



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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- To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Interested Individuals
- Subject:** Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Los Caballos Equestrian Campground Project
- Lead Agency:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Acquisition and Development Division  
Southern Service Center  
8885 Rio San Diego, Suite 270  
San Diego, California 92108  
Contact: Michael Van Antwerp
- Consultant:** EDAW, Inc.  
1420 Kettner Boulevard Suite 620  
San Diego, California 92101  
Contact: Bobbette Bidulph

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project described below. The project description, location, and potential environmental effects of the proposed project (to the extent presently known) are contained in this Notice of Preparation (NOP). Interested persons, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to comment on the scope and content of the information to be included and analyzed in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the elements of the environmental information that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, any response to this NOP should be sent at the earliest possible date, but **not later than 30 days** after issuance of this notice, which is dated October 1, 2005.

Please send your written response to Michael Van Antwerp, DPR Southern Services Project Manager at the address shown above. Responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency.

A scoping meeting, pursuant to Public Resource Code 21083.9, will be held for the project Wednesday, November 9, 2005, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Mission Valley Marriott, 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108.

All files and documents pertaining to this project are available for review at DPR Southern Services offices located at the address shown above.

**Project Title:** Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Los Caballos Equestrian Campground Project EIR

**Project Location:** The project site is the existing Los Caballos Equestrian Campground and surrounding area, located in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The project site is located, north of Descanso, off of State Route 79, on Stonewall Mine Road, in San Diego County. In October 2003, the Cedar Fire swept through the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, destroying the facilities associated with the Los Caballos Equestrian Campground. Figure 1 shows the location of and configuration of the campground prior to the fires.

**Project Schedule:** The NOP public review period will end October 30, 2005. The Draft EIR is expected to be complete and available for public review in February 2006. Finalization and certification of the EIR is expected to occur in July 2006.

**Project Description:** The proposed project is the reconfiguration of the Los Caballos Equestrian Campground located within the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Prior to the 2003 Cedar Fire, the Los Caballos Equestrian Campground provided rustic equestrian camping and recreational experiences for California State Parks visitors over the past five decades. Prior to the fire, the Los Caballos Campground provided 18 campsites and a day use area.

The purpose of the project is to restore the equestrian camping facilities that were previously offered prior to the October 2003, Cedar Fire. The goals of the project are:

- Provide facilities comparable to those facilities lost in the Cedar Fire in the area known as Los Caballos while minimizing natural and cultural resource impacts
- Improve the equestrian recreational experience at Los Caballos

The project is currently in the design development phase. To the degree possible given the environmental constraints at the Los Caballos site, the alternatives examined in the EIR will provide the recreational opportunities lost in the Cedar Fire. Several alternatives are currently being developed and considered in the EIR for their comparative recreational values and environmental impacts. The objective of the EIR will be to examine the range of environmental issues associated with the alternatives and identify the potential environmental impacts of implementation of each of the alternatives. In addition, the degree to which each option meets the project objectives will be examined.

**Potential Environmental Effects:** In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126, and based on the existing natural resources and anticipated campground uses, potential

environmental effects that will likely be addressed in the EIR include but will not be limited to: biological resources, cultural resources, visual resources, and water quality. As appropriate, mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce significant impacts.

**Intended Use of the EIR:** The Department of Parks and Recreation intend to use the EIR for consideration of the environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives, when reviewing the proposed Los Caballos Equestrian Campground Project for approval. The EIR will serve as the States CEQA compliance document as well as to serve responsible agencies as needed in the future for subsequent discretionary actions.

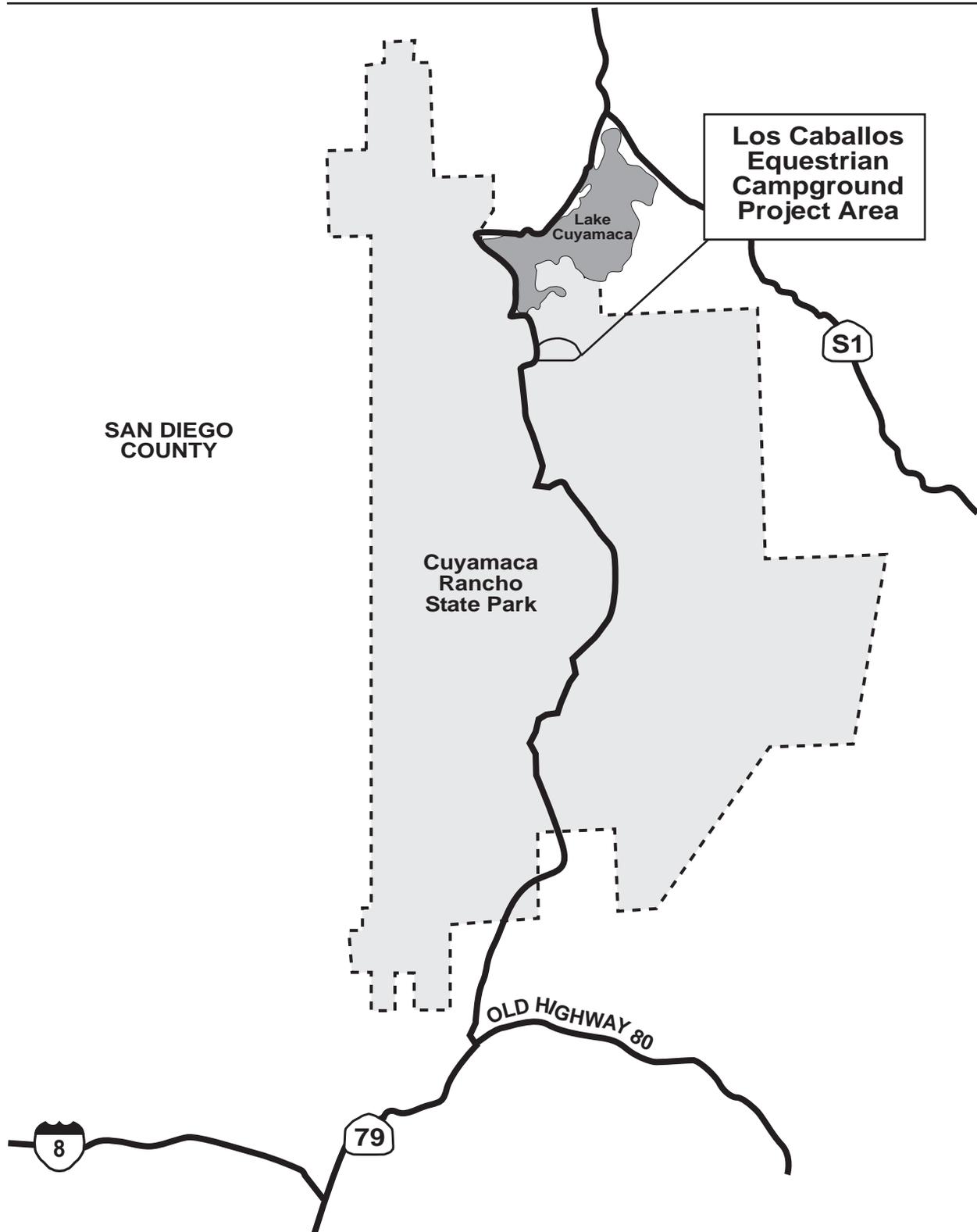
In addition, the Department of Parks and Recreation may be utilizing federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for implementation of a portion of the project. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance would be required for the use of federal funds, with FEMA as the federal lead agency. To the extent possible, the information and analysis in the EIR will be available to FEMA as the basis for required NEPA documentation.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments:** Figure 1, Project Location Map



No Scale

**Figure 1**  
**Project Location**