

AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK

Preliminary General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report



Dickerman-Steele Ranch buildings, Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve

Response to Comments

State Clearinghouse
#2003102088 (State Park)
#2003102089 (State Natural Reserve)

California Department of Parks and Recreation
September 2008



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1 INTRODUCTION

On March 28, 2008 the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) released to the general public and public agencies the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park (Park) which also incorporates state lands currently classified as Año Nuevo State Reserve. The proposed General Plan will guide future management direction at the Park. It contains a comprehensive and integrated set of parkwide goals and guidelines for the long-term management of the Park that focus on protection of environmental resources, enhancements to visitor use and opportunities, and improvements to administration and operations of the Park. In addition, the General Plan includes proposed park development and designates appropriate land uses.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that is included in the Preliminary General Plan contains the environmental analysis of potentially significant effects of the proposed project. Together, the Draft EIR and this response to comments document constitute the Final Environmental Impact Report for the project.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21091 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, a 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR was provided. The public was advised of the availability of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR through public notices and notification on the Department's web site. The public notice (Notice of Availability) was posted with the San Mateo County Clerk. Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR were also available for review at the following locations: California State Parks: San Mateo Coast Sector Office; Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve Park Office; Santa Cruz District Office; Planning Division (Sacramento); San Mateo County Libraries: Half Moon Bay Library, Pacifica-Sharp Park Library, Portola Valley Library, Woodside Library; Santa Cruz County Libraries: Central Branch, Boulder Creek Branch, Scott's Valley Branch, Felton Branch; Santa Clara County Libraries: Cupertino Library, Los Altos Library, Saratoga Library; and on the State Parks web site.

The public review period ended May 12, 2008. During the public review period comments on the plan and the environmental issues evaluated in the Draft EIR were received from agencies and individuals. This document provides responses to the written comments received during the 45-day public review period.

The focus of the response to comments is on the disposition of environmental issues that have been raised in the comments, as specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), but also includes responses related to planning considerations of the Preliminary General Plan.

All comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR and the responses thereto, are presented in this document, which is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 1** (Introduction) provides a brief overview of the proposed project, describes the requirements under CEQA for responding to the public comments received on the Draft EIR, and describes the organization of the Final EIR.
- **Chapter 2** (List of Commenters) provides a list, in table format, of all written comments received on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR during the public comment period.
- **Chapter 3** (Comments and Responses) provides a complete copy of, and responses to, written comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR received during the public review and comment period.
- **Chapter 4** (Recommended Changes to the General Plan) provides a reproduction of portions of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR with proposed revisions to text made in response to comments.

2 LIST OF COMMENTERS

This chapter provides a list of all public comments received on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR during the public review period. Table 2-1 indicates the commenter/organization that prepared written comments and the date the comment(s) were received.

Table 2-1: List of Written Comments Received

Letter Number	Commenter	Agency/ Organization/ Individual Represented	Date Received
1	Sandra Finegan	Caltrans	April 8, 2008 (email)
2	Valentin Lopez et. al.	Amah Mutsun Tribal Band	May 11, 2008
3	Lisa Carboni	Caltrans	May 12, 2008
4	Joel Perlstein	Individual	May 12, 2008 (email)
5	Kaitilin Gaffney	Ocean Conservancy	May 12, 2008
6	Tod Neil Page	Individual	May 16, 2008 (email)
7	Tod Neil Page	Individual	June 25, 2008 (email)

3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This chapter provides a complete copy of the written comments received on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park, and presents responses to significant environmental issues raised in the comments, as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15132, as well as comments pertaining to the Preliminary General Plan.

Each letter is reproduced in its entirety, including attachments. Each letter and comments correspond to Table 2-1. The responses to comments follow each letter. Revisions to text in the General Plan/EIR are shown with a strikethrough or underline. Text that has a ~~strikethrough~~ has been deleted from the General Plan/EIR. Text that has been added is presented as single underlined.

From: Sandra Finegan [mailto:sandra_finegan@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2008 1:13 PM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Traffic Impact Study for General Plans

Letter 1

I recently received the Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan and DEIR. Have you prepared a traffic study? If so, I will need a copy of the study and its technical appendices including the synchro output sheets. If a traffic study has not been prepared I will need a written explanation of why it is not warranted.
<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/files/pdf/TrafficImpactStudy.pdf>

1A

Thank you.

Sandy Finegan
Transportation Planner - IGR/CEQA Coordinator
Office of Transit and Community Planning
Caltrans -District 4
111 Grand Avenue, MS 10-D
Oakland, CA 94623
(510) 622-1644
(510) 286-5559 FAX

Response to Letter 1 – Caltrans District 4, Sandra Finegan

1A - A traffic study has not been prepared as a part of the Preliminary General Plan and DEIR. The General Plan is broad and conceptual and is primarily a land use document. The design and magnitude of specific proposed facilities is determined at the specific development project level and not determined in the General Plan. The Transportation and Traffic section of the Environmental Analysis Chapter does analyze transportation and circulation impacts of broad General Plan proposals on a programmatic level. When specific development projects are determined, the Department will be able to estimate potential traffic increases, as well as identify any other contributing factors from outside the park, that could occur on State Highway 1 or on Gazos Creek Road as a result of future park development and visitor use.

Guideline **Access 7** (formerly **Trails 8**) recommends a Roads and Trails Management Plan evaluate and determine parkwide roads and trails circulation in a detailed manner. Affects on traffic and State Route 1 resulting from park access and development

proposals would be examined in the preparation of the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

The Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 2** would require the coordination with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be maintained and improved, to the extent feasible, in order to provide safe and convenient roadway conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Potential improvements that would be considered in a comprehensive roadway management plan include adding turning lanes to reduce congestion related to turning movements to avoid hazardous conditions.

The Parking Guidelines **Parking 1** and **Parking 2** would facilitate the development of new parking areas to meet increased demand for parking, as well as removing parking where hazardous conditions exist or where there may be impacts to adjacent sensitive resources. These guidelines would maintain traffic at an acceptable level to the extent feasible and would increase traffic safety.

AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND
3015 EASTERN AVENUE #40
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 743-5833

Letter 2

Mr. Alan Tang
General Plan Section
California State Parks
Planning Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

May 11, 2008

Dear Mr. Tang,

I am pleased to submit comments on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park (ANSP) and State Natural Reserve on behalf of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (AMTB).

AMTB is comprised of the documented descendants of the areas surrounding Missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista. The ANSP is within the northernmost portion of Amah Mutsun's traditional territory and, as such, we have great interest in the outcome of planning and management activities undertaken in this area.

Our tribe has been quite pleased with the relationship we've developed with State Parks in the recent years leading up to the development of the Draft General Plan. We've found Park representatives to be extraordinarily welcoming of our input and participation in matters concerning our cultural resources and traditional lifeways. Our research partnership with State Parks and UC Berkeley is progressing very well and is uncovering tremendous information that will inform both our efforts to restore ceremony and dance to the Quiroste Valley, as well as important information for the restoration of the pre-Spanish ecology of Valley. Through the designation of Quiroste Valley as a State Cultural Preserve, we are eager to continue this research and formalize our relationship with Parks toward sustainable management of this new Preserve.

The Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Año Nuevo State Park and Natural Reserve has the potential to be a ground-breaking document. It reflects a new and very progressive relationship between a tribal government and State Parks, and includes numerous provisions for future activities with the tribe. It goes beyond measures taken by other Parks and state institutions in their attitude toward tribe, providing for our participation in not only interpretive elements of the new Preserve, but it also recognizes the long legacy of environmental management practiced by our ancestors. The Plan provides the framework for rigorous study of the historic, culturally-managed environment, as well as mechanisms to restore both cultural and ecological functionality to this precious place.

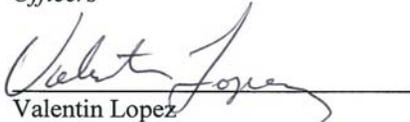
2A

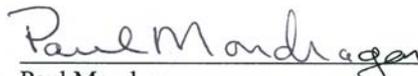
We strongly encourage the Parks Commission to approve this new Cultural Preserve designation, and remain actively involved in the implementation of its provisions. This Preserve, and the important partnerships that will arise from its creation have the potential to serve as a new model of cooperative management of both cultural and natural resources in the state.

Sincerely,

2A (cont.)

Officers

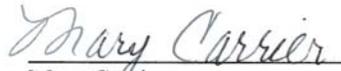

Valentin Lopez
Tribal Chairman


Paul Mondragon
Tribal Vice-Chairman


Approves in absentia JLC.
Lisa Carrier
Tribal Secretary

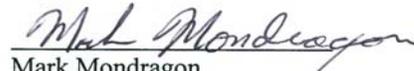

Denise Espinosa
Tribal Treasurer

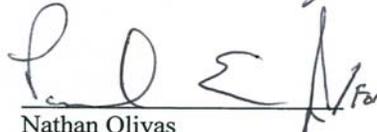
Members-at-Large


Mary Carrier


Isabel Diaz


Ed Ketchum


Mark Mondragon


Nathan Olivas


Sonya Pineida

Response to Letter 2 – Valentin Lopez, et. al.

2A - The Department appreciates the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's positive participation in the general planning process. The Department agrees that the cooperative and mutually supportive relationship has resulted in a unique General Plan for Año Nuevo State Park and also the proposed establishment and designation of the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve which all participants can be proud of. The Department looks forward to continuing this positive relationship by working with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band on implementing the General Plan in general and specifically on the Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 GRAND AVENUE
 P. O. BOX 23660
 OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660
 PHONE (510) 622-5491
 FAX (510) 286-5559
 TTY 711

Letter 3



*Flex your power!
 Be energy efficient!*

May 12, 2008

SM001319
 SM-01-3.285
 SCH# 2003102088

Mr. Alan Tang, Project Manager
 Planning Division, General Plan Section
 California Department of Parks and Recreation
 P.O. Box 942896
 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Tang

**ANO NUEVO STATE PARK PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN – DRAFT
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Department) in the environmental review process for the Ano Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan project. The following comments are based on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

As the lead agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to state highways. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures. Required roadway improvements should be completed prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. Since an encroachment permit is required for work in the state Right of Way (ROW), and the Department will not issue a permit until our concerns are adequately addressed, we strongly recommend that the DPR work with the Department to ensure that our concerns are resolved during the CEQA process, and in any case prior to submittal of a permit application. Further comments will be provided during the encroachment permit process; see the end of this letter for more information regarding encroachment permits.

3A

Maintenance Services

The Department requests that the DPR continue to involve and partner with the Department in the development of the General Plan since implementation of many of the proposed projects will impact the operation, design, and maintenance of State Route (SR) 1. The Department will need to monitor trees and other vegetation along SR 1 adjacent to DPR land for liability and safety issues. As well, liability issues associated with five coastal trailheads with informal parking need to be addressed.

3B

Advance Planning

The Department recognizes the importance of the General Plan process to Ano Nuevo State

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Park's effective planning for future conditions including the overall increase to the San Francisco Bay Area population and resulting increase in park visitor usage. Issues regarding safe and convenient access to the park for an increasing population need to be addressed in greater detail. Also, transit, bicycle, and other multi modal accessibility to and from the park need to be evaluated to a greater degree.

3C

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Please provide a map that clearly shows pedestrian, bicycle, and handicap access from parking areas to trailheads in the proximity of SR 1, particularly any trail configurations that might encourage the crossing of SR 1.

3D

Cultural Resources

The Department is in agreement with the sensitivity for both prehistoric and historic sites in the Año Nuevo State Park addressed in the Preliminary General Plan DEIR that may lie adjacent to or within the state ROW and the resource guidelines set forth. However, if future construction activities are proposed within the state ROW, pursuant to CEQA, PRC 5024, and the Department's Standard Environmental Reference, Vol. 2, Office of Cultural Resource Studies, <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/vol2/vol2.htm>, the Department will require a cultural resource study prepared by a qualified, professional archaeologist that includes the following before an encroachment permit can be issued:

3E

1. An effects evaluation of potential impacts to the archaeological/historical site,
2. A mitigation plan per CEQA Guidelines 15126.4(b)(3),
3. Evidence of consultation with the territorial Native American group for the area pursuant to PRC 5097.

If a cultural resource evaluation results in the finding of a historically or culturally significant resource, based on project impacts to this resource, a Data Recovery Plan may be necessary. This plan would need to be approved by the Department's Office of Cultural Resource Studies before action is taken.

Traffic Analysis

The Department would like to review any traffic studies, left-turn lane warrants, queuing analyses, improvement plans, graphics, etc. for planned improvements within SR 1 ROW. Improvements that may be warranted at key access points to the park on SR 1 include left-turn lanes to reduce conflicting movements, shoulder widening, and acceleration/deceleration lanes. Please include any proposed pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements.

3F

The Department's "*Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies*" should be reviewed prior to initiating any traffic analysis for the project; it is available at the following website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/operationalsystems/reports/tisguide.pdf>

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that work that encroaches onto the state ROW requires an encroachment permit that is issued by the Department. To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans, clearly indicating state ROW, must be submitted to the address below. Traffic-related mitigation measures will be incorporated into the

3G

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construction plans during the encroachment permit process. See the following website link for more information: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

| 3G (cont.)

Michael Condie, Chief
Office of Permits
California DOT, District 4
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Please feel free to call or email Sandra Finegan of my staff at (510) 622-1644 or sandra_finegan@dot.ca.gov with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


for LISA CARBONI
District Branch Chief
IGR/CEQA

c: State Clearinghouse

Response to Letter 3 – Caltrans District 4, Lisa Carboni

- 3A** – If specific park projects encroach on State Route 1 (SR 1) rights-of-way, California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) will coordinate with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and comply with the encroachment permit process and associated requirements as necessary. State Parks will provide for mitigation directly associated with specific proposed park projects when necessary. At this time, financing, scheduling, and implementation responsibilities cannot be discussed because specific park development projects have not been selected or proposed. When projects have been determined, State Parks will coordinate and discuss all pertinent issues with Caltrans.
- 3B** - *Maintenance Services*: State Parks will continue to coordinate and confer with Caltrans involving issues on SR-1 and Año Nuevo State Park including implementation of General Plan proposals as well as liability and safety issues. This interagency coordination is referenced in the **Access 1** guideline as follows: "Coordinate with

Caltrans and San Mateo County to insure that road construction and maintenance will result in safe, convenient, and enjoyable driving experiences as they access the park. If necessary, provide appropriate warning of potential hazards". The **Wildlife and Dune 10** guideline stipulate the following: "Coordinate with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along SR-1. Enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, and highway turnouts. Also provide appropriate and safe trail connections across SR-1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps".

- 3C** – *Advance Planning*: State Parks will also coordinate and cooperate with Caltrans on future projects involving SR 1. Guideline **Access 7** provides for a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan (prepared subsequent to the General Plan completion) that will evaluate and recommend proposals for comprehensive parkwide circulation. Circulation considerations would include vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, equestrians, group transit, and other multi-model accessibility. The General Plan emphasizes this with Access and Circulation Guidelines **Access 1** and **Access 2** which require coordination with Caltrans and San Mateo County to ensure the roadways in and around Año Nuevo SP would be maintained and improved, to the extent feasible, in order to provide safe and convenient roadway conditions for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Also Planning Zone Guideline **Wildlife and Dune 10** and **Cascade Ranch 7** require coordination with Caltrans to improve the function and safety of day use parking areas and coastal access along SR 1. These enhancements could include resurfacing, striping, signs, screening, restroom facilities, highway turnouts, and establish public access to Cascade Ranch. Also required would be provision of appropriate and safe trail connections across SR 1 between coastal and inland park properties as well as appropriate trail markers and maps. Coordination with Caltrans will be included in all of these improvements along SR 1. State Parks will perform required mitigation and comply with permit requirements on all of its projects as necessary.

The General Plan allows for new park development within various planning zones in order to provide new park visitor opportunities, disperse visitor use, and serve continuous and growing park visitation. The extent of park facilities development is governed by further site analysis in determining appropriate location, size, and configuration of proposed park facility development. This site

analysis includes more detailed resource evaluations and allows for project adjustments in response to site specific resource sensitivities or conditions.

- 3D - *Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety:*** Parking and park trail locations are shown in Figure 13 Coastal Proposals and Figure 14 Inland Proposals. At this time, no SR-1 trail crossings or specific inland development proposals that would encourage highway pedestrian or bicycle trail crossings have been determined or selected. Establishment of the inland trail system and any potential crossing of SR-1 will be evaluated and determined by the future parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan (**Access 7** guideline) and future specific project proposals such as parking and trailhead development in the Lake Elizabeth Planning Zone. The **Access 2** guideline requires coordination with Caltrans on park development proposals such as this.
- 3E - *Cultural Resources:*** State Parks will comply with Caltrans right-of-way encroachment permit requirements on proposed park projects as needed. State Parks intent in regard to project proposals affecting prehistoric and historic resources policies and procedures is stated in both the General Plan's **Prehistoric Resources** and **Historic Resources** Goals and **Historic 4** Guideline. The surveys, information gathering, evaluations, and mitigation determinations that State Parks normally performs can be applied to fulfilling encroachment permit requirements.

It is the policy of State Parks that construction activities resulting from park project proposals within Año Nuevo State Park or adjacent SR-1 right-of-way will be required to comply with both State and Federal laws and regulations concerning the treatment of significant archeological and historic resources. For most State Park projects, archeological and historic resources will be reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA Guidelines, and Public Resources Code 5024 and 5024.5. When there is federal involvement, State Park projects must be compliance with federal regulations concerning historic resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which provides the regulatory procedures for historic resources in the planning process.

The cultural resource policies, practices, and mitigations that State Parks applies to its own properties will be applied to Caltrans property as applicable in regard to proposed park projects that

affect Caltrans property. Consistent with State Park's Mission Statement to preserve and protect cultural resources, and in accordance with DPR's Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Office of Historic Preservation, avoidance of impacts to all cultural resources is sought on park projects. If adverse affects are identified during the course of project review then proper mitigation procedures will be adhered to. It is also State Parks policy to consult with appropriate local Native California Indian groups that have been identified and listed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) during the planning phase of all projects that will potentially impact cultural resources. These tasks will be conducted by a qualified, professional archaeologist and all required studies and necessary plans will be provided to responsible agencies.

- 3F -** *Traffic Analysis:* At this time State Parks cannot predict traffic increases that could occur on SR-1 as a result of future park development and visitor use, as well as other possible contributing factors from outside the park, because specific development projects have not yet been selected or proposed. The **Access and Circulation Goal** recognizes the need to provide adequate and safe access to all park areas. The **Access 7** guideline requires a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan guiding placement and use of park roads and trails. Preparation of the management plan would comprehensively evaluate and provide for safe parkwide vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle access. Road and/or traffic studies would be included where applicable. Implementation of these goals and guidelines is intended to balance the provision of safe adequate access, efficient park circulation, park operations needs, and visitor enjoyment of the park.
- 3G -** *Encroachment Permit:* If any proposed park project encroaches on SR 1 right-of-way, State Parks will coordinate with Caltrans and appropriately obtain and comply with encroachment permits and associated requirements as necessary. As stated in responses 3A and 3G, at this time State Parks specific development projects have not been selected or proposed.

From: Joel Perlstein [mailto:joelperl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 12:18 AM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Comments on Ano Nuevo plan

Letter 4

To Mr. Alan Tang, Project Manager:

The following are my comments on the draft general plan for Ano Nuevo State Park:

I recommend that maps 1 and 2 be revised to show: (i) the BART mitigation property; and (ii) the American Land Conservancy easement over a portion of the Costanoa Resort property.

4A

I further recommend that the plan specifically discuss the desirability (or not) of adding the BART mitigation property to the State Park

4B

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely

Joel T. Perlstein

Response to Letter 4 – Joel T. Perlstein

4A – The BART mitigation properties will be noted on Maps 1 and 2 as suggested by the commenter. The Department does not have any information on the American Land Conservancy easement over Costanoa Resort’s private property.

4B – The Plan recognizes the coastal BART property on pages 2-1 and 2-2 in Chapter 2: Existing Conditions. The Plan’s intent and purpose in regard to future property or easement acquisition opportunities would only be from willing sellers as stated in the **Special Agreements Goal B** and **Guidelines Special Agreements B-1, Regional Habitat 2 and Recreation 7**. The Plan’s general land use intent for the coastal portions of the park is described in the management intent narratives for the Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone and Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone. Any future acquisitions would need to be compatible with these stated management intents.

55 C Municipal Wharf
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Letter 5

831.425.1363 Telephone
831.425.5604 Facsimile
www.oceanconservancy.org

Delivered via electronic mail to: generalplan@parks.ca.gov

May 12, 2008

General Plan Section
Alan Tang, Project Manager
California State Parks
Planning Division,
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: Comments Regarding Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Tang:

Please accept the following comments on behalf of Ocean Conservancy and our more than 40,000 California members. Ocean Conservancy is a national environmental conservation organization dedicated to promoting healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems and opposing practices that threaten ocean life. We have worked for decades to help protect the ocean wildlife and habitats of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the California coast.

Ocean Conservancy is very supportive of the California State Parks generally and of the mission of and vision for the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park specifically. We believe that Año Nuevo is a true gem in the State Park system that provides both important protection to coastal resources and wildlife and unique educational opportunities for visitors. We commend State Parks for its efforts to update and improve management of this area. To ensure the most effective long-term management of the Año Nuevo ecosystem, we urge State Parks to revise the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park Preliminary General Plan (Preliminary General Plan) to more explicitly integrate conservation and protection of marine resources into its existing focus on coastal and terrestrial resources.

General Recommendation

Ocean Conservancy urges careful review of the Preliminary General Plan to ensure adequate reference to and coordination with both the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) - particularly in reference to the newly adopted Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (Año Nuevo SMCA). Although both the MBNMS and Año Nuevo SMCA are mentioned very briefly in the Preliminary General Plan, we believe that greater attention is warranted in the document to the considerable synergies that exist amongst the various Año Nuevo management units in terms of protection, restoration, education, interpretation, monitoring and enforcement.

The existence of both the MBNMS and the Año Nuevo SMCA contribute significantly to the overall protection provided to the coastal and marine resources of Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve & Año Nuevo State Park. We recognize that the MBNMS and Año Nuevo SMCA are beyond the direct jurisdiction of California State Parks and are managed by sister federal and state agencies. However, DFG's management goals for the Año Nuevo SMCA, under the Marine Life Protection Act, are fully compatible with the State Parks mission for Año Nuevo Natural Reserve and State Park and will enhance the ability of State Parks to achieve its natural resource protection goals for the area. Similarly, the MBNMS and the regulatory protections it offers are a benefit to the State Park unit. We urge revision of the Preliminary General Plan to more explicitly discuss coordination between State Parks, DFG, and the MBNMS and integration of management, education and enforcement efforts by the three agencies at this site.

Such integration makes sense from multiple perspectives. As noted in the Preliminary General Plan, the sea heavily influences the Año Nuevo ecosystem. Wildlife such as Año Nuevo's iconic elephant seals and seabirds use both the land and the ocean and depend on effective and coordinated management and protection in both realms. Furthermore, as all resource management agencies face constantly shrinking budgets and are forced to do more with less financial and staffing resources, it makes sense to pool resources wherever possible. Finally, visitors are both generally unaware of and largely uninterested in the jurisdictional boundaries of management agencies. The importance of close agency coordination is evident when you recognize that for most visitors, a trip to the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve is the only chance they will have for a direct interaction with the newly created Año Nuevo SMCA.

5A

Specific Recommendations for Revisions to Preliminary General Plan

- Page 1-2 of the Introduction under "Site Characteristics": The Preliminary General Plan should be modified to note that the offshore Año Nuevo SMCA extends the protections of the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve to the

5B

<p>marine environment by prohibiting all take of marine species except for kelp harvest under an existing lease.</p>	<p>5B cont.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2-101 in Regional Planning: This section includes general language about the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and the Fish and Game Code language relevant to the statute. This section should be revised to also include the specific regulations for the Año Nuevo SMCA, notably that this area prohibits all take of marine species except for kelp harvest under a current lease. The specific regulatory language that applies to the SMCA is extremely relevant to the State Parks wildlife and ecosystem protection mission for the Año Nuevo State Natural Reserve. 	<p>5C</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 3-2 in Planning Assumptions: This section notes the importance of coordinating “with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs.” This text should be revised slightly to make clear that it also applies to the Department of Fish and Game and to the National Marine Sanctuary Program vis-à-vis marine resources and marine resource interpretive opportunities. 	<p>5D</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 3-6 in Park Planning and Management in a Regional Context: This section should be revised to note that the Año Nuevo SMCA and marine education programs associated with California’s marine protected areas are needed. 	<p>5E</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4-9 in Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone: The text should note that much of this zone is located adjacent to the Año Nuevo SMCA where take of marine species is prohibited with the exception of kelp under current lease. 	<p>5F</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4-42 in Visitor Use and Opportunities“ Potential uses listed in this section include fishing. It might be useful to note that fishing is not allowed in the Año Nuevo SMCA. 	<p>5G</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4.51 on Interpretive Significance, Mission and Vision: This section should be revised to include specific language regarding broad marine ecology and marine ecosystem protection themes. For example, the text could include mention of the value and importance of overall ecosystem protection via the Marine Life Protection Act and the concept of networks of marine protected areas providing a statewide system of protection for all key representative ocean habitats and the full suite of species that inhabit them. 	<p>5H</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4-53, A-2 could include both State Parks and the Department of Fish and Game’s use of marine protected areas including the Año Nuevo SMCA to help achieve the Park’s goal of protecting its unique natural resources. 	<p>5I</p>

- Page 4-60 on Interpretive Themes: This section should explicitly include language about the Año Nuevo SMCA and its goal of preservation of marine resources as central to the unifying ‘ocean’ theme. 5J

- Page 4-62 on Recreation and Preservation should include treatment of the fact that a portion of the offshore area has been closed to fishing to protect marine resources for the future. 5K

- Page 4-63 the discussion of the “area public lands links theme” should include regional offshore protected units including the Año Nuevo SMCA, Greyhound Rock SMCA, Natural Bridges State Marine Reserves and the MBNMS. 5L

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



Kaitilin Gaffney
Pacific Ecosystem Protection Program Director

Response to Letter 5 – Ocean Conservancy, Kaitilin Gaffney

5A – The Department agrees that there is a symbiotic relationship between Año Nuevo State Park (particularly the coastal State Natural Preserve) and the Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). The classification and designation of both the terrestrial and marine areas are similar in their emphasis on special protections of unique and sensitive wildlife, resources, and habitats. The Department appreciates the support of the Ocean Conservancy for Año Nuevo State Park and the Department’s mission.

5B – The Department agrees that there should be coordinated resource management, resource protection, and interpretation between the terrestrial Año Nuevo State Park and the offshore Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area. The commenter has made suggestions in various locations of the General Plan document to reference resource protections in the State Marine Conservation Area. Specific reference is made in regard to take of marine species is prohibited with the exception of kelp in the adjacent State Marine Conservation Area. The suggested additions will be incorporated where appropriate into the final General Plan.

5C – In recognition of regulations for the Año Nuevo SMCA, the following language will be added to Central Coast Marine Protected Area section on page 2-102:

Among the specific protective regulations now in place is the prohibition on take of marine species except for kelp harvest. CDFG’s marine wardens will patrol and enforce the new MPAs and will continue to monitor fishing activities in other open areas of state waters (shore to three miles).

5D – The following language will be added to Planning Assumptions section on page 3-2:

- Coordinate with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs. This also applies to the Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Sanctuary Program regarding management of marine resources marine interpretation opportunities.

5E – The following language acknowledging needed marine education programs associated with marine protected areas will be added to Park Planning and Management in a Regional Context section on page 3-6:

Cloverdale Coastal Ranch property and the Coast Dairies property. The close proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way. Coordination among the region’s open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities and protect private property interests. Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA) and marine education programs associated with California’s marine protected areas are also needed. Coordinate and collaborate with agencies and regional partners is especially important on regional conservation actions such as DFG’s Wildlife Action Plan recommendations for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as noted in the Section 3.1 Planning Assumptions.

5F – In order to recognize the Año Nuevo SMCA, the following language will be added to Wildlife and Dune Protection Management Intent section on page 4-11:

Park rules and regulations are more restrictive in this zone than in other management areas to ensure a high level of resource protection. This zone is also adjacent to the Año Nuevo SMCA where take of marine species is prohibited except for kelp. Visitors will continue to enjoy the tours led by California State Parks volunteer naturalists to view the elephant seals during peak season, and self-guided hiking by visitor permit during other seasons.

5G – In response to the recently established prohibition on take of marine species and non-existent inland fishing opportunities, reference to fishing as a recreation opportunity will be deleted from the **Recreation 3** guideline on page 4-42:

Recreation 3: Provide recreation opportunities that respond to the specific characteristics of the Santa Cruz Mountain and San Mateo coast region. Include activities at the park that reveal the sights, sounds, and experiences of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Coast. Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, surfing, horseback riding, ~~fishing~~, picnicking, camping, nature study, photography, and the enjoyment of solitude. Consider accommodating new and emerging outdoor activities, such as geocaching and orienteering, that provide different ways to experience and enjoy the park's environments and resources.

5H – To recognize broad marine ecology and marine ecosystem protection themes, revise the fifth paragraph of interpretive significance on page 4-51 as follows:

Important natural resources for interpretation include pinniped rookeries and other significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island, the mainland, and the adjacent Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and three vegetation types that have been recognized as rare natural communities. The park and the adjacent marine areas provide habitat for several species of special concern, including coast wallflower, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, steelhead trout, coho salmon, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle and red-legged frog; and make up part of important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

5I – To recognize that the interpretive perspective for Año Nuevo SP also encompasses surrounding areas, guideline **Interpretation A-2** will be revised on page 4-53 to read:

Interpretation A-2: Interpret management programs to restore and preserve the park and surrounding area's unique natural and cultural resources.

5J – Noting the SMCA goals amongst other bulleted themes is too specific for this section's purpose, which is to provide the background for the unifying theme. However the following theme will be added general terrestrial and marine interpretive theme as follows to recognize terrestrial and marine connections on page 4-53:

- The conservation and protection of the land affects marine area protection and conservation, and vice versa.

5K – Revise interpretive theme language as follows to reference visitor activity restrictions that may be needed for resource protection on page 4-62:

Recreation and Preservation Theme

We can enjoy Año Nuevo State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for wayfinding information and orientation to the park and its recreational opportunities, as well as tips on how to enjoy a safe and low impact visit. Low impact visitation messages may include restrictions on visitor activity needed for resource protection such as closure of offshore areas to fishing to protect marine resources.

5L – The following language will be added to "area public lands links theme" on page 4-63:

Area Public Land Links Theme

Año Nuevo State Park connects to recreation, aesthetic, resource management, and interpretation opportunities in neighboring public lands and marine areas.

This theme highlights the trail connections proposed between Año Nuevo SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Butano SP, and any other future cooperating, physical or thematic connections between area public lands. Año Nuevo also connects to adjacent marine areas that include Año Nuevo SMCA, Greyhound Rock SMCA, Natural Bridges Marine Reserve, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

From: TodNeilPage@aol.com [mailto:TodNeilPage@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 10:04 PM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Ano Nuevo General Plan

Letter 6

Dear Sirs:

I am writing on behalf of myself and Mrs Beatrice Rossi concerning the general plan for the Ano Nuevo State Park. Please know that we are upset and confused at the idea of putting additional facilities in the lake Elizabeth Area. Mrs Rossi's husband built the lake as an agricultural water resource and we oppose any public access to the important agricultural resource. I as the food Safety Officer for the Cascade Ranch also strongly oppose the plan for a number of important federal and state food safety requirements. Please do not allow the lake Elizabeth development as part of the general plan.

6A

6B

We just read the article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and are at odds with the stated vision to keep the area as "open space". We like the open space but judging from the last decade track record can't reconcile your intent against your stated vision. The new developments which have been constructed in the last couple of years, with State park support, have dissected the park and benefited very few. I'm sure you must agree that trophy houses don't belong in the *middle* of state parks in this day and age. The vision and general plan failure for the Ano Nuevo Park as a result of this misguided project will be bitter till Mrs Rossi's last days. She is in her early nineties, going on 19 and has seen more of this section of coast than any other living resident.

6C

Bea adds that the complaints of lack of staff are additionally hard to swallow knowing the specific workloads of the Rangers involved.....I am not touching that one personally. 😞

We believe developing the south end of the existing park, where the old bridge is a safer more credible vision for Ano Nuevo's future and would result in the *long term preservation* public parkland. This southern access is a hugely rewarding and educational area and is basically unknown to all except a few local surfers and the local ranger who lives there. We are ardent supporters of the state park and have invested much with their general vision, Let's take it a bit slower and get some truly educated, non-biased local opinions and ideas before launching another well intended but totally misguided plan.

6D

Very Truly Yours,

Mrs. Beatrice Rossi
3100 Cabrillo hwy
Pescadero, CA 94060

and

Mr. Tod Neil Page
PO Box 122
Pescadero, CA 94060

Response to Letter 6 – Tod Neil Page

6A - One of the key issues that the General Plan set out to address was to provide new recreation opportunities in inland areas where formal park access and facilities have not yet been established. The inland area is approximately 2,900 acres, which is over twice the size of the coastal portion of the park. The General Plan allows for modest park access and development at the most feasible inland location in the park. Potential use of Lake Elizabeth Zone parking facilities by RVs is intended for enroute camping or overnight stops. The approval of the General Plan does not authorize the Department to immediately begin construction of new facilities. The subsequent planning process for establishing or developing park access, trailheads, trails, and park facilities will involve further site-specific studies and evaluations (as identified in the Facilities Goal and Guidelines **Facilities 2, Facilities 3, Facilities 7, Access 7, Utilities 2, Utilities 4**), CEQA analysis and public review, and regulatory permit compliance. There will be no public access or recreational use of Lake Elizabeth in accordance with existing water rights agreements.

6B – Public safety is always a concern and consideration in park planning and management. Public safety considerations are addressed in the **Visitor Safety** Goals and Guidelines; **Access 1 and 7** Guidelines; **Facilities 7, 8, and 9** Guidelines; **Parking 1** Guideline; **Recreation 2** Guideline; **Geology/Hydrology** Goal and **Geology/Hydrology 2, Geology/Hydrology 3, Geology/Hydrology 4, and Geology/Hydrology 5** Guidelines; and **Regional Planning 5** Guideline. The Department is not aware of any General Plan proposal impacts on food safety concerns.

6C - The General Plan process has not been involved in development of trophy houses. To the best of the Department's knowledge, new significant residences in the region existed prior to the preparation of the General Plan. The General Plan addresses residences in the park in regard to assuring continuation of park staff housing as appropriate uses of existing buildings (as identified in Guidelines **Facilities 5, Cascade Ranch 4, Wildlife and Dune 2**). The Department will review and comment on the potential impacts of proposed developments on the park and region through established review processes such as CEQA public review.

6D – The Department appreciates the commenter's support for the General Plan's proposals to improve public access at the southern end of the park near Año Nuevo Creek. This proposed access improvement is intended as an additional park access to the existing main entrance to the park visitor center/marine education center.

From: TodNeilPage@aol.com [mailto:TodNeilPage@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 11:38 AM
To: General, Plan
Subject: Ano Nuevo General Plan

Letter 7

Dear Sir or Madame:

In an effort to better explain the point of my previous emotional response to the Park Ano Nuevo General Plan, I would like to say;

I am not an expert on land management, just a single concerned citizen. I have been a large supporter of California State Parks and many local land conservation efforts. I have spent several years observing the wildlife and ecosystem of the area and unfortunately have come to believe that private land conservation is more effective in actually preserving the land. More people, albeit school kids on a field trip or RV's from Nebraska are likely going to have a heavy hand in the changing of the Ano Nuevo coastal mountains. I think mother nature rarely needs it's hand held, as you folks have helped many to understand.

The idea to develop the south entrance to the Ano Nuevo is based on the observation that most people who come to the coast want to be on a beach or an oceanfront trail. The folks who make the trek here have come through the mountains and forests or come *from* the mountains and forest. They want the marine aspects of Ano Nuevo. The budget to develop such a site seems well below the proposed development at Lake Elizabeth and would seem to serve the public's park needs much better.

7A

Again, this is solely my personal opinion as a citizen in a publicly sought out response to the General Plan. My sincere apologies to any staff or others whom I have wrongly included in my previous response.

Very Truly,

Tod Neil Page@aol.com

Response to Letter 7 – Tod Neil Page

7A – The Department believes the General Plan's proposals for the Lake Elizabeth Zone are reasonable for establishing appropriate public access to the inland area of the park. Direct and safe access from State Highway 1 can be established at this location, there is a sufficient

developable site for access facilities, and there is good potential for trail connections to the inland mountains, Cascade Ranch, and across the highway to coastal trails. Other potential inland park access locations that were considered had more site constraints and less direct access from State Highway 1. Also see response **6A** for explanations of Lake Elizabeth proposals. The commenter's further clarification of concerns about the General Plan is noted.

4 RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL PLAN

This chapter contains recommended revisions to the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR for Año Nuevo State Park made subsequent to its public release and the public review process. All revisions are a result of responses to comments detailed in Chapter 3 of this document. Text revisions are organized by the page numbers that appear in the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR. The Final General Plan/EIR may include additional minor revisions in order to ensure accuracy of information presented in the plan.

Page 2-80, Regional Interpretation Conditions, DFG has an education program, however nothing specific is described for the marine conservation area or the San Mateo Coast on their website as of this writing. Add the following bulleted item representing regional marine interpretation to the list of regional interpretation and education opportunities on page 2-80:

- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: various interpretation, education, and research programs that promote understanding, support and participation in the protection and conservation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The following is their website:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/welcome.html>

Page 2-102, Central Coast Marine Protected Area, revise narrative text in the Central Coast Marine Protected Area in the Regional Planning section to read:

Establishment of the State Marine Conservation Area means that this area prohibits all take of marine species except for kelp harvest under the current lease. CDFG's marine wardens ~~will~~ patrol and enforce the new MPAs and ~~will~~ continue to monitor fish activities in other open areas of state waters (~~from the shore to three miles out to sea~~).

Page 3-2, Planning Assumptions, in recognition for planning coordination for offshore areas, bullet item will be revised to read:

- Coordinate with planning efforts in adjacent state parks and with other open space providers and agencies to evaluate potential connectivity and compatibility of recreational and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs. [This includes the Department of Fish and Game and the National Marine Sanctuary Program in regard to adjacent marine resources and marine resource interpretive opportunities.](#)

Page 3-6, Park Planning and Management in a Regional Context, in recognition for the need for marine education programs associated with offshore protected areas, this section will be revised to read:

Año Nuevo SNR and SP are located near Pigeon Point Light Station SHP, Butano SP, Big Basin Redwoods SP, and Wilder Ranch SP. They are also near several other recreational and natural areas such as the Peninsula Open Space Trust's (POST) Cloverdale Coastal Ranch property and the Coast Dairies property. The close proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way. Coordination among the region's open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities and protect private property interests. [Año Nuevo SMCA and marine education programs associated with California's marine protected areas are also needed.](#) Coordinate and collaborate with agencies and regional partners is especially important on regional conservation actions such as DFG's Wildlife Action Plan recommendations for the Central Coast Region and the Marine Region as noted in the Section 3.1 Planning Assumptions.

Page 4-4, State Cultural Preserve Definition, update draft text to be consistent with current definition of State Cultural Preserve:

PRC 5019.74 Cultural Preserves consist of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human

experience in California. ~~The highest level of resource protection and complete integrity of the cultural resources is to be sought within Cultural Preserves. Structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity are not permitted.~~ Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be permitted.

Page 4-9, Entrance and Interpretive Zone Guidelines, will be revised to read:

Entrance and Interpretive 5: Expand interpretive themes to more fully illustrate the cultural history, including the Quiroste, the story of the Steele family dairy operations and cheese production, and the Año Nuevo Light Station, as well as later irrigated farming. Connect Quiroste interpretation into Santa Cruz Mission SHP, dairy farming interpretation into Wilder Ranch SHP, and light station history into Pigeon Point Light Station SHP.

Page 4-9, Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone, Management Intent, to recognize offshore marine areas, Management Intent language will be revised to read:

The Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone is the western-most area of the park. It is bordered by Gazos Creek on the north, ~~the Pacific Ocean on the west,~~ Año Nuevo Bay to the south, ~~and~~ the visitor center and tour staging area to the east, and the Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and the Pacific Ocean to the west. This zone also includes Año Nuevo Island.

Page 4-11, Wildlife and Dune Protection Zone, Management Intent, in recognition of resource protection in adjacent marine areas, the Management Intent language will be revised to read:

Park rules and regulations are more restrictive in this zone than in other management areas to ensure a high level of resource protection. This high level of protection also exists in the adjacent offshore Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area where take of marine species is prohibited with the exception of kelp in accordance with the Marine Life Protection Act. Visitors will

continue to enjoy the tours led by California State Parks volunteer naturalists to view the elephant seals during peak season, and self-guided hiking by visitor permit during other seasons.

Page 4-18, Lake Elizabeth, in acknowledgement of existing Lake Elizabeth water rights **Management Intent** language will be revised to read:

The Lake Elizabeth Zone will be managed primarily for visitor access, recreational use, and natural resource protection. Visitors enjoy the expansive scenic qualities as an important part of visitor experiences in the park and for travelers along the highway. Visitors experience spectacular views of timbered mountains to the east, rolling, brush- and grass-covered interior foothills, and the coastal terrace and ocean to the west. Visitors to this area can find relaxation, wildlife viewing, and access to a variety of recreation facilities. The park's primary and most accessible inland trailhead will be located in this area to provide hikers, bicyclists and equestrians access to the park's uplands. Hiking trails will also provide access to the coastal environment located across the highway. The day use parking lot could accommodate enroute vehicle campers for overnight use along Highway 1. There will be no public access or recreational use of Lake Elizabeth in accordance with existing water rights agreements. See **Figure 14** for inland proposals.

Page 4-20, Quiroste Valley Zone, Management Intent, Cultural Preserve, will be revised to read:

Non-permanent replicas of Native California Indian structures and village site features are future considerations that would offer further opportunities for Native California Indian ceremonies, activities, or interpretation to tell the story of the pre-European lifeways of the Quiroste people and the arrival of the Portolá expedition. Interpretative information may be provided on trailhead or viewpoint panels, on brochures, via guided tours, or at the main park visitor center in the Entrance and Interpretive Center Zone.

Page 4-42, Recreation Guideline 3, in recognition of implementation actions of the Marine Life Protection Act, the guideline will be revised as follows:

Recreation 3: Provide recreation opportunities that respond to the specific characteristics of the Santa Cruz Mountain and San Mateo coast region. Include activities at the park that reveal the

sights, sounds, and experiences of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Coast. Appropriate activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, biking, surfing, horseback riding, ~~fishing~~, picnicking, camping, nature study, photography, and the enjoyment of solitude. Consider accommodating new and emerging outdoor activities, such as geocaching and orienteering, that provide different ways to experience and enjoy the park's environments and resources.

Pages 4-44 and 4-47, Access and Circulation Guidelines, redesignate the **Trails 8** guideline (page 4-47) as a new **Access 7** guideline (page 4-44). This guideline recommends a Roads and Trails Management Plan and applies to parkwide access, circulation, and traffic considerations beyond just trails alone and is included with the parkwide access guidelines. This includes vehicular access and circulation as well as various forms of trails (multi-use, hiking, equestrian, biking, etc.) The Roads and Trails Management Plan guideline will be revised and relocated to read as follows:

~~Trails 8~~Access 7: Coordinate and develop a parkwide Roads and Trails Management Plan that evaluates the park's entire circulation system and guides the placement and use of future ~~roads and~~ trails. Emphasize opportunities for visitors to access and enjoy the park's natural and cultural resources, its recreation destinations and facilities, and its diverse topography, natural communities, and scenic views. The plan should recognize regional trail connections, recreation opportunities, habitat linkages, and provide opportunities for further public input. The plan should also consider and evaluate park operations access needs as well as road or traffic studies where applicable.

All references in the General Plan document to the original **Trails 8** guideline will be adjusted to the new **Access 7** guideline designation, particularly in Chapter 5 Environmental Assessment (page 5-30). There should be cross referencing between the Access guidelines and the Trails guidelines in regard to the Roads and Trails Management Plan.

Page 4-46 and 4-47, Trails Guidelines, will be revised to read:

Trails 1: Develop new trails and trailheads to provide visitors a range of choices for enjoying pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, aesthetic, and interpretive experiences in the park. Focus on providing trails that access areas of natural, cultural, and scenic interest, reach the coast and backcountry areas, and that also

connect to regional trail systems. Improve existing trailheads and create new trailhead facilities to promote and encourage the use of existing unpaved and paved roads within the park should be determined in the Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP). Use the Department's *Trails Handbook* to guide trail design, construction, management, and maintenance. [See Access 7 guideline on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.](#)

Trails 6: Coordinate trails planning, development, and use with regional parks and open space providers, community-based organizations, and adjacent landowners to encourage trail connections between Año Nuevo SP and other public lands. Support federal, state, and regional trail objectives and plans, such as county local coastal programs. Also [see Access 7 guideline on the Roads and Trails Management Plan.](#)

Page 4-51, Interpretive Significance of Año Nuevo SP, to recognize the significance of areas adjacent to the park, this section will be revised to read:

Important natural resources for interpretation include pinniped rookeries and other significant wildlife habitats on Año Nuevo Island, the mainland, and [the adjacent Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#), and three vegetation types that have been recognized as rare natural communities. The park [and the adjacent marine areas](#) provide habitat for several species of special concern, including coast wallflower, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, steelhead trout, coho salmon, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle and red-legged frog; and [make](#) up part of important regional ecological corridors and linkages.

Page 4-52, Interpretive Significance of Año Nuevo SP, to recognize broad marine ecology and marine ecosystem protection themes, revise the fifth paragraph of interpretive significance as follows:

Important natural resource stories include northern elephant seal natural history and the population's near-decimation and recovery, the population threats and recovery hopes for other species of special concern in the park including Steller sea lions, red-legged frogs, and San Francisco garter snakes; scientific research occurring in the park, especially on Año Nuevo Island; [the interconnection of the offshore and onshore ecology; the concept of networks of marine protected areas providing a system of protection for key](#)

[representative ocean habitats](#), and the effect of humans through the years on the natural environment.

Page 4-53, Interpretation and Education Guideline, to recognize interpretive perspective also encompasses surrounding areas, guideline will be revised to read:

Interpretation A-2: Interpret management programs to restore and preserve the park [and surrounding area](#)'s unique natural and cultural resources.

Page 4-60, Unifying Theme, noting SMCA amongst other bulleted themes is too specific for this section's purpose, which is to provide the background for the unifying theme. However add a general terrestrial and marine interpretive theme as follows to recognize terrestrial and marine connections:

One can almost say, "It's all about the ocean at Año Nuevo:"

- Ocean waves continually shape the dramatic coastline, which is formed from rocks that were once at the bottom of the Pacific.
- The seaside climate strongly influences the flora at Año Nuevo, which is a major determiner of the fauna.
- Marine mammals—most notably northern elephant seals—visit Año Nuevo in large numbers.
- [The conservation and protection of the land affects marine area protection and conservation, and vice versa.](#)
- The coastal location attracted prehistoric people for food, and even money in the form of the shell trade.

Page 4-62, Recreation and Preservation Theme, revise interpretive theme language as follows to reference visitor activity restrictions that may be needed for resource protection:

Recreation and Preservation Theme

We can enjoy Año Nuevo State Park today and preserve its many values for tomorrow.

This theme addresses visitors' need for wayfinding information and orientation to the park and its recreational opportunities, as well as

tips on how to enjoy a safe and low impact visit. [Low impact visitation messages may include restrictions on visitor activity needed for resource protection such as closure of offshore areas to fishing to protect marine resources.](#)

Page 4-63, Area Public Land Links Theme, revise interpretive theme as follows to strengthen terrestrial and marine area connections:

Area Public Lands [and Protected Marine Area](#) Links Theme
Año Nuevo State Park connects to recreation, aesthetic, resource management, and interpretation opportunities in neighboring public lands [and protected marine areas](#).

This theme highlights the trail connections proposed between Año Nuevo SP, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and Butano SP, and any other future cooperating, physical or thematic connections between area public lands [and special-status offshore areas such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area](#).

Page 5-30, Transportation and Traffic, Impact Analysis, will be revised to read:

Compliance with Guidelines **Access 2** and [Trails 8 Access 7](#) would encourage the use of bicycles to and from Año Nuevo SP. As such, the General Plan proposals may increase the use of alternative modes of transportation.