

Refugio State Beach Campfire Center Renovation



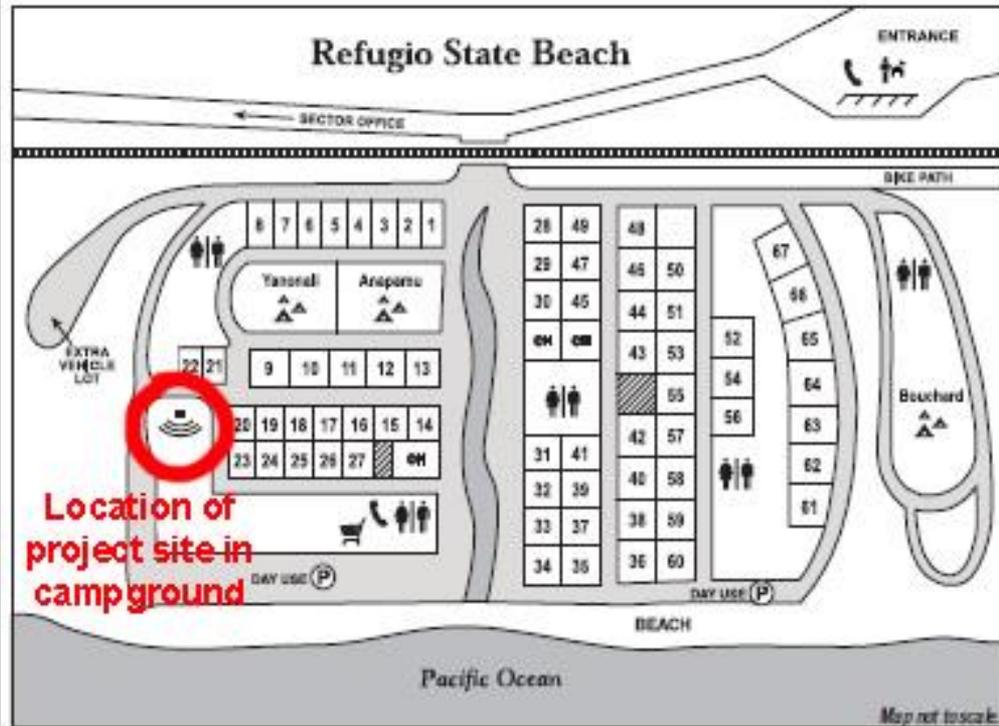
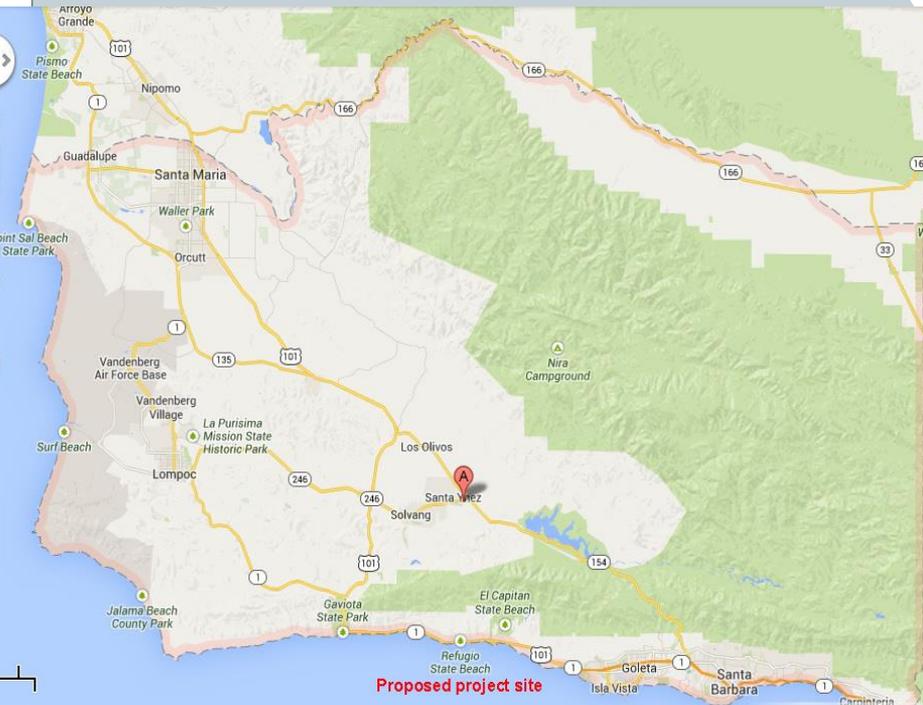
APPLICANTS:

FRIENDS OF CHANNEL COAST STATE PARKS

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, CHANNEL COAST DISTRICT



Project site



Project site



The Project



- Repair and improve the existing Campfire Center at Refugio State Beach, located along the Gaviota Coast.
- Replace the existing electrical power source, outdoor lighting, and media screen and structure.
- New features would include a stone fire pit, seating area with benches, an area for blankets and lawn chairs, and an area that will be wheelchair accessible.

Financial information



- *Total Project Costs:* \$32,000
 - *Amount already secured:* \$10,000
 - *Labor (State Parks staff and volunteers, in-kind):* \$7,000
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- *Amount initially requested from CREF:* \$15,000
 - *State Parks “maintenance and repair”* \$3,750
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- *Amount now requested from CREF:* \$11,250

Criterion #1



- *Enhancement projects must be located in the coastal area or have a coastal relationship, and must be consistent with the County's Local Coastal Program and Comprehensive Plan or other applicable local coastal/general plans. Enhancement projects should be located within geographical proximity to oil and gas onshore/offshore development activities while still providing for the broadest public benefit.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** (+) This project would provide a recreational amenity (i.e., the Campfire Center) for visitors at Refugio State Beach. The improved Campfire Center would entice campers at Refugio State Beach to participate in evening educational programs that educate visitors on the coastal resources at the State Beach.

Criterion #2



- *Projects should compensate for coastal impacts due to oil and gas development, specifically for sensitive environmental resources, aesthetics, tourism, and negative effects on coastal recreation in the County.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** (+) The project would enhance coastal recreation and coastal tourism by providing an improved Campfire Center at the popular Refugio State Beach. The project would comfortably accommodate visitors and would enhance the presentation of the educational and interpretative programs presented at the State Beach.

Criterion #3



- *Projects should provide a level of broad public benefit.*
- ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION: (+)*** The project would enhance the coastal camping experience at Refugio State Beach. The applicant states that more than 94,000 visitors camp at the beach annually. In addition, the new Campfire Center would accommodate visitors using wheelchairs.

Criterion #4



- *The intent of the CREF program is to fund coastal acquisition and capital improvement projects; therefore, projects which offer coastal acquisition and capital improvements will receive higher priority than whose projects which do not.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** (+/-) Approximately 25% of the proposal is considered repair and maintenance, which CREF will not fund. Most of the project (75%) is considered capital improvements; this portion of the proposal is considered a high priority of CREF.
- **With amendment of funding request to eliminate the \$3,750 that County staff deems is “maintenance and repair,” 100% of the new request (\$11,750) is capital improvements.**

Criterion #5



- *Projects should utilize matching funds and/or in-kind services to the maximum extent possible.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION: (+/-)** The applicant is requesting approximately half of the budget from CREF; the applicant has secured \$10,000 and offers \$7,000 as in-kind staff and volunteer hours for installing the Campfire Center.
- **With amendment of funding request to eliminate the \$3,750 that County staff deems is “maintenance and repair,” only about 35% of the project budget would come from CREF funds.**

Criterion #6



- *Projects should be self-supporting or should require minimum on-going County operations/ maintenance costs once the project is completed and implemented.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** (+) There would be no ongoing County operations or maintenance involved with this proposal; the California State Park maintenance program would maintain the Campfire Center.

Criterion #7



- *Projects to be funded should lack other viable funding mechanisms to complete the project.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION: (+/-)** The applicant is requesting approximately half of the budget from CREF; the applicant has secured \$10,000 and offers \$7,000 as in-kind staff and volunteer hours for installing the Campfire Center.
- **With amendment of funding request to eliminate the \$3,750 that County staff deems is “maintenance and repair,” only about 35% of the project budget would come from CREF funds.**

Criterion #8



- *The feasibility of implementing and completing the project shall be considered. Projects with a high probability of success should be given preference.*
- **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** (+) Once the applicant secures all the monies to complete the project, it could be completed successfully since it is simply renovating and improving upon an existing Campfire Center, which the State Parks has at many of its campground locations.

Summary



- This project clearly addresses all criteria set forth for funding:
 - a clear coastal connection,
 - strong link to tourism,
 - a level of broad public benefit
 - a capital improvement project,
 - comes with matching funds and in-kind support,
 - will require no ongoing commitment from the County of Santa Barbara.

The Campfire Center will not only serve tourists from out of the area, but will also be utilized by local Santa Barbara County residents who take advantage of the Junior Lifeguard program and other educational programs held at Refugio State Beach. Many of the local day-use visitors and Junior Lifeguard participants come from the surrounding communities of Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Buellton, making this a project with county-wide impact.