

State of California – The Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Name of Project: **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park General Plan**

B. Contact Person: **Tina Robinson or Michelle Fredrickson** Telephone: **619.220.5300**

C. Location: **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**

D. Checklist Date: 1-30-02

E. Project Description: To meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and section 4332 of the title 14 of the California Administration Code, The California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing a General Plan for the park. This plan will delineate a number of resource management zones and a set of goals and guidelines will be developed for each zone, which will guide park management, specific project management, and implementation. These goals and guidelines will address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities and constraints consistent with the classifications of State Park and State Wilderness, as set forth in section 5019.53 and 5019.68 of the Public Resources Code and with Department Resource Management Directives. The General Plan will not actually locate or design facilities, but instead will provide goals and guidelines for the appropriate types, locations, and designs of facilities that may be proposed in the future. The General Plan will establish the primary interpretive themes for interpretive programs and activities. The General Plan will include a program (first tier) EIR and additional environmental review will be required as specific management plans or projects are implemented.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potential Significant Impact	Potential Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the proposal:				
1. Conflict with General Plan designation and zoning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Affect agricultural resources or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low income or minority community)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

- #3. It is the intent of the General Plan, through management zones, to be compatible with surrounding areas. California State Parks will mitigate potential impacts during the design process. (View shed, Traffic patterns, Ranching, Recreational Activities)
- #5 Future Acquisitions are not addressed in the General Plan Process.

POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the proposal:

6. Cumulatively exceed official regional or local populations projections?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Induce substantial growth in an area, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

- #7 As state and local population increase, the General Pan will accommodate increased visitation where it is allowed by designated management zones. This accommodation will occur in the form of low impact facilities and campgrounds. Recreation opportunities and preserved open space will be needed as the San Diego Metropolitan Area and adjacent communities grow, but will not create substantial growth within the region.

GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS Would the project result in or expose people to impacts involving:

9. Fault rupture?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Seismic ground failure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Seich, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Erosion, changes in topography, or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Subsidence of land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. Expansive soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17. Scientifically significant paleontological resources, geological or physical features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

- #13 Potential landslides or mudflows will be mitigated by facility type.
- #14 Potential erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions will be avoided or minimized in the General Plan goals and guidelines and management use zones.

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#17 Due to the specialized nature of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the General Plan will provide for public use in significant paleontological, geologic and physical features, however the impacts associated with these uses will minimized or avoided.

WATER Would the proposal result in:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 18. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g., temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. Changes in amount of surface water in any water body? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. Changes in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations, or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. Impacts to groundwater quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26. Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

18-26 Management Zones that allow for potential development and maintenance of facilities such as roads, buildings, trails, parking lots, campsites, picnic areas, utilities, and septic systems have the potential for significant short and long term impacts to drainage patterns, surface runoff, surface and ground water quality, course or direction of water movement. Mitigation of potential negative impacts will be accomplished with site specific hydrological surveys prior to development or maintenance, in conjunction with best management practices.

AIR QUALITY Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 27. Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29. Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 30. Create objectionable odors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#27-30 The use of prescribed burns could put patrons and wildlife in danger in the event of an escape. Fire management may also affect regional air quality but the plan will include provisions for working with regional air quality control board to avoid significant emissions of smoke during sensitive time periods. Dust from construction, filming, and pit toilets may create site specific or temporary impacts.

TRANSPORTATION / CIRCULATION Would the proposal result in:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 31. Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 32. Hazards to safety from design features (curves, dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 33. Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34. Insufficient parking capacity on or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35. Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 36. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 37. Rail, waterborne, or air traffic impacts? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#31-37 The ruggedness of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park prohibits easy access to all areas within and outside of the park. The plan will permit new parking lots, roads, and alternative transportation as appropriate within designated management zones.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the proposal result in adverse impacts to:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 38. Endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 39. Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 40. Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 41. Wetland habitat (marsh, riparian, and vernal pool)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Potential Significant Impact Potential Significant Impact Unless Mitigated Less than Significant Impact No Impact

42. Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?
 SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#38-42 The General Plan calls for an ongoing study to monitor sensitive species and their habitats as related to management zones. Should a sensitive resource be identified, facilities will be designed and constructed to avoid or minimize the impact. Guidelines within the General Plan protect and enhance park resources i.e. view sheds, cultural resources, wildlife and plants.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES Would the proposal:

43. Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?
 44. Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?
 45. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and residents of the state?

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#43-45 Due to the protection of resources this plan may inhibit the potential collection of alternative energy and mineral resources, green building techniques will be incorporated when feasible.

HAZARDS Would the proposal involve:

46. A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to oils, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation)?
 47. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency?
 48. The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?
 49. Exposure of people to existing sources of health hazards?
 50. Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#46-50- The removal of exotic plant species may result in exposure to hazardous substances. However, precautions will be taken to minimize impact to park resources and visitors. The Carrizo Impact Area, a former military range, could contain hazardous materials but has been closed to the general public under the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Chapter 6 14604. The ruggedness of the natural landscape can prevent easy emergency access. State Wilderness designations promote resource preservation and exclude the possibility of new roads. Visitors in the harsh desert landscape can quickly succumb to the elements. Where Anza-Borrego Desert State Park borders private property, overgrowth of vegetation may become hazardous in the event of a fire.

PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project have an adverse effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government service in any of the following areas:

51. Fire protection?
 52. Police protection?
 53. Schools?
 54. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#54 An increase of staff for the Department of Parks and Recreation may be required as a result of maintenance of public facilities.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS Would the project result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

55. Power or natural gas?
 56. Communications systems?
 57. Local or regional water treatment of distribution facilities?
 58. Sewer or septic tanks?
 59. Storm water drainage?
 60. Solid waste disposal?
 61. Local or regional water supplies?

SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#55-61 Some management zones allow for new facilities that may require additional utilities and service systems. However, precautions will be taken into the construction and design process upon the proposal of all individual projects. The increase in services required would be nominal.

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NOISE Would the proposal result in:				
62. An increase in existing noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)				

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#62 & 63 In the General Plan some management zones will allow for new park facilities that could potentially increase noise levels in some area. Currently the park has regulations to minimize campground noise. Development of new facilities may involve the use of heavy construction equipment and expose people to short term severe noise levels.

AESTHETICS Would the project:

64. Adversely affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65. Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66. Create light or glare?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)				

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#64-66 Preservation of aesthetic resources will be addressed during the design phase of all new facilities, but are potentially significant given the sensitivity and unique natural landscape of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:

67. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
68. Have the potential to cause physical change which would adversely affect unique cultural values?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
69. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)				

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#67-69 Site specific searches for sensitive resources will be conducted by state cultural resource specialists. Should a cultural resource be identified, facilities will be designed and constructed to avoid or minimize impact.

RECREATION Would the proposal adversely:

70. Affect recreational opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOURCES: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)				

EXPLANATION OF ANSWERS: (Use additional page(s) if necessary.)

#70 Recreational opportunities will be in accordance with state regulations. Management zones will determine guidelines for recreational opportunities, which may increase or decrease recreational activities according to the resource sensitivity of different areas within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

ADDITIONAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOVE

III. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Does the project have the potential to degrade the environment, substantially reduce habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantive adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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IV. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

On the basis of the Initial Study,

- I find that the proposed project could not have an adverse effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect because the mitigation measures described in the attached Mitigation appendix will be required. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

PREPARER: Tina Robinson

TITLE: Associate Park and Recreation Specialist

DATE: 2-1-02