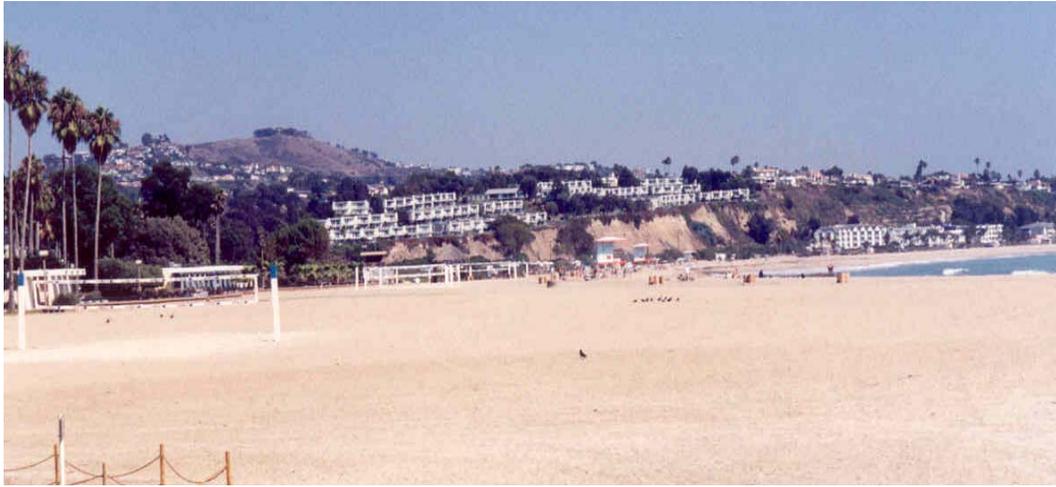


*Doheny State Beach
Preliminary General Plan/Final EIR*



*Proposed Changes to Preliminary General Plan
and
Public Review Comments & Responses
SCH #2003021146*



January 2004

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Proposed Changes to the Preliminary General Plan/EIR

Section 1.1 (Page 1-1) – Introduction to the Park

- Delete “The 86-acre” from 1st sentence – Staff Directed Change

Section 1.2.2 (Page 1-4) – Public Involvement

- Add description of Public Comments to read:
The second public workshop took the form of a posting of 4 alternative land use plans at the Visitor Center from October 25 to November 30, 2003, together with a survey form requesting identification of a preferred alternative and responses to other questions. The use of a display during normal park hours provided an opportunity for campers and casual day users to provide input on the General Plan process. Of 47 respondents to the survey, 27 visited the park primarily for camping, 10 for day use, 8 for both, and 2 did not respond to the question on their primary park use. Thirty-six respondents favored the expanded campground alternative with improved utility hookups; 5 favored the environmental enhancement alternative; 4 favored the improved visitor center alternative, and 1 favored the relocated campground alternative. Several also voted for one preferred alternative, but indicated support for another as well. Other comments received on the survey form included complaints about camp showers and restroom conditions, the need for more and larger campsites, water quality, and complaints about the reservation system or delayed check-in times.

During the public review period on the Draft EIR from December 2, 2003, to January 16, 2004, four comment letters were received: 3 from persons who enjoy kayaking or kayak fishing, and 1 from the County of Orange. The kayakers wanted to maintain the opportunity to launch from the park beach; and the County clarified and commented on matters related primarily to park trails and stormwater management. No comments from State agencies were received. Comment letters and responses have been added to this document as Chapter 9.

Section 2.1 (Page 2-1) – Summary of Park Conditions and Resources

- Delete “The 86-acre” from 1st sentence of 2nd paragraph – Staff Directed Change

- Staff Directed Change to the 1st sentence of the 3rd paragraph to read: *...donation by Edward Lawrence Doheny of 41.5 acres along Capistrano Beach...*
- Same Staff Directed Change to 41.5 acres on page 2-25 under Park Development Period
- Add the following Staff Directed Change after the 3rd paragraph: *The park has expanded from its original 41.5 acres by acquisitions at the downcoast end in 1942 and 1957, and at the upcoast end in 1951 and 1970. The Land Ownership Record shows that the park currently encompasses 62.34 acres. However, erosion and accretion of beach sand has resulted in changes to the actual park area that are expected to continue in the future. Based on a 2002 aerial photograph (see Map 4) the current park area is estimated to be approximately 80 acres, primarily as a result of beach accretion in the North Day Use Area adjacent to the Harbor jetty. Conversely, the South Day Use Area has suffered loss of beach since the acquisition of this area in 1957.*

Section 2.1.1 (Page 2-2) – Local and Regional Context (re: response #4.2)

- Delete “Department of” from 2nd paragraph

Section 2.1.3 (Page 2-7) – Existing Park Facilities (re: response #1.1, 2.1, 3.1)

- Add the following to the 1st paragraph: *Kayaking, kayak fishing, and windsurfing are also occasional activities.*
- Staff Directed Change on page 2-8 to add the following to the Campground description: *... south of the creek. The campground also provides one “hike and bike” campsite.*

Section 2.3.3 (Page 2-19) – Water Quality (re: response #4.1)

- Change the 1st paragraph to read: *...permittees received NPDES Permits in 1993 and 1996 and prepared a Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP) in 2003 as part of the RWQCB approval process...*

Section 2.4.4 (Page 2-30) – Recreation and Interpretation Opportunities and Issues

- Staff Directed Change to the 3rd paragraph to state that a location for a new Visitor Center would be “near the beach” rather than near the lagoon as currently stated; and “in the area between the concession stand and the San Juan Creek mouth” rather than near the San Juan Creek mouth

as currently stated. The same change to “near the beach” should be made to Guideline PD 6.3 (page 3-10), in the 1st paragraph on page 3-13, in Guideline NDU 2.2 on page 3-17, and in the last paragraph on page 4-6.

Map 4 – Existing Biological Resources

- Change the name of the offshore Marine Life Refuge to “Doheny Beach” rather than Dana Point.

Section 3.3.1 (Page 3-4) – Natural Resources

- Staff Directed Change to last sentence in Guideline NR 1.2 on page 3-4 to read:
... materials suitable for restoring the native ecosystem within the park.
- Staff Directed Change to 3rd sentence in Water Quality discussion on page 3-4 to read:
... urban pollutants that are carried downstream into the storm drain system...
- Staff Directed Change to 1st paragraph on page 3-5 to read:
... contamination from upstream urban runoff ...
- Staff Directed Change to Guideline NR 2.2 on page 3-5 (and also deletion of reference to North Creek in response to comment #4.10b) to read:
... to enable appropriate actions to be taken such as removal of the sand plug at the mouth of San Juan Creek in order to improve water quality ...

Section 3.3.4 (Page 3-7) – Visitor Use and Park Development

- Staff Directed Change to 1st sentence in Guideline PD 1.1 on page 3-7 to read:
Active park uses should not be allowed to conflict with passive park uses.
- Staff Directed Change to Guideline PD 1.2 on page 3-7 to read:
... opportunities for day use visitors to enjoy passive recreational activities ...
- Staff Directed Change to Guideline PD 3.2 on page 3-9 to read:
In order to reduce noise associated with generator use and improve camper facilities, the park should consider adding electrical hookups and other utility services to the campsites.

This same change would be made to Guideline CAMP 1.2 on page 3-19 and to the 1st paragraph on page 3-25.

Section 3.3.4 (Page 3-9) – Visitor Use and Park Development (re: response #4.16b)

- Change Guideline PD 4.1 on page 3-9 to read:
... designated bicycle lane at the main park entrance, recommendations on

facilities such as bicycle racks and information signs, and ...

Section 3.3.4 (Page 3-11) – Visitor Use and Park Development (re: response #4.9)

- Change Guideline PD 8.1 on page 3-11 to read:
If the City and/or County-operated Harbor ...

Section 3.3.5 (Page 3-12) – Interpretation

- Staff Directed Change to delete the 1st sentence of Guideline INT 2.2 on page 3-12. An interpretive CCC display was installed at the park in December 2003.

Section 3.3.6 (Page 3-15) – Facilities

- Staff Directed Change to Guideline FAC 6.2 on page 3-15 to read:
... should be posted in the park. Appropriate places to consider posting would include the park office ...
- Staff Directed Change to Guideline FAC 6.3 on page 3-15 to read:
... hazardous swimming and wading conditions and posting of emergency telephone numbers.

Section 3.4.4 (Page 3-19) – Creeks and Ocean Resource Areas

- Staff Directed Change to delete “and nesting grounds” in the last paragraph on page 3-19.

Section 3.4.4 (Page 3-20) – Creeks and Ocean Resource Areas (re: response #4.10b)

- Delete reference to North Creek in Guideline COR 3.1 on page 3-20. The mouth of the creek is outside Doheny SB and is under County jurisdiction for management of its outlet to the ocean.

Section 3.5.4 (Page 3-24) – Future Actions to Resolve Issues

- Staff Directed Change to 1st sentence under Circulation and Pedestrian/Bicycle Routes on page 3-24 to delete “From a public safety standpoint.”

Section 4.1.1 (Page 4-2) – Summary of Impacts and Mitigation

- Staff Directed Change to Hazards discussion on page 4-2 to delete the beginning of the 1st sentence so that it reads:
Inadequate separation of pedestrian and bicycle routes from roadways and parking lot driving lanes exists within the park.

Section 4.2.2 (Page 4-7) – Project Features

- Staff Directed Change to Improved Facilities discussion on page 4-7 to delete “to a 6-inch line.”

Section 4.4.5 (Page 4-16) – Circulation and Access

- Staff Directed Change to 3rd paragraph on page 4-16 to delete a portion of the last sentence so that it reads:

While many opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle use exist within the park, improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed ...

Section 4.4.6 (Page 4-18) – Hazards

- Staff Directed Change to Impact Analysis on page 4-18 to read:
... *bicycle trails in a manner that would improve public safety.*
- Staff Directed Change to 2nd paragraph under Impact Analysis on page 4-18 to read:
... *existing pedestrian and bicycle trails that would improve public safety ...*

Chapter 8 – Glossary of Terms

- Staff Directed Change to add definition of Passive and active Recreation to read:

Recreation – Active: *activities that generally involve running, throwing or other forms of sport or exercise that may include use of balls or other specialized equipment and commonly involve two or more participants. Examples of active recreation include, but are not limited to, soccer, softball or baseball, volleyball, horseshoes, and children’s swings or climbing apparatus. Bicycle riding, skateboarding, skating, or similar activities using wheeled apparatus would also be considered active recreation; and at State Beaches, surfing, boating, or fishing are other common forms of active recreation. State Parks generally limit active recreation to designated areas or may prohibit or restrict some active uses due to the potential for conflict with park users who seek passive uses or more restful activities to more fully enjoy a park’s natural features.*

Recreation – Passive: *activities that generally involve leisurely ways to enjoy the outdoor environment such as walking on nature trails, picnicking, bird watching, or sunbathing. At State Beaches, swimming and beachcombing are common passive recreation activities.*

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001
(916)653-0524 · FAX: (916)653-4458

Ruth Coleman, Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Park and Recreation Commission, pursuant to authority contained in Sections 539, 5002.3, 5019.50, 5080.03, 5080.20, et al of the Public Resources Code, Section 11120 et seq. of the Government Code, and pursuant to law, will meet on Friday, February 27, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in the City of Dana Point City Council chambers, 33282 Golden Lantern St., Dana Point, California. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible.

Agenda items include consideration and action on the Department of Parks and Recreation's recommendation for approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Doheny State Beach. The agenda will also include consideration of a change to the Commission rules regarding election of officers, and election of officers for 2004.

The Preliminary General Plan and EIR for Doheny State Beach is available for review at the following locations: City of Dana Point, 33282 Golden Lantern St., Dana Point; San Juan Capistrano City Planning Dept., 32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano; City of San Clemente, 910 Calle Negocio, San Clemente; Dana Point Library, 33841 Niguel Road, Dana Point; State Parks Doheny State Beach Office, 25300 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point; State Parks Orange Coast District Office, 3030 Avenida del Presidente, San Clemente; State Parks Southern Service Center, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, and on the Internet at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=22580.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person may file a statement regarding hearing items by writing to the following address or by presenting oral or written statements at the hearing at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. Inquiries or requests for information should be directed to Louis Nastro, LNastro@parks.ca.gov, 916/653-0524, or to the State Park and Recreation Commission, Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001. California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Visitors who wish assistance should contact Mr. Nastro at the address above at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Commission plans to tour wildfire damage in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on February 25, 2004. The tour will begin at 3:15 p.m. at the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park headquarters building, 12551 Highway 79, in Descanso. No public testimony will be heard and no action will be taken by the Commission during this tour.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a workshop on the subjects of Commission roles and responsibilities, State Parks' acquisition planning, and State Parks' role in conserving California will be conducted for members of the Commission, by staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation, on February 25, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Campfire Center of the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. The Borrego Palm Canyon Campground is located near the park Visitor Center west of Borrego Springs. No public testimony will be heard and no action will be taken by the Commission during this workshop.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Commission plans to tour various sites in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® on February 26, 2004. The tour will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®, west of Borrego Springs. No public testimony will be heard and no action will be taken by the Commission during this tour.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001
(916)653-0524 · FAX: (916)653-4458

Ruth Coleman, Director

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 – provides 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 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

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Letters and Responses

The following letters were received during the public comment period of December 2, 2003 through January 16, 2004. Responses to the comments on each page follow on the next page.

Comment Letters

December 25, 2003

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

1.1

This correspondence relates to the 20-year general plan being considered for Doheny State Beach. I recently have become interested in kayaking and kayak fishing. Please consider including these activities in the plan. I'm including a few local kayak sport fishing-related Internet sites below. Thank you.


Mike Tilson
5752 Lime Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

<http://www.yakfishing.com/board/viewforum.php?f=2>
<http://kayak4fish.com/phpBB/index.php>
<http://www.allkayakfishing.com/phpBB2/index.php?sid=fdcfed6538e32afefb456d41b18917c5>
<http://fishingkayaks.net/directory.html#Message%20Boards>

Response to Comments

- 1.1 Page 2-7 of the General Plan and Draft EIR will be revised to state that kayaking and windsurfing are also occasional activities at Doheny SB. Kayak fishing is a permitted off-shore activity in the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge with a sportfishing license and in compliance with the list of fish, mollusks, and crustaceans contained in Section 10664 of the California Fish and Game Code. Since this fishing takes place beyond the surf break, it poses no conflict with surfers or swimmers. However, launching kayaks from Doheny State Beach or kayak surfing could pose hazards for surfers or swimmers. The only area that is conducive to kayaking within the surf zone is near the San Juan Creek jetty in the North Day Use Area. Due to the limited area of suitable surf break at Doheny State Beach, this is also the most popular and congested water area of the park. Lifeguards at the park exercise discretion in permitting kayaks in the surfing and swimming area only when waves are small and the number of surfers and swimmers is low. This regulation is needed to reduce the potential that park visitors could be injured from contact with kayaks. The South Day Use Area extends for approximately 3,200 feet along the oceanfront and is less intensively used for swimming and water activities than is the North Day Use Area. Kayak use may be allowed more frequently in this area, particularly during the non-summer period. When conditions are suitable, kayakers are advised to enter the water next to the jetty and proceed directly out past the surf line. They also have the alternative to launch in Dana Point Harbor.

From: "Mike Rankin" <mikesr1@cox.net>
To: <wwood@parks.ca.gov>
Date: 12/26/03 10:12AM
Subject: General Plan

General Plan Program Manager
Wayne Woodroof,

2.1

Dear sir
It has come to my attention that you are developing a 20 plan for Doheny State Park. Gosh that place always brings back memories of surfing in the early 60's there. But I digress. I would hope that you all would include Kayaking and Kayak fishing in the plan. I'm sure that you get all kinds of suggestions and It's my hope that this one would be considered.

Thank You
Mike Rankin
Mikesr1@cox.net

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.552 / Virus Database: 344 - Release Date: 12/15/2003

Response to Comments

2.1 Please see response to comment 1.1.

January 13, 2004

California Department of Parks & Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive Ste. 270
San Diego, CA 92108

Attn: Bob Patterson

Dear Bob,

3.1

We were just made aware of the Doheny General Plan and have been looking it over. We live in Capistrano Beach and started kayak fishing about four years ago. Almost two years ago, we started an on-line business for kayak fishing gear (www.kayakfishinggear.com). Over the past couple of years we have watched this sport grow and can see only continuing growth to come. It was brought to our attention of the Doheny General Plan and that it did not mention kayaking or kayak fishing. This may be something to add to the "2.1 SUMMARY OF PARK CONDITIONS AND RESOURCES" along with the other activities found in the park. Fishing is mentioned, but not kayaking or kayak fishing.

Kayak fishing tournaments have begun to develop more and more frequently and in fact we are helping host one at Doheny in March of this year. We are having both a Baby's Beach launch and a Doheny launch. Doheny is a great place to launch to get right out into the ocean and not have to paddle through the harbor first.

Some resources for kayak fishing can be found at www.kayakportfishing.com, www.fishingkayaks.net, www.allkayakfishing.com, and many more.

If you have any comments or questions for me, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,



Mark and Karen Ezell
Hook 1 Kayak Fishing Gear

34466 Calle Portola
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624
(949) 248-7670

Response to Comments

- 3.1 Please see response to comment 1.1. Park staff welcomes the opportunity to host organized kayak events such as the fishing tournament. The park's special events coordinator should be contacted at (949)496-5290.



COUNTY OF ORANGE
RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Bryan Speegle, Director
300 N. Flower Street
Santa Ana, CA
P.O. Box 4048
Santa Ana, CA 92702-4048
Telephone: (714) 834-2300
Fax: (714) 834-5188

NCL 03-117

January 14, 2004

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

SUBJECT: DEIR for the Doheny State Beach General Plan

Dear Mr. Patterson:

The above referenced item is a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the project is to develop a new General Plan for the Park. The existing General Plan has not been updated for over 30 years. The 86-acre Park is located at 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive with frontage along 1.2 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

The County of Orange has reviewed the DEIR and offers the following comments:

WATER QUALITY

- 4.1 1. The General Plan should recognize that the management of water quality should be consistent with the 2003 Countywide Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP) including the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Facility Maintenance (DAMP Section 5), New Development and Significant Redevelopment (Section 7) and other sections. Although Doheny State Beach is not a co-permittee under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, it is an entity with the potential to discharge pollutants to the Orange County stormwater system. As such, active participation in Orange County's NPDES permit compliance efforts is expected.

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION

- 4.2 2. Page 2-2, third paragraph, second sentence; should be revised to read as follows:
"The harbor area is administered by Orange County's Resources and Development Management Department/Harbors, Beaches and Parks Function."

Response to Comments

- 4.1 Page 2-19 of the General Plan and Draft EIR states that Orange County has prepared a Draft DAMP. This will be revised to state that the DAMP has been approved. The Park has implemented practices similar to those of local governments to reduce pollutant runoff from paved areas. Continuation of these practices is recommended by the proposed General Plan. Guidelines NR 2.1 and NR 3.2 recommend studies of the park's existing drainage system and working with local agencies to identify ways to improve water quality in stormwater runoff. Guideline NR 3.3 specifically recommends the elimination of drains that convey runoff from trash container areas to the storm drain system. By proactively participating with the County and other local agencies in the planning and improvement of the park's stormwater system, the amount of polluted runoff reaching the park's waters can be reduced in compliance with federal NPDES requirements.
- 4.2 Page 2-2 of the General Plan and Draft EIR will be revised to clarify that Harbors, Beaches and Parks is not a separate County department.

- 4.3 3. Pages 2-9 and 2-10, Circulation and Infrastructure; County supports any coordinated effort with the City and State Parks and Recreation to improve/enhance bicycle and pedestrian circulation between Doheny State Beach, Dana Point Harbor and Capistrano Park Beach.
- 4.4 4. Pages 2-32 and 3-6, County supports upgrading existing landscaping and fencing adjacent Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway.
- 4.5 5. Page 3-5, Guideline NR-2.1; include consultation/coordination with the County's Harbors, Beaches & Parks in any efforts to improve water quality in stormwater runoff.
- 4.6 6. Page 3-5, Guidelines NR 3.1 and NR 3.2; improvement solutions to North Creek water quality and drainage should address any potential impacts to adjacent Dana Point Harbor North Creek area in consultation with the County's Harbors, Beaches & Parks.
- 4.7 7. Page 3-7, Visitor Day Use and Park Development and Guideline PD 2.2; County supports addition of a walkway along beach frontage in South Day Use area for pedestrians and bicyclists in conjunction with a parking study.
- 4.8 8. Page 3-10, Concessions, Guideline PD 6.1; represents a good opportunity for a joint venture between the County, and State Parks & Recreation for a restroom/concession building to service both the South Day Use area and County's Capistrano Beach Park. Both facilities currently possess limited concession/restroom service in this area.
- 4.9 9. Page 3-11, Acquisitions, Goal PD 8, reference to Dana Point Harbor should indicate it is a County owned and operated harbor.
- 10. Section 3.4.4, Creeks and Ocean Resources:
 - 4.10a a. The General Plan should recognize that the City of Dana Point installed a diversion project in 2003 that impacts the amount of runoff to North Creek. The Diversion limits runoff from the Lantern Bay watershed area and diverts it into the South Coast Water District sewer system.
 - 4.10b b. The General Plan should also note that the County of Orange obtained all necessary permits for outlet management of the North Creek. County assumption of this function is part of the overall cooperative regional management approach to water quality improvements. Permit allows for berming of outlet to prevent mixing of runoff and seawater during summer months and use of equipment to manage the outlet.
- 4.11 11. Page 3-5, Goal NR 2, Water Quality; same comment as in J., Section 3.4.4, above, in reference to diversion and outlet management.
- 4.12 12. Page 3-9, Guideline PD 4.1; County supports a focused study to provide a separate system for through access by bicyclists and skaters that links with local and regional trails

Response to Comments

- 4.3 Comment noted. State Parks appreciates the County's support for improved bicycle and pedestrian circulation in the area.
- 4.4 Comment noted. State Parks appreciates the County's support for upgraded landscaping and fencing adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway.
- 4.5 No change proposed. Guideline NR 2.1 of the General Plan and Draft EIR states that the Park will "work closely with local and regional efforts to improve water quality in stormwater runoff." This would include working with the County Harbor, Beaches and Parks.
- 4.6 No change proposed. Implementation of Guidelines NR 3.1 and 3.2 of the General Plan and Draft EIR would involve coordination with the County's Harbor, Beaches and Parks in accordance with Guideline NR 2.1 (see response to comment 4.5).
- 4.7 Comment noted. State Parks appreciates the County's support for addition of a walkway along the beach frontage in the South Day Use Area.
- 4.8 No change proposed. The preferred location for a restroom/concession building serving the South Day Use Area would be adjacent to the campground where it would be less vulnerable to vandalism and could also serve as a camp store.
- 4.9 Guideline PD 8.1 of the General Plan and Draft EIR will be revised to state that the Harbor is a County-operated facility.
- 4.10a No change proposed. Page 2-11 of the General Plan and Draft EIR states that the runoff diversion project was installed in North Creek in 2003.
- 4.10b Guideline NR 2.2 on page 3-5 of the General Plan and Draft EIR and Guideline COR 3.1 on page 3-20 will be revised to delete the reference to North Creek.
- 4.11 Please see response to Comment 4.5.
- 4.12 Comment noted. State Parks appreciates the County's support for improved through access for bicyclists and skaters.

in consultation with the Chief, of the County's Harbors, Beaches & Parks/Trail Planning and Implementation Division.

13. Bikeways - Page 2-9:

The San Juan Creek Bikeway (the regional Class I bikeway noted in the text) is a County and OCTA master-planned mountains-to-sea regional bikeway. The bikeway is proposed to extend from Caspers Wilderness Park to Doheny State Beach, a distance of 9 miles. The Trabuco Creek Bikeway will also link with the San Juan Creek Bikeway at the confluence of Trabuco and San Juan Creeks. This will bring additional riders and hikers to the State Beach from the cities of Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo and several unincorporated areas. Conversely, bikeway users are likely to use the parking lot at Doheny State Beach as a staging area for the San Juan Creek and Trabuco Creek Bikeways.

4.13

The DEIR and GDP should acknowledge that Doheny State Beach is a prime destination for the San Juan Creek Bikeway. The GDP and DEIR anticipate there will be an increase in bicycle users to the park. The park may need to add bike racks, information kiosks, restrooms, and improve its internal circulation and signage to safely accommodate the commuter and recreational cyclist. An example of this is the coastal bikeway that extends through Huntington State Beach from the Santa Ana River to the north end of the Bolsa Chica State Beach.

14. Riding and Hiking Trails:

a. Separately, the County's Master Plan of Regional Riding and Hiking Trails proposes the San Juan Creek Trail, a trail (used by pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists) planned to follow San Juan Creek from the Cleveland National Forest through Caspers Wilderness Park down to Doheny State Beach. The trail is aligned along the east side of San Juan Creek. County recently opened a section of this trail from the confluence of San Juan and Trabuco Creeks to Stonehill Drive.

4.14a

b. The ultimate destination of the trail is to connect with Doheny State Beach at the south campground. To reach the State Beach the trail has to cross Coast Highway by the Double Tree Suites Hotel. To ensure that the trail makes this important linkage to the park the County requests that the GDP address the riding and hiking trail and its connection to the south campground.

4.14b

15. Page 3-17 – Goal NGU 3.1 – Guidelines NDU 3:1:

a. GDP should indicate the North Day Use Area beachfront walkway is depicted on Map 5, Existing Circulation System. County recommends circulation improvements as to preclude bicycle riding and skate boarding during high use by implementation of an amber light system along the walkway which when lit requires bicycle riders and skate boarders to dismount and walk until the lights are

4.15a

Response to Comments

- 4.13 Comment noted. State Parks supports improvements to regional bike trail facilities such as recommended in Guideline PD 4.1 on page 3-9 of the General Plan and Draft EIR.
- 4.14a State Parks supports improvements to regional trail facilities as stated in the response to comment 4.13. Facilities for rest and refreshment are available at Doheny SB to travelers on the regional trail, including drinking fountains, picnic sites, and outdoor showers. A “hike and bike” campsite is also provided at the park campground that is available as an overnight destination for trail users. However, equestrian use of the onsite portion of the San Juan Creek Trail would not be suitable due to the lack of equestrian facilities at Doheny State Beach. As stated on page 1-1 of the General Plan and Draft EIR, State Beaches are defined in Section 5019.56 (c) of the California Public Resources Code as being “designed to provide ... beach-oriented recreational activities.”
- 4.14b No change proposed. The San Juan Creek Trail enters Doheny SB via an existing undercrossing of Coast Highway. Park staff has been working with the County to identify and implement alternative measures to enable an improved crossing of Coast Highway for times when the undercrossing is flooded. Please also see response to Comment 4.17, below.
- 4.15a Comment noted. State Parks appreciates the suggestion for an amber light system to manage bicycle riders and skateboarders on the beachfront walkway during high use periods. This suggestion will be considered as a means to implement Guideline NDU 3.1 of the General Plan and Draft EIR and Guideline PD 4.1 (on page 3-9) should signs not prove effective.

turned off. A system such as this is in successful operation in the City of Huntington Beach along the beachfront.

4.15b

- b. The County requests that a Class I off-road bikeway be provided through the park from its entrance to its most southerly end. The bikeway should specifically connect to the San Juan Creek Regional Bikeway and San Juan Creek Regional Riding and Hiking Trail.

16. Page 3-18 – Goal SDU 2: Guideline SDU 2:1:

4.16a

- a. The Guideline indicates a study should be conducted to evaluate feasible means to redesign parking in the South Day Use Area to separate bicycle and pedestrian pathways outside of the parking lot driving lanes.

4.16b

- b. The County would encourage any study to specifically address the San Juan Creek Regional Bikeway and the San Juan Creek Regional Riding and Hiking Trail and the linkage of those distinct routes to the park. The trail and bikeway will bring new visitors to the park. This number will increase as upstream segments of both routes are opened over the next 10 years. The study should consider the following:

- *Safe access to the park
- *Through-park travel by bikeway and trail users
- *Provide bikeway and trail destinations (bikeway and trail rest areas). Rest areas may include bicycle racks, water fountains, information kiosks, benches and shade structures.

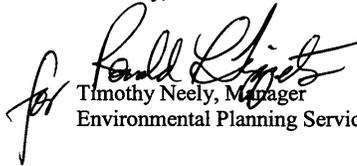
17. San Juan Creek Bikeway – Inundation:

4.17

The San Juan Creek Bikeway periodically becomes inundated at Coast Highway and toward the State Beach. County has begun to address a portion of the flooding problem at Coast Highway. To compliment the County’s work it is requested that the GDP address the flooding of the bikeway within the GDP boundary. This may involve the installation of a low retaining wall along the east edge of the bikeway, or other means, to allow the bikeway to remain dry during those seasonal times when water becomes

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the DEIR. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Harryman at (714) 834-2522.

Sincerely,


 Timothy Neely, Manager
 Environmental Planning Services Division

Response to Comments

- 4.15b No change proposed. Due to the limited area available for public use at the park, a separate Class I bikeway through the entire park would not be feasible.
- 4.16a Comment noted.
- 4.16b The end of the San Juan Creek Regional Trail is adjacent to an existing park restroom where drinking fountains and outdoor showers are available. Nearby is the park concession stand, as well as picnic areas and shaded areas. Guideline PD 4.1 on page 3-9 of the General Plan and Draft EIR will be revised to state that the focused study would include recommendations on facilities such as bicycle racks and information signs.
- 4.17 Doheny SB welcomes improvements to relieve flooding of the San Juan Creek Trail and has been participating with the County in ongoing discussions to identify feasible techniques and alternative routes for improved trail access. The Department understands the benefits of improved trail access to reduce automobile congestion in the local area and within the park and fully supports the County's efforts to improve regional trail connections. With this goal in mind, park staff prepared a letter in support of the County's grant application to fund construction of a retaining wall for improved flood protection of the trail.