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**California Department of Parks and Recreation**

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## General Plan Inquiries

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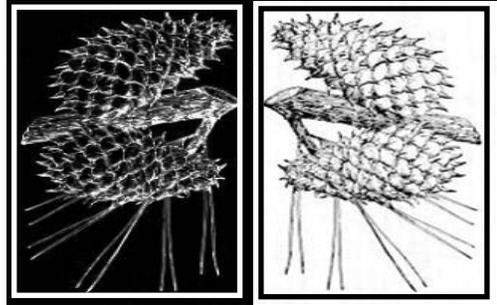
Attention: Tomales Bay State Park General Plan Team

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# *ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS*





## SUMMARY

The objectives of the Environmental Analysis section are to identify the significant impacts of implementing the General Plan and to provide general mitigation measures for a first tier of environmental review. The General Plan does not provide a detailed program of specific development or management, but sets the broader goals for the park's management, resource protection, and provisions for public use. Future planning steps may include layout and design of facilities or specific resource management plans and processes. A more detailed level of environmental analysis is applied at that time.

Planning areas have been identified which will guide park-wide land use decisions and visitor use areas. This Environmental Analysis focuses on the environmental effects of the preferred planning alternative for five separate park planning areas: Heart's Desire Area, Inverness Area, Millerton Area, Marconi Cove Area, and North Marshall Area. The environmental effects of specific future projects in these planning areas will be evaluated further in separate project-specific environmental documents when details of future development projects are considered.

The proposals contained in this document were developed during the general planning process for Tomales Bay State Park. The General Plan proposals, also referred to as the plan, respond to critical issues in park facilities and management and provide guidelines for future park land use decisions. The plan outlines specific goals and guidelines, recommends facility development, and identifies the need for specific resource management plans.

For the Heart's Desire Area, the plan proposes a redesign of the blufftop picnic area to accommodate both individuals and groups in a more efficient and aesthetically-pleasing manner; to restore the natural stream outlet at Heart's Desire Beach while improving the recreation experience by screening the parking lot from the beach and redesigning the picnic and boat drop-off areas; providing a small, low-impact drive-in campground at the current maintenance storage yard near the area entrance; converting the former "hike/bike" campground to a group campground, allowing camping opportunities for visitors in organized groups; improving the park entrance area; encouraging trail connections with the Point Reyes National Seashore; and improving regeneration of the Bishop pine forest.

In the Inverness Area, the plan proposes improvement of the park property at North Dream Farm Road off Sir Francis Drake Boulevard by removal of existing non-historic structures, and to add a small day use parking area, a picnic area, and a trailhead for public access to a proposed nature trail and a trail leading up the Inverness Ridge to connect with Point Reyes National Seashore trails.

Proposals for the Millerton Point Area include improving restroom and picnic facilities at Millerton Point; creating public access to the Millerton Uplands via a new trail, providing a connection from this trail, if possible, to a redesigned Tomasini Point trail; and improving trailhead parking and providing restrooms at Tomasini Point. The plan recommends enhancement of the management of Tomasini Point's estuary, and identifies an additional potential staff housing site at the existing Millerton Point staff housing area.

In the Marconi Cove Area, the plan proposes providing a small campground, a picnic area, launching opportunities for watercraft, and proposals for visitor interpretation and watercraft/campground concessions.

Recommendations for the North Marshall Area include maintaining this property in its undeveloped natural state unless access and environmental issues can be satisfied; if so, low-impact day use facilities such as a trail may be considered. There may be environmental and operational benefits to considering land exchanges, memoranda of understandings, or other arrangements with the National Park Service, the Audubon Canyon Ranch, or other organizational stakeholders which might improve and/or maintain the protection and management of the natural resources and open space character of this property.

Park operations proposals include ensuring that operational and maintenance budgets keep pace with facilities development in the park. The plan also recommends maintaining and improving as necessary the existing park staff housing in the Heart's Desire and Millerton Areas. Due to the expensive local housing market and the lack of park maintenance facilities on the east side of the bay, additional staff housing and maintenance facilities should be considered at the nearby Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park.

Comprehensive management plans for natural and cultural resources, roads and trails, visitor safety, and watershed management are also proposed.

Potential significant environmental impacts are those commonly associated with facility development and visitor use. Potential adverse impacts identified in this plan include disturbance to or loss of natural and cultural resources, degradation of water quality due to excessive soil erosion and sedimentation, and impacts to visual and aesthetic resources. Potential mitigation measures for each type of impact have been discussed. These mitigation measures reflect the specificity of the General Plan and are therefore in the form of guidelines. The most appropriate mitigation measures will be developed as specific projects are proposed and implemented.

## DESCRIPTION

This General Plan for Tomales Bay State Park, with all its sections, constitutes an environmental impact report (EIR), as required by Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq. It will be submitted to the California Park and Recreation Commission (Commission) for approval. The Commission has sole authority for the plan's approval and adoption. Following approval by the Commission, the Department will prepare management plans and area development plans as staff and funding become available. Future projects, based on the proposals in this General Plan, may be subject to permitting requirements and approval by other agencies, such as the Department of Fish and Game.

The Notice of Preparation for this General Plan was circulated to the appropriate federal, state, and local planning agencies on June 13, 2003. Written comments were received from the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Caltrans, and the Marin County Fire Department.

The tiering process of environmental review is incorporated into this EIR. Tiering in an EIR prepared as part of a general plan allows agencies to consider broad environmental issues at the general planning stage, followed by more detailed examination of actual development projects in subsequent environmental documents. These later documents incorporate, by reference, the general discussions from the broader EIR in the General Plan and concentrate solely on the issues specific to the later projects [Public Resources Code Section 21093; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15152]. This document represents the first tier of environmental review.

As a first tier of planning, this plan provides park-wide goals and guidelines for interpretation, cultural and natural resource management, visitor access and circulation, recreation activities and facilities, visitor experiences, services and visitor safety; trails, concessions, wildfire, aesthetics, sustainable design, operations, community and interagency relations, and acquisition. Future second tier review will provide more detailed information and environmental analysis. At each planning level the plan will be subject to further environmental review to determine if it is consistent with the General Plan and to identify any significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures that may be specific to the project.

Mitigation generally requires resource specialists to evaluate the scope of work, identify the cause of the impacts, and specify measures to avoid or reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. More comprehensive environmental review will be possible at those levels of planning, where facility size, location, and capacity can be explicitly delineated, rather than at the general plan level. Additional

potentially significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures specific to the project will be identified at this time.

The Plan Proposals section of this General Plan represents the project description and establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for Tomales Bay State Park. Specific goals and supporting guidelines are designed to address the currently identified critical issues, while developing strategies for resource protection, preservation, rehabilitation, resource interpretation, visitor experiences, visitor carrying capacity, and facility development at the park.

The plan proposes the identification of five distinct planning areas to guide land use decisions, facility development, and visitor use. The plan also outlines a number of park-wide proposals, including the development of comprehensive resource management plans, a roads and trails management plan, and watershed management plan. In the following summary of park area proposals, some are followed with a letter/number symbol that matches a more detailed description of the proposal in the "Park Area Management Visions and Guidelines" section in the General Plan. For a complete listing of all plan goals and guidelines, see the Plan Proposals Section of the General Plan.

## **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS BY PLANNING AREA**

If the General Plan were fully implemented as written, the following Area-specific proposals would be carried out:

### *HEART'S DESIRE AREA*

- Improve regeneration and preservation of the aging stands of the park's Bishop pines, particularly at Jepson Memorial Grove (see Guideline HD-1)
- Continue to manage Heart's Desire Beach as the only "drive-up" beach access in the park (see Guideline HD-2)
- Preserve and enhance the Indian Beach estuary and midden site; continue and enhance low-impact beach recreation and overnight school group interpretive programs (see Guideline HD-3)
- Restore the natural outlet of the estuary that was lost when the parking lot was built in the 1960s. Redesign fully-accessible picnic facilities under the shade of re-established alder trees (see Guideline HD-4)

- Formalize cartop watercraft unloading and launching areas at Heart's Desire Beach (see Guideline HD-5)
- Redesign the Vista Point picnic area to better accommodate group picnics and special events as well as individual picnic sites, and to improve aesthetics. Redesign the existing picnic facilities at Heart's Desire Beach after the natural outflow of Heart's Desire Creek is reestablished (see Guideline HD-6)
- Develop a group camping facility at the former "hike/bike" campground (see Guideline HD-7)
- Develop a 15-unit maximum campground at the current maintenance storage area, with accommodations for tents and small vehicles (see Guideline HD-8)
- Improve office/museum/entrance/fee collection area by adding a kiosk to assist in fee collection and monitoring of visitation (see Guideline HD-9)
- Maintain overnight security by utilizing the existing gate on Pierce Point Road (see Guideline HD-10)
- Continue staff housing at the current park dwellings, and maintenance functions in the current maintenance yard (see Guideline HD-11)
- Enhance trail connections to the trails of Point Reyes National Seashore (see Guideline HD-12)

#### *INVERNESS AREA*

- Preserve current watershed, viewshed, and wildlife habitat values (see Guideline I-1)
- Improve the North Dream Farm Road property by removing structures that have no potential for significance (see Guideline I-2)
- Construct a day use picnic area with interpretive panels and restroom (see Guideline I-3)
- Develop a trailhead, a nature trail and a trail connection to the ridgetop trails of Point Reyes National Seashore (see Guideline I-4)
- Coordinate with private landowners and federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction over nearby lands. Encourage inter-agency consolidation and/or joint

management of Inverness Area parcels (see Guideline I-5)

#### *MILLERTON AREA*

- Identify, protect, and interpret important natural resources at Tomasini Point and restore disturbed sites where feasible. Realign the trail after study of area sensitivities and dynamics (see Guideline M-1)
- At the current Millerton Point parking lot, provide a trailhead with educational panels, and connection to a hike and bike trail in the Millerton Uplands (see Guideline M-2)
- At the current Millerton Point parking lot, improve restroom and picnic facilities. At the Tomasini Point trailhead, improve parking and trailhead and provide restroom facilities. Coordinate with Caltrans to provide safe highway crossings for visitors to access trails from both Millerton and Tomasini Points (see Guideline M-3)

#### *MARCONI COVE AREA*

- Provide day-use area with parking, restroom, educational panels, picnic facilities, possible watercraft and snack concessions, boat trailer parking, and launching areas for car-top watercraft and trailered boats (see Guideline MC-1)
- Provide a small campground with approximately eight walk-in sites. Provide campground host site if needed (see Guideline MC-2)
- Demolish the remains of the small gas station if necessary. Adapt the existing potentially historic bathhouse for park use if desired (see Guideline MC-3)
- A natural area at the southern end of the property should be left in an undeveloped state (see Guideline MC-4)

#### *NORTH MARSHALL AREA*

- Leave in a natural, undeveloped condition to preserve natural values and open space qualities; or, if access and environmental issues can be satisfied, provide low-impact day use facilities such as a trail (see Guideline NM-1)
- Due to its limited recreation potential, consider trade or sale of the property to an agency or organization that will preserve and protect the property's natural resources and undeveloped open space character (see Guideline NM-2)

## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: PARK-WIDE PROPOSALS

- Develop **resource management plans** to evaluate the park's natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources and visitor experiences, to provide guidance for protection and restoration of resources, positive aesthetic qualities and visitor experiences, and to provide guidance for development of appropriate adaptive management processes. Establish **standards** for resources, aesthetic qualities and visitor experiences; establish resource, aesthetic quality, and visitor experience **indicators** to warn of impending unacceptable impacts; and develop **management actions** to minimize these impacts. (See Studies, Surveys, and Plans recommended in the General Plan's Plan Proposals section and the Visitor Carrying Capacity section).
- Develop a Watershed Management Plan for the park to define current conditions, identify data gaps, and to determine where mitigation is needed. Rehabilitate stream and upland areas to restore natural drainage patterns and geomorphic stability (see Guideline WAT-3); evaluate new projects and increased visitor use within the park to ensure they do not degrade surface and groundwater quality (see Guideline WAT-7); cooperate with other agencies to improve the health of Tomales Bay (see Guideline WAT-10).
- Protect sensitive plant communities from future development and visitor impacts (see Guideline VEG-1) and eradicate or control invasive exotic species in the park, with a priority given to areas of sensitive plant populations (see Guideline VEG-4). Work with appropriate agencies to restore the role of fire in the natural ecological processes of the park (see Guideline VEG-8). Develop a Vegetation Management Plan that helps guide managers in restoring and maintaining floral biodiversity and ecological processes.
- Manage park environments to protect and perpetuate ecosystems and their associated wildlife (see Guideline WIL-1). Maintain and enhance northern spotted owl habitat within the park (see Guideline WIL-6), and maintain working relationships with neighbors to identify and preserve habitat linkages (see Guideline WIL-15). Develop a Wildlife Management Plan to provide for long-term management of the park's wildlife populations and habitats.
- Protect important cultural resources from adverse effects resulting from park use, development, programs, or natural processes such as erosion (see Guideline CUL-2); maintain cooperative relationships with groups who have traditional ties to resources within the park (see Guideline CUL-3). Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan that establishes an ongoing management process to record and develop findings of significance and treatments for cultural resources in the park that are historically or archeologically important.

Interpret the cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources, features, and values associated with Tomales Bay State Park to increase visitor understanding and enjoyment of the resources of the park (see Guideline INT-1).

- Establish a pattern of circulation and visitor access, to include integrated and efficient multi-modal transportation, that allows for clear choices for visitor arrival, departure, and travel throughout the park; explore with regional transportation agencies the possibility of instituting an integrated transit service that would link and provide connections with key activity centers within west Marin County (see Guideline ACC-8). Pursue shared parking arrangements with Point Reyes National Seashore and Marin County (see Guideline ACC-9). Evaluate and recommend appropriate modifications to signage associated with park visitation, to include signs on highways and other public roads leading to or within the park, and on trails, for interpretation, and in and around facilities (see Guideline ACC-12).
- Develop a Roads and Trails Management Plan that will evaluate the park's entire road and trail system and guide the placement, relocation, management, or removal of roads and trails located within the park. Provide appropriate trails for public access within the park and to adjacent regional and statewide trail systems.
- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities for California's diverse population; plan recreational opportunities within a regional context (see Guideline REC-1); enhance the recreational use of watercraft on Tomales Bay (see Guideline REC-4); evaluate visitor demand for new types of recreational facilities (see Guideline REC-5).
- Develop a plan that recommends potential concession opportunities for the park (see Guideline CON-1).
- Use interpretive media to educate visitors about natural hazards and how to avoid danger (see Guideline SAF-1); have professional geological evaluations, site investigations, and soil testing for major development projects to determine the appropriate facility location and design (see Guideline SAF-2).
- Coordinate with appropriate fire suppression agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the National Park Service, and county and community volunteer fire departments (see Guideline FIR-1). Develop a Wildfire Management Plan that will specify emergency actions for the protection of public safety, park structures, and adjacent landowner structures, and address Prescribed Fire Management Programs for the park to achieve ecosystem and cultural landscape management goals.

- Identify the distinctive aesthetic qualities that help give Tomales Bay State Park its unique “spirit of place” (see Guideline AES-1); integrate the park’s defined positive aesthetic values and spirit of place into the design of park facilities and programs (see Guideline AES-3).
- Where possible, incorporate sustainable design and materials in park projects; use natural, renewable, indigenous, and recyclable materials, and simple-to-maintain and energy-efficient design (see Guideline SUS-1).
- Provide needed and appropriate services and facilities for park security and administration, resource protection, visitor access, services, and health and safety, and maintenance and staff housing (see Park Operational and Staff Housing Goal).
- Maintain and enhance positive relations and communications between State Parks and neighboring communities and landowners towards meeting common goals, including security, safety, aesthetic and resource protection, and recreational opportunity (see Community Relations Goal).
- Enhance interagency coordination concerning the regional planning and management of ecological, biological, recreational, cultural, and educational resources (see Regional Planning Goal).
- Consider acquiring any land available from willing sellers for addition to the park that would expand opportunities for recreational facilities and activities, enhance resource management, or could increase operational efficiencies (see Guideline ACQ-1).

The proposed General Plan attempts to address the challenges and constraints created by the existing uses, facilities, and visitor demands. The plan provides direction, criteria, goals, and objectives for future development, operation and management.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Refer to the Park Summary section of the General Plan for a description of the existing park environment, important resource values within the park, and the local and regional environment in the vicinity.

This General Plan is consistent with other applicable regional plans, such as the Marin Countywide Plan, the Local Coastal Plans and Community Plans, and the planning efforts of the National Park Service for the adjacent Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

## POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The purpose of this section is to identify impacts of the project that have the potential for significance and will require more detailed analysis when management plans and development plans are prepared.

According to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, a significant effect on the environment refers to a “substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.” Significant environmental effects are those commonly associated with visitor use, facility rehabilitation, and development projects. These adverse effects can include negative visual impacts, degradation of water quality, and disturbance to or loss of cultural resources, sensitive species, and wildlife habitats.

The term threshold is used to describe levels of impact. Thresholds are standards used to determine if an activity or project will cause, or potentially cause, a substantial adverse physical change. If the project or activity could exceed a threshold, the impact is considered potentially significant. If appropriate mitigation can reduce the impact below the threshold, the impact is considered less than significant. Thresholds of significance used in this analysis are primarily based on criteria from the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form.

Mitigation is defined as actions that will:

- avoid the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- minimize the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- rectify the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment;
- reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
- compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (CEQA Guidelines Section 15370).

This General Plan is the first phase of a tiered EIR and, as such, proposed development and associated mitigation are general in nature. Many of the proposed mitigation measures are contained in the plan goals and guidelines. As management plans, development plans, or other projects are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review. Project-specific impact analysis and mitigation measures will be developed and implemented at that time. The following potential impacts and associated mitigation measures refer to proposals planned within the existing park boundaries.

## **AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

### Threshold

The threshold level for an aesthetic impact consists of a management or development activity that will significantly degrade the existing aesthetic character or quality of a site and/or its surroundings, or is incompatible with the character of the park. This includes, but is not limited to, activities or facilities that are visually offensive or have noises or odors that are offensive to both visitors and park neighbors. Implementation of the General Plan would result in significant impacts to aesthetics if it would have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; or create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated

### Discussion

The General Plan focuses on the aesthetic qualities of visual, auditory, and odor resources in the park.

Any changes that substantially degrade visual, auditory, or odor experiences for visitors to the park and others from adjacent property have the potential to cause significant impacts, especially visually. The significance of visual, auditory, or odor impacts is dependent on the expectations and perceptions of the visitors. For example, the presence of facilities or numerous visitors would generally be more visually offensive to those expecting a wilderness experience than to those expecting higher levels of service or social interaction.

The following are identified in the plan as facilities that, if developed, could create significant adverse visual, auditory, or odor impacts within the park:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Informational signage
- Staff housing

The development of new facilities could create adverse visual impacts if proper design for color, scale, location, style, materials, and architectural mass are not carefully considered. The use of inappropriate colors, design, and materials in a natural landscape or historic setting may be visually offensive.

A parking or camping area with reflective parked vehicles and inappropriate lighting could be a very obvious human-made intrusion to the natural landscape, especially at Marconi Cove, where the proposed parking/camping facilities would be near the shoreline of Tomales Bay. These facilities would be visible from the bay, Highway 1, and the west side of the bay, especially at night if substantial lighting were to be installed. Development of a day use parking area at Tomasini Point would introduce new structures and lighting to this area. Bright or glaring lights would also be a negative visual impact to drivers at night on the roads passing by the proposed vehicle campground in the Heart's Desire Area, and would diminish the ability to observe the dark night skies of the area. Bright lights and other new structures in this campground may be especially visible in the surrounding area as it is located on a hilltop. The proposed trails in the Millerton Point Area that are on elevated ground have the potential for adverse visual impacts on viewers in the region.

Development of outdoor interpretive structures could create adverse visual impacts for park visitors. High-profile directional, informational, and interpretive signs along trails, roads, and highways could also contribute to visual clutter.

The General Plan proposes new facility development that could potentially increase noise levels during normal operation. The addition of day use, campground and interpretive facilities may add increased noise levels through normal visitor use and traffic. Development of these new facilities will involve construction equipment and may cause temporary increased noise levels.

Negative noise impacts could potentially be created by boat engines at the proposed Marconi Cove boat launch and in the bay, and from increased vehicle traffic wherever new facilities have been proposed, such as in the Heart's Desire and Marconi Cove Areas, and from visitor activities in the proposed campgrounds in the Heart's Desire Area.

Negative odors may be associated with improper siting and maintenance of trash collection containers and restrooms, or temporary exposure to construction materials that have offensive odors, such as solvents or paints.

The impacts to positive visual, auditory, and odor resources are considered potential because the actual size, location and design of the facilities or structures have not been determined.

### Mitigation

The park's aesthetic qualities should be clearly identified, both overall and as studies for specific projects are implemented (see Guidelines AES-1 and AES-2). Park staff should recognize the importance of creating positive aesthetic values for positive visitor experiences and to incorporate these values in the creation and daily management of park facilities, resources, and interpretation (see Guideline AES-4).

Impacts to visual, auditory, and odor resources can be avoided or reduced by appropriate siting, design, and selection of materials (see Guidelines AES-6, AES-7, AES-8, AES-9). The development of aesthetic design standards and objectives, management plans, and specific project designs will define aesthetically appropriate design features, identify visual, auditory and odor resources, and identify optimum methods for protecting existing positive resources.

The concept of "positive first impressions" should apply to every human-designed element in the park. Elements that will exist together in specific areas of the park should be organized and presented in a clear and uncluttered way (see Guideline AES-5). The Department will also evaluate the visual impacts of existing directional and informational signs that pertain to visitation both inside and outside the park, and make recommendations to visually improve this signage (see Guideline ACC-12).

The General Plan recommends removal or renovation of the derelict structures on the North Dream Farm Road property, which will improve the visual quality of this potential day use area (see Guideline INV-2).

Appropriate native plant species, rocks, or elevation changes should be used to screen or soften the visual effect of parking areas, campground facilities, roads, and trails; buffer intrusive or distracting views and activities outside park boundaries; and enhance scenic views. The Department will consider constructing facilities partially below grade and building park roads and trails following the natural contours of the land to minimize viewshed impacts, especially for the Millerton Uplands trail and the vehicle campground in the Heart's Desire Area. Visibility of grading cuts and fills should be minimized, and disturbed areas restored with an appropriate mix of native vegetation species (see Guideline AES-7).

Park interpretive facilities and programs should identify aesthetic resources to interpret for the public in order to generate support for preservation of those resources (see Guideline INT-6).

Noise impacts from campgrounds should be reduced by enforcement of quiet night hours. All recreational areas, including boating areas, should be monitored for noise impacts and park noise standards should be enforced (see Guideline AES-8).

The park will comply with local noise ordinances that provide specific thresholds of significance for noise resulting from construction activities. Stationary construction noise sources, such as generators, should be located as far as possible from sensitive receptors. Noise generated by additional traffic as a result of new park facilities will be mitigated by the plan's recommendation that vehicular traffic to and from the park be reduced by emphasizing non-vehicular public access and public transit (see Guidelines ACC-5, ACC-6, ACC-8).

Maintenance and service functions should be located away from public areas to help preserve the values of silence and natural sounds. Interpretive stops, day use areas, and campsites should be located so that natural sounds dominate. Visitor use areas should be located away from and upwind of heavily-traveled roadways, if possible (see Guideline AES-8).

All park plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation. Mitigation will be implemented in later planning and development stages.

#### Conclusion

The impacts to aesthetic resources can be reduced to a less than significant level by implementing the General Plan guidelines and project specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility: Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Landscape Architect, and other mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of the subsequent tier CEQA review

## **AIR QUALITY**

#### Threshold

Air quality impacts resulting from General Plan proposals would be considered significant if the project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans; violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation; result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration; or create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

### Impact

Potentially significant unless mitigated.

### Discussion

The General Plan proposes a number of facilities that may have an impact on air quality. Development and maintenance of the following facilities could create significant adverse impacts:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Natural resource management activities

In general, the region has very good air quality. Dust and vehicle emissions from site preparation and construction of facilities proposed in the General Plan may create temporary air quality impacts. Air quality may also be temporarily impacted by prescribed burning programs or wildfires in the park.

### Mitigation

The air quality impacts from construction can be substantially reduced by the use of dust control measures and other construction best management practices. Dust control measures should be developed during site-specific planning as an element of sustainable design for site development and in future project development review and implementation. When constructing new facilities, temporary closure of nearby visitor areas should be considered if odors from materials such as paints or solvents will be offensive to visitors.

The Department will develop a Prescribed Fire Management Program that should identify conditions under which prescribed burning will be allowed and that minimizes impacts to air quality (see Guideline VEG-8). The Department should work with local and regional fire control agencies to minimize impacts to air quality from prescribed burning in the park and from any wildfires that may occur (see Guideline VEG-8).

There may be increased park visitation as a result of additional directional signage on regional roads as well as expanded facilities and interpretive opportunities. The majority of visitors arrive by private vehicle, with some arriving by bus. An increase in visitor use may cause a minor increase in total vehicle emissions in the region. Marin County is currently developing an updated Countywide Plan that will focus on the benefits and future construction of public transit for the community and park visitors. The Department should coordinate with Marin County to implement alternative

transportation opportunities for park access (see Guidelines ACC-5, ACC-6, ACC-7, and ACC-8).

The Department will continue to comply with all local, state, and federal regulations regarding air quality. Air quality impacts resulting from this project will not be significant.

### Conclusion

Impacts to air quality can be mitigated to a less than significant level through the implementation of General Plan guidelines and future project specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility: The Department of Parks and Recreation  
Staff/Resource Ecologist, and other  
mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and  
development plans prior to implementation of specific  
projects, as part of subsequent tier CEQA review

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

### Threshold

Implementation of the General Plan would have a significant effect on biological resources if it were to:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS (defined as substantial reduction, disturbance, or alteration, or actions that reduce, disturb or alter critical habitat, cause a fish or wildlife habitat to drop below self-sustaining levels, reduce the number or restrict the range, or threaten to eliminate an animal community)
- have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites

- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated

### Discussion

Human activities and associated impacts (including agricultural production, ranching, and urban development) have altered native plant and animal communities throughout the region, including lands in what is now Tomales Bay State Park. The remaining habitats that have survived provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for sensitive species and are highly valued park resources. Consequently, protection and restoration of these habitats, especially forest, riparian, wetland, and marine communities is essential and will help ensure the stability of plant and wildlife populations.

Sensitive wildlife, habitats, and plant communities occur at Tomales Bay State Park. There are 80 special status sensitive animal species with potential habitat in the park. Fifty five of these are birds. Included in the list of 470 species of birds that make the Tomales Bay watershed their home are the northern spotted owl, the common loon, and the American white pelican. Other threatened or endangered species living in the watershed include coho salmon, steelhead trout, and California freshwater shrimp. The Tomales Bay watershed is an important resting and foraging stop for migrating birds on the Pacific flyway where they feed in marshes and are attracted by fish runs in the bay. Sensitive raptors such as the northern spotted owl, listed as federally threatened, have been seen on the eastern shores of the bay. The northern spotted owl is also known to occur in the forested areas of the Inverness and Heart's Desire Areas and is sensitive to noise disturbance. The California red-legged frog has been reported in the Heart's Desire Area; the Point Reyes mountain beaver and several species of bats, state and federal species of concern, are known to inhabit the park area.

There are two sensitive plant communities at Tomales Bay State Park listed in the CDFG's California Natural Diversity Database (2002). These are the coastal terrace prairie, in parts of the Heart's Desire, Millerton, and North Marshall Areas and the northern coastal salt marsh in the low areas of the Millerton and Heart's Desire Areas. In addition, there are fifteen sensitive plants known to occur within Tomales Bay State Park. There are important habitat linkages both within the park and between the park and surrounding properties, such as riparian corridors with continuous vegetative cover and connections between the Point Reyes Peninsula

and the mainland. Facility rehabilitation and development, including additional trails and regional trail linkages, have the potential to disturb, degrade, or remove habitat or sensitive plant and wildlife communities. The introduction of new facilities and structures into previously undisturbed areas of the park could create substantial adverse impacts on wildlife.

A comprehensive survey of the park's biological resources has not been completed; therefore there is the potential for additional sensitive resources at the park. Potential significant impacts to these biological resources may occur during facility development, construction, rehabilitation, or resource management as proposed in the General Plan.

Development of the following facilities and activities could create significant adverse impacts on biological resources within the park, especially the introduction of new facilities and structures into previously undisturbed areas.

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Informational signage
- Staff housing

The plan identifies the majority of potential facility development in areas that have been previously disturbed. There would be minimal adverse impacts to vegetation and wildlife in these portions of the park.

Ground disturbance, including grading, soil compaction, or vegetation removal, has the potential to provide habitat for non-native invasive species. Ground disturbance could include new facility construction (structures, parking lots) as well as trail and campground development. Trails and roads can also become dispersal corridors for invasive plants. The spread of invasive species, especially in previously undisturbed native habitats or sensitive habitats, may have adverse impacts by promoting the loss of native habitat and reducing species diversity.

Vegetation management in the park can result in significant impacts as well as pose potential risks to humans and property. Among management activities that will require further impact assessment prior to implementation are prescription burning of vegetation, habitat restoration projects (including stream restoration, soil grading, and other activities), and removal of plants, whether exotic or native.

### Mitigation

The General Plan proposes a number of guidelines to preserve, enhance, and minimize disturbance to vegetation and wildlife. Comprehensive natural resource management plans, including Vegetation Management, Wildlife Management, and Watershed Management Plans will be developed that will provide guidance for identification, protection, habitat restoration, and adaptive management of the park's resources, especially species of special concern and sensitive habitats.

Site-specific surveys for sensitive species and habitats will be completed as part of the planning process for resource management projects, construction, maintenance, or rehabilitation of facilities and trails. If necessary, state and federal resource agencies may be consulted to assist with appropriate resource protection, habitat enhancement, and management techniques (see Guidelines in the Vegetation- and Wildlife Management Goals, Guidelines and Study sections).

Recreational facility development will be minimized in areas of spotted owl nesting habitat and in other similar sensitive species habitat. Noise-producing activities such as construction or maintenance activities will be minimized during breeding season and will comply with the Endangered Species Act and applicable federal and state regulations (see Guidelines WIL-6, WIL-12, WIL-1). Buildings will be inspected for sensitive species, including bat populations and protective measures established prior to major maintenance, construction, or structure demolition (see Guideline WIL-8).

If there is any potential for significant adverse effects, proposed facilities will be redesigned to avoid impacts, or appropriate mitigation measures will be developed to reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. All activities and new facility development in areas of known sensitivity would be minimized (see Guideline VEG-1). This may include limiting access to some areas of the park, or temporarily closing or relocating facilities to promote restoration. Construction and restoration will be scheduled whenever possible to avoid disturbance to sensitive wildlife, especially during the breeding season (see Guideline WIL-6).

The planning areas outlined in the General Plan will also provide additional resource protections by designating appropriate land use, facility development, and visitor use areas, resulting in a substantial reduction in opportunities for facility development and adverse visitor use impacts in sensitive areas.

Visitor use impacts to wildlife can be substantially reduced or eliminated by placing facilities away from known nesting sites and sensitive habitat. However, all impacts cannot be avoided because the range of some animals may include the entire park. As much as possible, efforts will be made to reduce or eliminate human influences to

wildlife (including access to food and garbage and noise impacts - see Guidelines WIL-2, AES-8). An expanded interpretive program for natural resources is proposed that would promote public understanding, education, and stewardship (see Guideline INT-1).

The plan proposes goals, guidelines, and a Vegetation Management Plan to address the existing negative impacts of invasive exotic plant species (see Guidelines VEG-4 through VEG-7).

The plan proposes protection of sensitive plant and animal species of terrestrial, estuarine, intertidal, and marine environments. The plan's Adaptive Management Process, found in the Carrying Capacity section, describes a process for evaluating, monitoring, and mitigating visitor impacts, including recreational impacts on sensitive wildlife such as harbor seals.

For continued resource protection and enhancement, on-going communication and cooperation with regulatory agencies, local jurisdictions, and adjacent landowners will be pursued to encourage conservation easements and acquisition of property from willing sellers for buffers and habitat linkages (see Guidelines ACQ-1, WIL-16).

Foremost among the necessary precautions observed during the planning and implementation of resource management is adherence to existing laws, regulations, and protocols. Mitigation strategies will include avoidance and minimization of impacts, or compensation for unavoidable impacts. The environmental disclosure process requires that all such planning be developed with the participation of the local public and all appropriate agencies. Activities with the potential for impacts beyond park boundaries will include disclosure of potential impacts specific to each activity. Mitigation for future significant impacts shall be developed as part of the planning and environmental disclosure process.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

### Conclusion

Impacts to biological resources can be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the General Plan guidelines and project specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility:                      The Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Resource Ecologist, and other mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of subsequent tier CEQA review

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### Threshold

The threshold level for a cultural resources impact consists of a management or development activities that will cause a substantial loss or destruction of the historic or prehistoric fabric or structure(s) that eliminate examples of California history or prehistory; consist of additions or alterations, including non-historic additions and repairs, that adversely impact or substantially alter the visual continuity of a cultural resource or landscape. Implementation of the General Plan would result in significant impacts to cultural resources if it would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15064.5; cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15064.5; directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated

### Discussion

Tomales Bay State Park contains potentially significant cultural resources that could be destroyed or degraded by new development and facility improvements proposed in the General Plan. These resources include prehistoric and ethnographic sites, historic and ethnohistoric resources, cultural landscapes, historic roads, railroad lines, and recreation sites. Archeological deposits, primarily shell midden sites, are important features. There has not been a complete inventory of the park's cultural resources; therefore, there is potential for the discovery of previously unknown prehistoric and historic sites during facilities construction, rehabilitation, resource management projects, restoration, or maintenance operations. Areas in the Heart's Desire Planning Area are of greatest concern. This is where many known important cultural resources are located and where one of the highest rates of visitor use will occur.

The following are identified in the plan as potential facilities and activities that could create substantial adverse impacts on cultural resources within the park:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds

- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Informational signage
- Staff housing
- Resource management projects

Interpretive facilities and trails and their associated amenities, such as picnic sites, placed in or near sensitive cultural features can potentially decrease cultural values and increase the threat of vandalism or damage to these resources due to additional public use.

Potential adaptive reuse of historic structures could involve the modification, replacement, or removal of historic fabric such as walls, doors, windows, hardware, and utilities or introduce non-historic elements to a structure, including access ramps, furniture, and heaters.

All areas proposed for development will require cultural resource inventories on a project-by-project basis if they have not been previously inventoried.

#### Mitigation

Prior to construction, demolition, major repairs, implementation of interpretive programs, adaptive reuse of historic structures or sites, or other site-specific development, areas of potential impact should be inventoried and reviewed to determine the presence and significance of cultural resources, the potential impact, and recommended mitigation, if appropriate. Impacts may be reduced by project avoidance, site capping, structural stabilization/renovation, project redesign, and data recovery.

All construction, maintenance, or improvements of historic structures will be in conformance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Weeks and Grimmer 1995) and the California Historical Building Code (see Guideline CUL-1).

The General Plan proposes development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan which would contain guidelines to establish an ongoing management process to record and develop findings of significance for cultural resources in the park that are historically or archeologically important. General Plan designated planning areas may provide additional resource protections by authorizing specific park areas for development and appropriate recreational activities.

All plans and projects will be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

### Conclusion

Impacts to cultural resources will be mitigated to a less than significant level through the implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines and any additional site-specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility: Department of Parks and Recreation Staff/Cultural Resource Specialist, and other mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and development plans prior to implementation of specific projects, as part of the subsequent tier CEQA review

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

### Threshold

A significant geologic, soil, and/or seismic impact would be expected to occur if the project would expose visitors or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or landslides. Significant impacts would be expected if the project would result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil; be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse; be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property, or has soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water.

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated

### Discussion

The General Plan proposes a number of facilities that may have an impact on the park's geology and soils. Development and maintenance of the following facilities could create significant adverse impacts:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities

- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Staff housing
- Natural resource management activities

There are specific areas within the park boundaries with the potential for landslides and flooding. The entire region has experienced earthquakes, being adjacent to the San Andreas Fault system. Earthquake-induced damage can be expected within the park, including damage from ground shaking, ground surface rupture, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides, tsunamis and seiches.

Park properties on the east side of the bay have soils that are subject to landslides, specifically slow-moving debris flows and soil creep, and are highly erodible. Human-caused land disturbances such as grading and trail development can trigger or accelerate these conditions. In addition, the steep topography and soil types on the west side of the bay can create the potential for landslides and erosion. In 1982 a large landslide occurred on the North Dream Farm Road property, inundating the riparian area near the proposed day use facilities.

Development of the General Plan's proposals would decrease permeable areas in the park, leading to greater runoff rates and concentrated flows that have greater potential to erode exposed soils. Gullies could form that would have the potential of undermining structures and vegetation.

Existing septic systems in the park may be inadequate to process the amounts of waste they are currently processing, potentially contaminating surrounding soils and resource areas.

### Mitigation

The General Plan provides a number of guidelines to protect the public from natural hazards, such as the use of interpretive media to educate visitors about natural hazards and how to avoid danger (see SAF-1) and limiting the construction of facilities within active fault trace zones as required by the 1972 Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (see SAF-6).

Site specific surveys to identify potential hazardous geologic or soil areas should be conducted prior to any permanent facility development, and construction of facilities in these areas avoided if appropriate (see Guidelines SAF-2, SAF-5). Interpretive and other park visitor information programs will warn of potential dangers and how visitors can stay safe (see Guidelines SAF-1, ACC-12).



- impaired implementation of or physically interfered with an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan;
- exposed people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated.

### Discussion

The General Plan proposes a number of facilities and activities that may expose people or structures to hazards or hazardous materials, especially during construction or maintenance activities, and to wildfires originating in the park or on surrounding lands. Development, use, and maintenance of the following facilities could create significant adverse impacts:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Staff housing
- Natural resource management activities

There is asbestos in the existing permanent residential structure in the lower North Dream Farm Road area.

During construction of facilities, ground disturbance may expose contaminated soils or water through excavation, especially in areas of historic land uses. Construction activities may require the use of certain potentially hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, and solvents for construction equipment. Spills of hazardous materials may occur, including into drainages within the park.

The General Plan proposes the development of campgrounds and other facilities in the park, which if implemented may increase the risk of wildfire from construction activities, campfires, smoking, and other sources of potential fire.

The Department uses herbicides in the park to help control pests and vegetation where appropriate.

### Mitigation

In the event that any building in the park that is found to contain asbestos is removed or remodeled, or any other hazardous materials are found in the park, including during construction and maintenance activities, all regulations for hazardous material transport, use, and disposal will be adhered to (see Guideline SAF-8).

The development of recreational facilities such as campgrounds on the west side of the bay and trails and day use areas on the east side of Tomales Bay and in the Inverness Ridge area would allow increased public use of areas that can have high potential for wildfire. The General Plan recommends the development of a Wildfire Management Plan that would address potential wildfire risks and specify emergency actions for the protection of public safety, park structures, and adjacent landowner structures. The Wildfire Management Plan would also specify strategies for pre-suppression measures such as the creation of defensible space around structures, wildfire education programs and park fire regulations. It should also address Prescribed Fire Management Programs to assess risk of wildfire from natural resource management activities.

Staff will follow Department policies and other state and federal requirements for the application of herbicides and pesticides. Herbicides will be applied strictly by a Certified Pesticide Applicator, following the guidance and direction of a licensed Pest Control Advisor, and incorporating all safety measures and recommended concentrations. Only herbicides that are appropriate for use near water will be used in or near seasonal wetland areas.

Future projects will be subject to further, more detailed review. Should any hazardous substances or other health hazards be identified appropriate warning and protective methods should be developed and implemented. The project will not result in or expose people to substantial health hazards.

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

### Threshold

Implementation of the General Plan would result in significant adverse impacts to hydrology and water quality resources if the proposals would:

- violate a water quality standard or waste discharge requirement;
- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of an area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site;
- create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff;
- otherwise substantially degrade water quality;

- place housing with a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map;
- place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area which would impede or redirect flood flows;
- expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding from the failure of a levee or a dam;
- or be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

### Impact

Potentially significant, unless mitigated

### Discussion

Tomales Bay has been listed by the state and the federal governments as an impaired water body due to high levels of pathogens, nutrient levels, mercury, and sediment. Contributing factors thought to be involved that possibly exist in the park include substandard or inadequate sizes of septic systems, especially in flood and riparian zones; and boating and other recreational uses and soil erosion/water runoff. The General Plan proposes a number of facilities that may have an impact on water quality. Development and maintenance of the following facilities could create significant adverse impacts:

- Day use facilities, including picnic and boat launching facilities
- Camping facilities
- Parking for day use and campgrounds
- Entrance road/kiosk modifications
- Public and maintenance roads
- Interpretive exhibits/facilities
- Trails, including trail connections and associated support facilities (trailheads)
- Staff housing
- Natural resource management activities

Surface waters within the park include several unnamed permanent and ephemeral creeks, and Millerton Creek on the east side of the bay, that drain to Tomales Bay. Some of these creeks are or will be adjacent to existing recreation facilities as well as future proposed development and are highly susceptible to water quality impacts. Sedimentation of the park's creeks may increase turbidity and physically alter streambeds and the fragile and dynamic marine resources of the bay. Important among these would be the small estuaries found at the outflow of several creeks that are important dynamic habitat for wildlife and critical to the food chain for commercial oysters through the production of plankton. As tributaries of Tomales Bay, any increase in sediment loading to creeks may be considered a significant impact.

Soils in many areas of the park are classified as moderate to highly erodible. Any proposed soil disturbing activities or increases in impervious surfaces may contribute to potentially significant adverse impacts to water quality unless mitigated.

Human activities in the Tomales Bay watershed can greatly accelerate the rate and amount of erosion and sedimentation. Activities at the park that could increase sedimentation may include construction of new facilities, rehabilitation of existing facilities, operations and maintenance practices, and outdoor recreation.

Potential impacts associated with construction practices include soil and vegetation disturbance from grading, filling, and construction equipment use and storage. Surface and groundwater contamination may occur from construction materials, such as concrete, paint, and other chemical products. Ground disturbance, especially in floodplains and wetlands, may reduce the natural processes for sediment and nutrient absorption.

Impervious surfaces may contribute to water pollution as a source of vehicle contaminants, such as oils, grease and other petroleum and chemical products. These substances become suspended or dissolved in storm water runoff and may enter surface or groundwater.

Normal park operations may include trail maintenance and vegetation removal by mechanical or chemical methods. These practices can disturb the ground surface, contributing to increased erosion and sedimentation, and excess pesticides may enter groundwater or surface waters.

Recreation impacts can include soil compaction in campgrounds, day use areas, and along trails, stream banks, and the bay's shores. Intense visitor use may also cause increased erosion on trails, disturbance to or destruction of sensitive wetland and riparian vegetation due to trampling, and watershed damage by human-caused wildfires.

The General Plan recommends a boat launch be located at Marconi Cove; if motorboats are permitted to use this boat launch, the motors of such craft might impact water quality by leaking small amounts of fuel or oil and could potentially impact the commercial oyster farm beds, marine animals, and other wildlife adjacent to Marconi Cove.

#### Mitigation

The Department will comply with all applicable water quality control standards developed by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, including measures to help reestablish bay water quality compliance levels. Compliance will be achieved through the implementation of park guidelines, appropriate best

management practices, and site-specific mitigation measures, if necessary. The use of best management practices for erosion control and surface runoff should be developed for projects in the park, when appropriate. Minimize impacts to soils, vegetation, and park water quality from grading, filling, construction equipment use and storage, and mechanical or chemical control in resources and facilities management programs (see Guidelines WAT-7, SUS-5).

The General Plan recommends actions supporting the goals of the regional Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan being completed by the Tomales Bay Watershed Council to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and to restore the environmental integrity of the entire watershed (see Guideline WAT-10). These actions include monitoring park water resources to ensure the cleanest water possible, and reducing erosion into creeks flowing to the bay. The Department will be monitoring the development of recommended assessments in the Stewardship Plan for the ecological effects of recreational boating on the bay. The effects of boat motors on commercial oyster farming and other natural resources will help evaluate the appropriateness of the General Plan's recommendation for potential motorboat launching at Marconi Cove. In addition, the park currently tests and monitors the west shore beach waters and the septic systems in these locations, and will continue to do so along with any other recommended water quality monitoring activities (see Guideline WAT-8).

The plan proposes the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the park that will define current conditions, identify data gaps, and determine where mitigation is needed. This plan will analyze such elements as sediment sources, transport functions, and fluvial geomorphic conditions in streams, and assess impacts to ecology, the watershed, and water quality from recreation and other park activities. The Department will restore geomorphic function to the watershed to the extent possible, thereby substantially reducing or eliminating unnatural soil and stream bank erosion, stream sedimentation and habitat degradation, and to eliminate where possible manmade channel restrictions or obstructions within the park's watersheds (see Guideline WAT-3).

As part of the planning process for any proposed development of site-specific plans, resource management plans, or facility construction, site-specific studies of soil conditions and facility siting will be conducted. All new projects, rehabilitated facilities, and increased visitor use in the park will be evaluated to ensure that they do not contribute to degradation of water quality (see Guideline SAF-2). Potential mitigation measures for construction impacts may include the use of erosion control best management practices to stabilize soils during construction and for any activities that involve soil disturbance; protecting all non-construction areas to prevent unnecessary disturbance; restabilizing and revegetating areas at the completion of construction;

and avoiding storage of surplus or waste materials in floodplains, in areas of potential landslides, near surface waters, or in drainages.

Natural vegetation, soils, and the duff layer will be protected and restored to preserve natural infiltration. Erosion control practices will be used near surface waters for all activities that disturb the ground surface, and existing natural drainage patterns will not be significantly modified, unless to restore original conditions, allow for new facilities construction, or to modify negative impacts to cultural or natural resources or properties caused by the drainage.

Recreational facilities will be designed to minimize water quality impacts by avoiding disturbance to steep slopes, highly erodible soils, and riparian and wetland areas (see Guideline TRL-4). Recreation impacts may be avoided or reduced by utilizing erosion control measures near surface waters for all human activities which disturb the ground surface, and developing ongoing programs of trail maintenance and watershed restoration for areas disturbed by recreational use. Best management practices will be applied, where feasible, to new campgrounds, day use areas, roads and trails to reduce erosion and provide appropriate treatments for storm water runoff, as necessary. To allow the recovery of compacted soils and natural vegetation, temporary closure, remodeling, or relocation of campgrounds and other facilities will be considered.

Erosion control practices should be used near surface waters for all activities that disturb the ground surface (see Guideline WAT-7).

To avoid potential impacts to water quality, efforts will be made to discourage park visitors from entering sensitive habitat areas, including wetlands, riparian areas, and streambeds (see Guideline WIL-8). Appropriate biotechnical stream bank erosion control methods may be utilized where feasible.

Interpretive programs will educate the public on ways to improve and maintain water quality, including information on the water quality impacts of recreation (see Guidelines INT-7, INT-10).

Future implementation of specific projects will be subject to a more extensive analysis of potential impacts and mitigation during subsequent environmental review.

### Conclusion

Impacts to water quality can be mitigated to a less than significant level through the implementation of General Plan guidelines and future project specific mitigation measures.

Responsibility: The Department of Parks and Recreation  
Staff/Resource Ecologist/Geologist, and other  
mandated contracting authorities

Monitoring/Reporting: Completion of required resource evaluations and  
development plans prior to implementation of specific  
projects, as part of subsequent tier CEQA review

## **UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

Evaluation at the specificity of this first tier review indicates that the potential effects from projects proposed in this General Plan can be reduced to a less than significant level with appropriate facility siting, the implementation of the goals, guidelines, and resource management programs, and the development of other specific mitigation measures when future site-specific development plans are proposed.

Until the uses, locations, and scope of facilities or management plans are specified the actual level of impact, whether individual or cumulative, cannot be determined. However, all plans and projects are required to be in compliance with local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent tier CEQA review and project specific mitigation.

Unavoidable significant environmental effects are not anticipated as a result of the proposals in this General Plan/Environmental Impact Report.

## **SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES**

No significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the adoption and implementation of this General Plan.

Facility development, including structures, roads, and trails, may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. The Department does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as trails and campsites, where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of non-renewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor due to the limited amount of facilities planned for development and to the consideration of sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations as proposed in the General Plan. Sustainable practices used in design and management emphasize environmental sensitivity in construction, the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency.

Destruction of any significant cultural resource would be a significant irreversible effect. To avoid this impact, proposed development sites will be surveyed for cultural resources; all site and facility designs shall incorporate methods for protecting and preserving significant cultural resources; and human activities will be monitored to ensure protection of cultural resources.

## **GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS**

If implemented completely, the General Plan may indirectly foster economic and population growth in the region.

With complete development of all proposals, park visitation is likely to increase. This would be due to the improvements and development of day use facilities, group and individual campground areas, interpretive opportunities, and improvements to park circulation, including new trails and trail linkages from the park to regional trails. Additional directional and informational signage outside the park boundaries (on the highway and in the community) should raise the park's profile as a destination for the recreational opportunities and interpretation of natural and cultural resources there.

Any improvement or increase in capacity can encourage increased use, which may create additional tourism and the need for tourist services in the adjacent communities and surrounding region. The proposals in the General Plan may potentially foster economic growth in the region by encouraging an increase in supporting recreation and tourist services, such as recreation equipment, supplies, food, and related facilities. The economy of the Tomales Bay area depends greatly on recreation and tourism, and an increase in visitor use may be considered an economic benefit.

The increased visitor capacity and interpretive potential of the plan's proposals may result in the need for an increased number of permanent and seasonal park staff. The General Plan also recommends consideration of additional staff housing within the park boundaries or in future acquisitions of land for the park. These proposals may result in a minimal growth impact to the area.

Population growth in the state and region will continue to create an increased use and demand for recreational opportunities at Tomales Bay State Park. California's population continues to grow; the Marin Countywide Plan update indicates that between 2000 and 2020 Marin County's population is projected to grow by 11%, and that travel is increasing in the region with travel spending in Marin doubling between 1992 and 2000.

# ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives to the preferred alternative were considered in the planning process:

- Alternative 1 – No Project
- Alternative 2 – Minimal New Facilities (Reduction from Preferred Alternative)
- Alternative 3 – Further New Facility Reduction (Reduction from both Preferred Alternative and Alternative #2)

## ALTERNATIVE 1: NO PROJECT

### *DESCRIPTION*

The California Environmental Quality Act requires an evaluation of the specific “no project” alternative and its impact [CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(e)(1)]. The no project alternative describes the existing conditions, as well as the physical conditions that are likely to occur in the future if the project (the proposed plan) is not approved. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision-makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the expected impacts of not approving the project.

If a general plan is not implemented for Tomales Bay State Park the existing situation will continue for park development, operation, and management. Development within the park would be restricted to projects that:

- repair, replace, or rehabilitate an existing facility;
- provide a temporary facility, so long as the construction does not result in the permanent commitment of resources;
- are necessary for the protection of public health and safety; or
- provide emergency measures necessary for the immediate protection of a natural or cultural resource [Public Resources Code 5002.2(c)].

### *EVALUATION*

The existing conditions, lack of needed facilities, and limitations would continue if the General Plan were not adopted. Without the facility improvements to accommodate the existing visitor demand as well as a projected increase in visitor use, sensitive natural and cultural resources may be expected to degrade over time due to overuse.

Under the no project alternative the park’s natural and cultural resources may not receive an increased level of protection. Comprehensive park-wide resource management plans and policies for natural and cultural resources may not be developed. The Bishop pine forest areas in the park would continue to decline, and

the cultural, natural, and aesthetic resources that were impacted by the original construction of the Heart's Desire Beach parking area would continue to be negatively impacted. Under the no project alternative cultural resource protection would be limited. Development of a systematic assessment process to determine the future treatment of cultural resources within the park would be unlikely because implementation of new programs would require adoption of a general plan.

Recreational demand in Marin County is increasing every year and there have been requests by the public to expand recreational opportunities at the park. However, without a general plan, the Department would not have the authority to develop or enhance facilities to respond to this demand, especially for overnight use, increased opportunities for access to the bay, or for development of the recent land acquisitions on the east side of the bay. Recreational and interpretive improvements that could enhance the visitor experience at the park's current level of use or anticipated future needs would not be developed.

Under the no project alternative a comprehensive evaluation of park, regional, and statewide trail systems may not be accomplished. Opportunities to create a higher quality visitor experience through trail linkages to the California Coastal Trail, regional recreation areas or to other view sites could be missed.

Under the no project alternative, land use management may not be evaluated on a park-wide basis, and the park's potential for planned and integrated land use, positive visitor experiences, recreational facility development, and possible future acquisitions may not occur. Without an organized land use plan, management plans, and development guidelines, incremental cumulative impacts may adversely impact the park in the future.

Traffic and circulation improvements may not be accomplished with the "no project" alternative. Improvements to traffic flow and operational procedures in initial visitor contacts at the Heart's Desire Area entrance area may not be accomplished. Improvements to informational and directional signage may not occur. The existing visual and aesthetic character of the park may not be improved under the no project alternative, or enhanced in an important way, and existing scenic and other aesthetic resources may be affected.

## **ALTERNATIVE 2: MINIMAL NEW FACILITIES (REDUCTION FROM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)**

### *DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE*

Alternative 2 contains the same key components and scope as the preferred alternative with the exception of the following:

### Heart's Desire Area

- No group campground
- No redesign of beach boat launch area

### Millerton Point Area

- Smaller day use parking areas at Tomasini and Millerton Points
- Shorter Millerton Uplands Loop Trail

### Marconi Cove Area

- Smaller day use parking area

This alternative was considered to reduce natural and cultural resource impacts by reducing the proposed sizes of day use facilities on the east side of the bay and eliminating the group campground at Heart's Desire Area.

### *EVALUATION*

Alternative 2 would attain most of the basic project objectives. Implementation of actions and mitigation measures similar to those included in the proposed General Plan would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. There would be less overall negative impacts to natural and cultural resources in the park than in the preferred alternative. This alternative would allow fewer park visitors at proposed day use facilities in the natural areas of the recently-acquired east side parcels, and fewer overnight visitors in the Heart's Desire Area with the elimination of a group campground at the former "hike/bike" campground site. It does not propose a redesign of the boat launch area at Heart's Desire Beach, which would not serve boaters or beach users as well as the preferred alternative, where boater/ non-boater circulation conflicts would be minimized.

Alternative #2 would provide resource protection; however, this alternative decreases the range of recreational opportunities in the park, especially in the newly-acquired parcels on the east side of the bay. It does not respond to the increasing demand for camping, mountain bike use, and hiking opportunities in the region, or for more places to pull off Highway 1 for rest and recreation.

## **ALTERNATIVE 3: FURTHER NEW FACILITIES REDUCTION (FROM THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE 2)**

### *DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE*

Alternative 3 contains the same components as the preferred alternative with the exception of the following:

### Heart's Desire Area

- No group campground
- No redesign of beach boat launch area

### Inverness Area

- No day use parking or picnic area at North Dream Farm Road

### Millerton Point Area

- Smaller day use parking area at Tomasini Point
- Hiking-only trails (no mountain bicycling on Millerton Uplands trails)
- No additional staff housing at Millerton Point

### Marconi Cove Area

- Smaller day use parking area
- No campground
- No boat launch

This alternative was considered to further reduce natural and cultural impacts from the preferred alternative and from the proposals in Alternative #2 by reducing the number and sizes of proposed facilities, including the proposed sizes of day use facilities on the east side of the bay. Group camping in the Heart's Desire Area, the proposed campground at Marconi Cove, and a potential staff housing site are eliminated. Existing boat launch facilities in the park would not be improved, and no new boat launch facilities would be built. Mountain bicycling opportunities would not become available in the park.

### *EVALUATION*

Alternative 3 would attain most of the basic project objectives at a greatly reduced level. Implementation of actions and mitigation measures similar to those included in the proposed General Plan would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. There would be less overall negative impacts to natural and cultural resources in Alternative #3 than in either the preferred alternative or in Alternative #2.

This alternative eliminates the potential for mountain bike use on the Millerton Uplands trail, and for increased boating opportunities on the bay. It also eliminates new campgrounds that would ameliorate the lack of this kind of facility regionwide. These eliminations would reduce potential environmental impacts such as soil compaction in concentrated use areas, water quality impacts from soil erosion and recreational use on the bay, increased noise and air quality impacts due to increases in traffic and boating, impacts to wildlife from potential disturbance, and potential traffic congestion in the area. However, it does not respond to the increasing desire for mountain bicycling, boating and camping opportunities in the region that the park could provide.

Due to the magnitude of reductions, this alternative greatly decreases the diversity and range of recreation opportunities park-wide, and is especially lacking in potential recreation facilities for the newly-acquired parcels on the east side of the bay. It does not respond to the need for more places to pull off Highway 1 for rest and recreation.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355).

Marin County has been updating a countywide general plan that calls for minor increases in housing and commercial development in the vicinity of Tomales Bay, but not to the extent that the character of the region would change dramatically. The National Park Service has a planning effort ongoing for the Point Reyes National Seashore as well. In general, land management agencies in the region recognize the importance of the natural qualities of the area that have been preserved over time, and base their planning and development efforts on the importance of preserving these values into the future. The General Plan recommends that the Department continue to work cooperatively with regional land management agencies to find common management strategies that would enhance and preserve existing natural, cultural, and recreational resource values regionwide.

To the extent that water quality degradation in Tomales Bay and the loss of biological, cultural, and aesthetic resources is occurring in the region any loss, disturbance, or degradation of these resources would contribute to cumulative impacts. In addition, the General Plan proposes limited development of additional recreational facilities.

The facility development proposed in the General Plan may result in impacts to cultural resources, sensitive species, wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetic resources. Recommendations have been proposed for reducing these impacts, including the use of an adaptive management process to establish desired standards for park resources based on the overall vision for the park as stated in the General Plan, “indicators” that warn of negative impacts or conditions that are causing resource conditions to move away from the established standards, and management actions to mitigate and minimize impacts to resources. Examples of resource

guidelines are found in the Parkwide Goals and Guidelines and the Park Area Management Visions and Guidelines sections; however, future studies and plans will provide more information that will help refine the definitions of resource standards, indicators, and management actions and how they relate to the General Plan vision. For more information regarding the adaptive management process, please see the “Carrying Capacity: The Sustainability of Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Resources, and Visitor Experiences” section of the General Plan.

The state listing of Tomales Bay water quality as “impaired” requires that special attention be paid to potential impacts to the bay and surrounding water bodies. The General Plan proposes extensive mitigation measures to avoid these impacts, including measures that would help bring the bay’s waters into compliance with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board standards for water quality. Upgrading septic systems in the park, using the best management practices of soil conservation agencies during facilities development and maintenance, reducing concentrated water flows and sediment transport, and development of a park Watershed Management Plan are included in the plan as mitigations for potential impacts to water quality from plan proposals.

The recreation proposals in the General Plan include several that bring visitors, facilities and activities close to the shoreline of Tomales Bay. Potential negative impacts, such as increased potential for erosion into the bay, estuaries and other water bodies, impacts to local oyster farms, traffic congestion, and visual and noise impacts from these proposals have been addressed in the General Plan. Potential mitigations include best management practices for soil erosion and drainage, monitoring of motorboat impacts to natural resources and auditory conditions, enforcement of park noise standards at night in the campgrounds and during the day, and screening of parking lots, roads and other structures with vegetation and/or site grading.

If the staff housing proposal is implemented, there could be a small net reduction of park staff demand on the local housing market, which would help alleviate some of the local housing shortage. If implemented, these proposals would not substantially or adversely impact housing and population growth in the area. No significant population and housing impacts are projected.

In addition, the possible acquisitions and conservation easements discussed in the General Plan may act to protect existing park resources, preserve and enhance viewsheds and aesthetic resources, and enhance plant and wildlife habitat by providing habitat linkages and buffers.

Mitigation will reduce potential cumulative impacts from General Plan proposals to a less than significant level.

## **EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT**

As a first tier of planning and environmental analysis, impacts to the following items were found not to be potentially significant. Future implementation of plan proposals will be subject to a more detailed analysis of potential impacts resulting from the specific project during a second-level environmental review.

### **LAND USE AND PLANNING**

The General Plan for Tomales Bay State Park provides guidelines for future land use and development and is consistent with local and regional general plans. The General Plan proposals are consistent with the existing land use in the area, which is a combination of open space, recreational, residential, agriculture, ranching, and commercial.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. No significant land use and planning impacts are projected.

### **MINERAL RESOURCES**

The plan will not result in significant impacts to mineral resources. Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, this plan would not substantially impact mineral resources.

### **NOISE**

Please see the discussion on potential noise impacts in the Aesthetic Resources section of the "Potentially Significant Environmental Effects" section of the Environmental Analysis.

### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

The proposal would not require significant additional government services for fire protection, police protection, schools, or public facility maintenance.

The plan proposes that circulation improvements be made at the main entrance to the Heart's Desire Area for more efficient fee collection and traffic control. In addition to new overnight and day use facilities in this area, improved access to park properties and proposed facilities in the North Dream Farm Road area and on the east side of the bay will potentially increase traffic on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard

and Highway 1. Significant increased maintenance of these existing public roads is not anticipated with the addition of park road and facility upgrades and additions.

The potential for wildfire in the park and surrounding areas would be increased with the development of General Plan proposals for camping and day use, including trails. The General Plan proposes the development of fire management plans, including a Wildfire Management Plan and a Prescribed Fire Management Program that would address the potential risks of wildfire in the park and propose actions for prevention, pre-suppression and suppression of wildfires. The Department should coordinate with local and regional fire control agencies toward these goals; however, it is not anticipated that the General Plan proposals would require significantly more government services for fire protection.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, this plan would not have an adverse effect on public services.

## **RECREATION**

The plan proposes increasing recreational resources with development of day use and camping facilities, new interpretive facilities, loop trails, and trail linkages from park trails to local and regional trails outside the park boundaries. The plan also calls for recreational facilities with the maximum appropriate disabled accessibility.

The plan recommends the use of adaptive management processes that would help implement the General Plan's vision and desired conditions for natural, cultural, and recreational resources and visitor experiences in the park. These processes would provide an ongoing method of evaluation and mitigation of impacts to recreational uses, visitor experiences, and park resources, which can affect one another over time. Using the adaptive management process, significant impacts would be minimized to ensure survival of the park's important values and visitor opportunities as expressed in the General Plan.

The plan may restrict some types of recreation in order to minimize resource impacts; however, the plan also proposes the evaluation and potential development of other forms of recreation to respond to visitor demand and to provide increased opportunities for interpretation and education.

The project calls for the development of a Roads and Trails Management Plan that would evaluate the need, location, use, and development of existing and future roads and trails and associated facilities. This management plan may propose discontinuing the use of specific roads and trails due to severe erosion or disturbance to sensitive wildlife habitat.

The plan may increase the use of existing regional parks by encouraging trail connections; however this increased use would not be substantial or cause or accelerate significant physical deterioration of the facility.

Any future projects will be subject to additional environmental review. There will not be significant adverse impacts to recreational resources resulting from the implementation of this plan.

## **TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

There will not be significant adverse impacts to transportation, traffic or circulation as a result of implementation of this General Plan.

With expanded facilities, increasing population growth in the state and region, and subsequent increasing demand for recreational opportunities, the park will likely experience increased visitation over the coming decades. Improvements in directional and informational signage should make travelers aware of the park and its location and may result in increased visitation. Most of the visitors will arrive by private vehicle, with some arriving by bus, although some may take advantage of the proposed California Coastal Trail and public transit connections.

The plan proposes road, trail, and parking improvements that will enhance circulation in the park. The plan proposes that circulation improvements be made at the main entrance to the Heart's Desire Area for more efficient fee collection and traffic control. In addition to new overnight and day use facilities in this area, improved access to park properties and proposed facilities in the North Dream Farm Road area and on the east side of the bay will potentially increase traffic on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Highway 1.

The development of day use facilities on the east side of Tomales Bay will increase vehicle traffic on Highway 1 and in the region, although it is not anticipated to add a significant amount of traffic. If potential motorboat launching from Marconi Cove is found to increase traffic circulation impacts, the Department will evaluate this potential activity at Marconi Cove and take actions to minimize impacts, such as limit the number of boat launches per day, or discontinue the activity, if appropriate.

Existing traffic levels on Highway 1 and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. will not be substantially affected by the plan proposals as it is projected that traffic increases due to plan proposals will be minimal on these access roads. The two primary new facilities proposed for the Heart's Desire Area are the 15-site (maximum) campground in the current maintenance storage area and the conversion of the now unused "Hike-and-Bike" campground to a group campground. It is estimated that these two new facilities would generate 50-60 new round-trips per day along Sir

Francis Drake Blvd. The proposed facilities at Marconi Cove and the proposed public hiking access to the Millerton Uplands would potentially generate 75-150 new round-trips per day along Highway 1.

These minimal increases in daily vehicle traffic will be a very small fraction of the traffic that exists now on these roads. The current vehicle service levels on Highway 1 and Sir Francis Drake Blvd. are well within moderate traffic levels defined as having reasonably steady, high-volume flows of traffic as indicated by the National Research Council's Highway Capacity Manual (2000). Visitation to Point Reyes National Seashore is projected to be 2.9 million by 2010. Marin County's *Bus Transit Futures Final Report* states that the Point Reyes National Seashore's "future ability to accommodate visitors will be constrained by parking management policies, not external access routes." Tomales Bay State Park and Point Reyes National Seashore share the same access routes. The small percentage of traffic contributed by existing and proposed facilities of Tomales Bay State Park should not create significant impacts to regional roadways. The Department will monitor traffic impacts and park visitor access experiences in the region through the adaptive management process and propose management actions to minimize impacts from traffic increases in the park and on surrounding roadways, if appropriate.

The plan recommends that the Department coordinate with Caltrans and Marin County to assure that alterations and maintenance of roadways and signage will result in safe and enjoyable driving experiences in and around the park. In addition, the plan strongly recommends that the Department work with other transportation agencies to develop and promote alternative modes of transportation to, from, and within the park, including pedestrian, bicycle, bus, shuttle, and boat, and to pursue shared parking arrangements with the National Park Service and Marin County.

The Department will develop a comprehensive Roads and Trails Management Plan to guide the location, use, and maintenance of existing and future roads and trails within park boundaries. More detailed potential impacts of any proposed roads and trails will be evaluated.

Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, this plan would not substantially impact traffic and circulation resources.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

The project recommends new facility development (including trails, day use and campground areas, and interpretive facilities) that will require additional utilities and service systems. The increase required will be minimal. New water and sewer systems will be supplied by existing Department utility systems and any new

drainage systems will comply with all applicable regulations and policies with regard to water quality. Future implementation of general plan proposals will be subject to additional tiered environmental review. If implemented, the project will not result in a need for substantial increases or alterations in utilities and service systems.