

While African-American community leaders and historians have supported the continued use of this name in the past, California State Parks recognizes that such interpretations can change over time. It is important for the department to hold broad and open discussion with scholars, visitors, activists and families to understand perspectives and gain a wider understanding of the name's usage and how it may impact the visitor experience and those who come in contact with the name.

Plans for a public meeting earlier this year were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the department is looking at ways to seek additional feedback from the public, our stakeholders and the African-American community in order to reach an informed decision. The suggestion [page online](#) for Negro Bar was launched in 2019 in response to the fall 2018 petition.

The name Negro bar was first applied to a small mining settlement on the south bank of the American River that was founded in 1849 by African-American miners. This sub-unit of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area has appeared on USGS maps since 1954. This name Negro Bar was used in newspapers as early as 1850. According to our records, use of the pejorative form is not found in newspapers from that period in reference to this location. However, it did appear in USGS maps from 1922 map, which is a revised edition of the 1914 Topographic Map. The pejorative form was changed back to the original naming of "Negro Bar" on the 1960 updated edition of the 1955 map.

Once we receive additional feedback from the public, African-American community leaders and historians, the Director of State Parks may approve a name change. State Parks will keep the public posted once we decide on our next steps on this important issue.

As an FYI - a portion of the day-use area of Negro Bar is currently under renovation to improve recreation facilities.

The renovation project will include:

- New interpretive panels that highlight the area's historic, natural and cultural resources. (At this time, we do not have renderings available.)
- ADA accessible walkways to the swim beach.
- New stairway access to the beach.
- A new restroom facility.
- A new paddle sport concession facility and Junior Lifeguard facility.
- Improved picnic facilities with picnic tables, shade ramadas, barbecues, trashcans, and additional group picnic sites.
- Converting an existing gravel area into additional paved parking.

The renovation project is expected to last through November 2020 and will impact access to the swim beach area and day-use parking facilities in the western portion of the park. The launch ramp, main parking area, horse assembly area, group campground facilities and trail access to the American River Bike Trail will not be affected.

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