

December 2, 2003

All Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Persons

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DOHENY STATE BEACH PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the Doheny State Beach Preliminary General Plan (General Plan). The Department is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), responsible for preparation of this document.

Project Location:

Doheny State Beach (Park) is located in southern Orange County in the city of Dana Point at 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive. The 86-acre Park is adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway (State Highway 1) with frontage along 1.2 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a new General Plan for the Park. The Park provides public beach access for day use and camping, and opportunities for surfing, volleyball, swimming, sunbathing, fishing, biking, bird watching, and educational exhibits at the Visitor Center. The existing General Plan has not been updated in over 30 years and a new plan is needed to guide future development activities and management objectives at the Park.

The General Plan contains a comprehensive and cohesive set of park-wide and location-specific goals and guidelines for the long-term direction of the Park. Several park management zones are identified in the plan, encompassing the entire Park and providing detailed direction tailored to the particular environmental resource characteristics of each zone. The three zones – Core Habitat, Natural Plant Resource, and Recreation/Operations zones – provide high-quality park experiences for visitors while enhancing and preserving features that make the Park a unique destination. A number of improvements are identified in the General Plan's goals and guidelines, including the preservation and enhancement of the habitat values of the Park's natural resource areas, improvement to Park storm drain facilities, expansion of the size of the campground while retaining the same approximate number of campsites, addition of electrical service to the campground, an expanded Visitor Center, possibly at a location nearer to the ocean, and improvements to the pedestrian and nonmotor vehicle circulation system within the Park.

Summary of Impacts:

The EIR provides a program-level analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with the General Plan. No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Public Comment Period:

The 45-day public comment period for this Draft EIR will begin on December 2, 2003, and end on January 16, 2004 (comment letters must be postmarked by January 16, 2004). Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR will be available at the Park visitor center, the Department's Southern Service Center in San Diego (see address below), and at the Dana Point Library (33841 Niguel Road, Dana Point CA 92629). Please submit comments in writing to the following address:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108
Contact: Bob Patterson