlying geologic features of the park.

Date Received Name	Comments
Suellen Rowilson, CNPS Mt. Lassen Chapter (cont'd.)	Assess potential for soil erosion because of potential adverse effects on native plants and water quality.
11/14/04 Larry Eng, Deputy Regional Manager, CDFG Sac. Valley- Central Sierra Region	- Address direct, indirect and cumulative impacts expected to affect biological resources with specific measures to offset such impacts. - Place special emphasis on resources that are rare or unique to the region. - Analyze impacts relative to effects on offsite habitats and populations. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas including access to undisturbed areas should be provided. - Discuss potential conflict with nearby development and human-wildlife interactions. Discuss the potential conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce conflicts. - Develop a cumulative effects analysis. - Address the project's impact on state or federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species. Conduct pre-project surveys when these species are both evident and identifiable. Include species lists in the appendices of the EIR. - Contact DFG's Natural Diversity Database for information on previously reported sensitive species and habitats, Significant Natural Areas, Significant Ecological Areas, or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas identified near or adjacent to the project site. - Fully mitigate project impacts on sensitive species. Activities resulting in unavoidable take of a state-listed plant or animal species require a 2081 permit from DFG. - Notify Director of DFG if the project applicant obtains a federal "Incidental Take Permit or Statement." The EIR should reference the requirement for obtaining a consistency determination from DFG when jointly listed species are impacted. - Evaluate and mitigate for potential changes in surface water hydrology and water quality that would impact any aquatic resource within the watershed of the project. There is particular concern about effects of runoff from an increase in impervious surfaces, erosion from construction of new facilities and destabilized soils caused by recreational uses. Ensure post-project aquatic resource viability. - Develop a detailed monitoring program for all required mitigation measures. Include specific criteria to measure effectiveness of mitigation, monitor annually for a minimum of five years, submit annual monitoring reports to DFG that include corrective recommendations to ensure successful mitigation - Please provide DFG written notification of all proposed actions and pending decisions regarding the project. - The project will have an effect on fish and/or wildlife habitat, necessitating a fee assessment. Fees are payable when the Notice of Determination is filed by the lead agency. - Jenny Marr will be the agency contact.

Date Received Name	Comments
11/15/04 Scott Chamberlain, Chico	• Address cumulative impacts. • Don't ignore impacts on the arthropod communities. • Eradicate invasive plants and make a concerted effort to control invasive plant encroachments into the park. • Address potential impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. • Reference: Wenner, A.M. 1959 "The Ants of Bidwell Park, Chico, California." American Midland Naturalist 62 (1):174-182. (Commenter can provide paper in electronic format if requested).
11/15/04 Dan Efseaff, Chico Paddleheads	• Incorporate whitewater recreational enhancements at the Sycamore Pool into the project description. • At Sycamore Pool, majority of use is in summer. However, during the cooler wetter months, when streamflows are above 500 cfs, the entrance to the Pool develops a "play wave" that attracts local kayakers. Hydraulic modifications would create new hydraulic features that are safer and offer more opportunities across a range of flow conditions. The enhancement would allow for more natural terraced streambank and safer entry and exit from the water. • Enhanced whitewater features can be compatible with, and even benefit, fish passage, sediment transport and safe passage for swimmers and tubers. Examples are the Truckee Whitewater Park in Reno, the Clear Creek Whitewater Park in Golden, Colorado, Gore Creek in Vail, Colorado.
11/15/04 Susan Mason, Chico	• Address urban encroachment issues in Lower Park with boundary surveys. • Survey boundary on north side of Upper Park to identify solutions to trail erosion there. • Develop a structure and vegetation encroachment ordinance for Bidwell Park. • Identify elements of a vegetation management plan. Involve neighbors in developing the plan. • Consider the biological and economic costs of the numerous homeless encampments. • Address soil erosion on the North Rim Trail. • Define both "active" and "passive" recreation. • Reduce the number or management units to ease development and implementation of fire and vegetation management plans. • Establish a policy to remove unofficial trails. • Implement a bullfrog eradication program. • Give monitoring and maintenance the attention they deserve: plan for these activities and identify funding sources before a plan is approved. • If "Middle Park" continues to be a Park designation, provide a map showing the boundaries. • Develop a list of post-European cultural resources and prohibit their destruction. Commenter provides numerous examples. • Relocate easterly portion of trail in Annie's Glen to higher ground so it can be used year-round.

Date Received Name	Comments
11/15/04 Susan Mason, Friends of Bidwell Park	• In the EIR, honor the City's compromise agreement about potential trail routings for the proposed Annie Bidwell trail. • Fire management: decide what's most important to preserve then develop and implement a plan based on those decisions. • Consider methods to reduce traffic on Upper Park Road. • Study trail circulation throughout the park; are the requirements the same for all user groups? • Trail maintenance: ○ Require annual assessment of maintenance of all trails. ○ Develop and apply strategies to address bootleg trails. ○ Update trail manual to include info on rare plants and habitats. ○ Develop procedures to minimize impacts to rare plants during trail construction and maintenance. • Implement a comprehensive study of the park's flora and fauna as part of the EIR. • Evaluate potential impact to wildlife habitat and corridors, water quality and hydrology as a result of proposed new bridges in Upper Park. • All recreational activities have unavoidable and unique environmental impacts. Some have been studied extensively, others not (e.g. rock climbing, orienteering). Evaluate recreation potential and recognize that some activities may be more appropriate in particular areas of the park than in others. • Provide a clear goal and vision for the management plan. • How does the update alter the goals of the existing plan? • What is the expected duration of the plan? • How does the City ensure its management of the Park is consistent with what is in the Master Management Plan? • What are the criteria for exemptions from the MMP? • Focus the plan on preservation so future generations can enjoy Bidwell Park as we do.
11/15/04 Susan Mason, Friends of Bidwell Park	• Comments on Disc Golf Course. The following issues were not adequately addressed in the mitigated negative declaration: ○ Rare plants: no impact-level surveys were conducted, though rare plants are known to occur in the vicinity. ○ Native plants: tree damage is apparent, but needs to be quantified. ○ Soil: compaction and erosion is evident. Quantify the area and degree, and the short and long term impacts. ○ Wildlife: no surveys have been conducted and potential impacts to foraging and nesting birds has not been addressed. ○ Delineate seasonal wetlands. ○ Address aesthetics. ○ Identify clear and feasible mitigation measures. The City must show it has staff and funding to implement and monitor the mitigation. ○ Address cumulative impacts over time.

Date Received Name	Comments
Susan Mason, Friends of Bidwell Park (cont'd.)	○ Safety: proximity to bluffs is unsafe, no smoking rule needs to be enforced, address fire history of site. ○ Does the course need to be handicapped-accessible by law? ○ Future of disc golf – the sport seems to be growing. What money is available to design, build and maintain the courses? How much City money for Bidwell Park should go for disc golf? Should CARD manage disc golf rather than BPPC?
11/15/04 Eve Robida, Chico	• Please preserve and protect the natural wonder of Bidwell Park. Beware uses with potential for overuse and abuse. Keep park uses sustainable.
11/15/04 Hilary Locke, Save Bidwell Ranch, Chico	• Incorporate Bidwell Ranch into the EIR. Identify those areas of the ranch that are sensitive enough to warrant very limited access. • Upper Park is a wilderness area and should be protected as one. There is irreparable damage being done as a result of human activity. Put the higher impact activities in Lower Park.
11/15/04 Paul Krohn, Chico	• Address right of way issues on trails with better signs and outreach.
11/15/04 Nita Torres, Chico	• Take a serious look at erosion problems. • Provide better signage when trails are closed. • City needs to ticket and fine people who don't follow park rules. • Use the MMP for decision making, and build in an amendment process. • Protect sensitive species. • Phase out motorized travel in the park. • Add one more day of Upper Park closure to cars. • Incorporate Bidwell Ranch into Bidwell Park planning. • Protect Upper Park as a wilderness area and don't give in to special interest groups.
11/15/04 Cynthia Cailey, Chico	• Bidwell Park is in trouble: soil erosion, bootleg trails, invasive plants, adjacent development (views, air and water quality), narrowing of the wildlife corridor, and indiscriminate use by vagrants. • City of Chico should establish a job focused on harnessing community volunteer energy for the park. • Incorporate designation of Bidwell ranch permanent open space in the discussion of Bidwell Park management. • Respect Annie's intent that the park be available for the enjoyment of all, but also respect the modern fact that the park is a unique and rare resource that is threatened. We need to make sure the park is preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Date Received Name	Comments
11/15/04 Andy Tomaselli, Chico	• Trails: address erosion, overuse, use during wet/muddy conditions and signage. • Manage use intensity based on carrying capacity. • Preserve the wilderness characteristics of Upper Park...prevent the addition of any more structures.
11/18/04 Patsy Schutz, Chico	• Thank you to Dennis Beardsley and BPPC for the 11/13 meeting on the proposed disc golf site. • Have the scientific experts that were present submit written summaries of their discussions for the public record. • Listen carefully to the scientific experts in assessing impacts and mitigation.
11/22/04 Barbara Rose, Vice Chair, Mechoopda Indian Tribe	• Bidwell Park is within their aboriginal territory and as such they have concern with activities that impact the discovery, identification, management, restoration and preservation of cultural and heritage resources. • Request that there be ongoing cooperation and communication between the City and tribe on these areas of mutual concern and responsibility. • The Mechoopda oral tradition should be included in planning efforts in order to complement document record searches. • Natural resource protection is integral to preserving the Mechoopda heritage. Mandates for the treatment of large trees and other significant natural landmarks need to be identified in the environmental master plan • Concern about safe and calculated discharges to Big Chico creek.
12/2/04 Jenny Marr, CA DFG	• Address direct, indirect and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts. ◦ Regional setting and baseline habitat conditions are critical to the assessment. Place special emphasis on rare and unique resources. ◦ Analyze project impacts relative to their effects on off-site populations, including nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats and riparian ecosystems. ◦ Address impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas. ◦ Discuss possible wildlife-human interactions and mitigation measures to reduce conflicts. ◦ Develop a cumulative effects analysis per CEQA Guidelines section 15130. • Address project's impact on state or federally listed rare, threatened or endangered species. Guidance for pre-project and field surveys is provided herein. • Include species lists in Draft EIR Appendices. • Contact DFG's California Natural Diversity Database for current information reported on sensitive species and habitats. • Address any activity that will result in loss of habitat, decreased reproductive success or other negative effects on population levels. If impacts cannot be avoided, full mitigation is required. Activities resulting in unavoidable take of a species require that the applicant obtain a DFG Section 2081 permit.

Date Received Name	Comments
Jenny Marr, CA DFG (cont'd.)	• If a potentially impacted species is both state and federally listed, the applicant must get a federal "Incidental Take Permit or Statement" and consult with DFG for a Consistency Determination. • Evaluate potential for changes in surface water hydrology and water quality resulting in impacts to the aquatic resource, permanent streams, intermittent drainages and wetlands within the watershed of the project area. • Develop a detailed monitoring program for all required mitigation conditions that includes specific criteria to measure effectiveness, annual monitoring for a minimum of five years, annual monitoring reports. • DFG is aware of ongoing activities in the disc golf area that are allegedly adversely impacting the project site in advance of protocol level biological surveys for the City's EIR. Given the delay until the project EIR and management plan EIR are certified, the City should take appropriate action to prevent permanent alteration and damage to the wildlife and habitat resources by adhering to the existing City policies, ordinances, management plans and other necessary administrative measures until an updated management plan and fully certified EIR is adopted for disc golf and other Bidwell Park development projects. • The project will have an effect on fish and/or wildlife habitat, necessitating a fee assessment. Fees are payable when the Notice of Determination is filed by the lead agency. • Please provide written notification of proposed actions and pending decisions regarding this project. • Attached information: ○ DFG, Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities ○ Oak Tree Avoidance ○ Oak Tree Protection Guidelines ○ Guidelines for Preserved Oaks ○ Burrowing owl photo ○ Burrowing owl Consortium ○ DFG Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation ○ Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley, Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee, May 31, 2000 ○ DFG Staff Report regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>) in the Central Valley of California