

**DRAFT**

**INITIAL STUDY  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**



**Nicholas Pond  
Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project  
Leo Carrillo State Park**

**June 18, 2009**



State of California  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY & INTENT TO ADOPT**  
Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Nicholas Pond Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project  
Leo Carrillo State Beach

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration with the intent of adoption for the Nicholas Pond Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project at Leo Carrillo State Beach in Los Angeles County.

The project proposes to improve the existing Nicholas Pond Trail to bring it in compliance with California State Parks accessibility guidelines and mandates, and to improve stream hydrology and geomorphology at the existing trail stream crossings. The project will consist of the following elements: parking, road to trail conversion, road removal, trail removal, trail reroute, trail reconstruction, bridge construction, boardwalk construction, overlook construction, stream improvements, and revegetation.

**COPIES OF THE Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration ARE AVAILABLE** from the Southern Service Center of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, 8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92108. Copies are also available for review at the Angeles District Headquarters, California Department of Parks & Rec., 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA, and the Malibu Public Library, 23519 Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA. The document is also available online at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=983](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983) under CEQA notices. If there are any questions, please contact Tina Robinson at 619.220.5300.

**A REVIEW PERIOD**, during which the California Department of Parks and Recreation will receive comments upon the proposed Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration commences on July 10, 2009. The deadline for receiving written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is August 10, 2009. Comments may be delivered to Southern Service Center at the above address, e-mailed to [enviro@parks.ca.gov](mailto:enviro@parks.ca.gov) with sender's name and mailing address, or faxed to 619.220.5400. These comments must be received by August 10, 2009 and contain the name of a contact person and mailing address.



## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**PROJECT:** Nicholas Pond Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project  
Leo Carrillo State Park

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:** The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

Angeles District Headquarters  
California State Parks  
1925 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302

Malibu Public Library  
23519 Civic Center Way  
Malibu, CA 90265

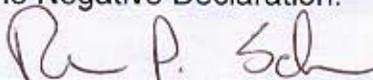
### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposes to improve the existing Nicholas Pond Trail to bring it in compliance with California State Parks accessibility guidelines and mandates, and to improve stream hydrology and geomorphology at the existing trail stream crossings. The project will consist of the following elements: parking, road to trail conversion, road removal, trail removal, trail reroute, trail reconstruction, bridge construction, boardwalk construction, overlook construction, stream improvements, and revegetation.

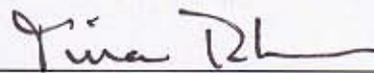
A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator  
Southern Service Center  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 220-5300  
(619) 220-5400 (FAX)

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald P. Schafer  
District Superintendent

7/8/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator

7/8/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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- A MAPS & PROJECT DESIGN GRAPHICS**
- B NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STUDY REPORT**



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Nicholas Pond Trail-Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project at Leo Carrillo State Park, Los Angeles County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

### 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

All inquiries regarding environmental compliance for this project, including comments on this environmental document should be addressed to:

Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator  
Southern Service Center  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. Suite 270  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 220-5300  
(619) 220-5400 (FAX)

### **1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Nicholas Pond Trail-Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project at Leo Carrillo State Park. Mitigation measures have also been incorporated into the project to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.

This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description.

This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.

This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

- Chapter 4 - Mandatory Findings of Significance

This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

- Chapter 5 - Summary of Mitigation Measures.

This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.

- Chapter 6 - References.

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND. It also provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

- Chapter 7 - Report Preparation

This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

### **1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the

proposed Nicholas Pond Trail-Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project would result in less-than-significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a MND shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.



## **CHAPTER 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the of the proposed Nicholas Pond Trail-Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements Project at Leo Carrillo State Park, located in Los Angeles County, California. The project proposes to improve the existing Nicholas Pond Trail to bring it in compliance with California State Parks accessibility guidelines and mandates, and to improve stream hydrology and geomorphology at the existing trail stream crossings. The project will consist of the following elements: parking, road to trail conversion, road removal, trail removal, trail reroute, trail reconstruction, bridge construction, boardwalk construction, overlook construction, stream improvements, and revegetation.

### **2.2 PROJECT LOCATION**

The Park is located along the Pacific Coast on the coastal edge of the Santa Monica Mountains at the boundary between Los Angeles County and Ventura County. Access to the Park is from Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and Mulholland Highway. Leo Carrillo State Park is a unit of the Malibu Sector of the Angeles District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and part of, the Point Mugu State Seashore, which extends from Ormond Beach to San Nicholas Canyon. The Public Resources Code (PRC: 5001.6 [b][8]) established that the purpose of state seashores is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, ecological, and recreational values of the California coastline as an ecological region, and make them available in appropriate ways for public enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding.

The project site is located in the Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve area of the Park. State Natural Reserves [PRC § 5019.65 (a)] consist of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity.

Nicholas Flat was once the homestead site of a ranch which is now gone. Trails and an old ranch road (to be removed and restored) run through a variety of vegetation communities including coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, native and non-native grasslands and riparian corridors. Entry to the site is along Decker School Road which terminates in a cul-de-sac within the State Park boundary. There are two entry gates and currently no marked parking spots.

## **2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

Changes in California's demography, growing tourism and new recreational activities have created new demands on park and recreation service providers. Concurrent with this demand is an aging and more diverse population and the need to meet access needs for the segment of the population with limited physical mobility. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 provides comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services and telecommunications. Congress emphasized that the ADA seeks to dispel stereotypes and assumptions about disabilities and to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. A primary goal of the ADA is the equal participation of individuals with disabilities in the mainstream of American society.

On June 22, 1999 the Department was ordered by United States District Judge Charles R. Breyer to implement a plan of action to evaluate existing trails in order to identify the type of trail experiences provided at each unit that has trails and to identify those trails that are:

- "partly or fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and,"
- "due to the topography on which they are situated, are potential candidates to be made partly or fully accessible to persons with disabilities."

The Department was required to identify the nature and frequency of barriers to accessibility and to address the feasibility of removing barriers on the above-mentioned trails. The Department was further ordered to create a proposed plan for providing program-wide access to trails along with a schedule for barrier removal. The court order states that this plan may serve as a transition plan pursuant to Title II of the ADA.

Under a 2005 court-ordered consent decree, California State Parks agreed to make all its parks, facilities, and programs more accessible. All existing parks and trails were surveyed and assigned a priority level based on such criteria as a park's popularity, location, and the number and uniqueness of programs offered.

## **2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The State of California is home to more than 266 state parks that contain the largest and most diverse collection of natural, cultural and recreational resources of any state in the nation. The DPR encompasses nearly 1.3 million acres, including over 280 miles of coastline and over 55% of the world's old growth redwoods. Within these parks are over 5000 facilities and structures, including many historic buildings. These parks protect and preserve an unparalleled collection of culturally and environmentally sensitive structures and habitats. These same parks provide recreational opportunities for more than 99 million visitors each year making the California State Park system the most visited state park system in the nation.

Improvements undertaken within State Parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the

preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within State Parks.

The intent of the project is to provide opportunities for visitors with disabilities. People with disabilities have a right to seek out hiking, picnicking and other recreational opportunities with the same expectation to participate as those without disabilities. It is the policy of the Department to meet the recreational needs of all the people of California and to provide an accessible environment in which all visitors to the State Park system units are given the opportunity to understand, appreciate and participate in the State's cultural, historical and natural heritage.

## 2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves improvements to the existing Nicholas Pond Trail designed to bring the trail in compliance with California State Parks accessibility guidelines and mandates, and to improve stream hydrology and geomorphology at existing trail stream crossings. Project implementation will meet accessibility requirements and guidelines as stated in "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines" and the federal access board's outdoor recreation guidelines, and will assist in meeting the legal accessibility requirements as stated in the (*Tucker v. California Department of Parks and Recreation*) consent decree. In addition project implementation will improve and protect natural resources and assist the department in better managing and protecting resources located in a state designated natural preserve.

The project will consist of the following elements:

- **Parking Space** - One accessible parking space (5.5 m x 5.0 m [18 ft x 17 ft]) and a small, concrete retaining wall (30.5 cm [12 in] high) would be constructed in the cul-de-sac at the end of Decker School Road, near the entry to Nicholas Pond Trail (Figures 4, 16, and 20).
- **Road to Trail Conversion** – Approximately 436 m (1.430 ft) of existing dirt road, extending from the trailhead south to Nicholas Pond, would be reduced in width from roughly 2.4 m (8 ft) to 1.2 m (4 ft). This section of trail served as an old fire road that was periodically graded by the previous property owner to ensure vehicle passage. Due to grading, a berm of soil has accumulated on the west or downslope side of the road, altered the natural water flows, and caused incising along the inside of the roadway and at certain locations into the creek. As a means of correcting the situation, work would involve using a cut and fill method to transfer the banked/mounded soils to the inside slope; backfilling gullies/ditches and narrowing the original road corridor. The technique would recreate a more natural, sloping hillside that would extend out to the creek,

thereby improving sheet flow into the drainage and eliminating erosional problems (Figures 5-6 and 21-22).

- **Road Removal** – A portion of roadway (roughly 197 m [645 ft] long), located slightly northeast of Nicholas Pond, would be abandoned to allow for an ADA trail reroute. Soils underlying the road would be decompacted and regraded, and allowed to naturally revegetate over time (Figures 7-8 and 23).
- **Trail Removal** – Two trail sections (91 m [300 ft]) bordering the western edge of Nicholas Pond (i.e., south of the second bridge and just north of the future overlook) would be removed due to difficulties concerning accessibility. The existing path would be subject to grading/recontouring and closed to the public to prevent potential disturbance (Figures 7-8 and 24).
- **Trail Reroute** – Approximately 320 m (1,050 ft) of ADA-compliant trails would be created to replace those portions removed from the pathway (Figures 8-9 and 25-26). The three reroutes would be constructed to the north and west of the pond and maintain an overall width of 1.2 m (4 ft).
- **Trail Reconstruction** – One segment of existing trail, totaling approximately 149 m [490 ft]) in length, would be regraded to provide an accessible path of travel (Figures 9 and 27). The work would serve to establish a 1.2 m (4 ft) wide walkway along the west side of San Nicholas Creek and Nicholas Pond.
- **First Bridge Construction** – An approximately 20 m (65 ft) free spanning bridge would be built over San Nicholas Creek to allow for a continuous and compliant route to the pond. With completion of the new structure, an existing non-ADA crossing, consisting of a culvert and instream fill, would be eliminated, and the channel restored to a natural configuration (Figures 10-14, 18, and 28-29).
- **Second Bridge Construction** – A second bridge, extending roughly 14 m (45 ft) in length, would be installed over a side channel of San Nicholas Creek to replace an earthen crossing which currently encroaches into the drainage (Figures 10, 14, 19, and 30).
- **Overlook** – A single overlook (covering roughly 60 m<sup>2</sup> [354 ft<sup>2</sup>]) would be constructed along the southwestern edge of Nicholas Pond to afford an accessible view of the water and surrounding area (Figures 15 and 31).
- **Stream Improvements** – Work associated with the two bridges would include measures to restore and stabilize the creek. Upstream of the first crossing, an existing culvert and accompanying fill would be removed, thereby eliminating an instream obstruction, reestablishing more natural flows, and preventing head-cutting below the pipe. A series of rock steps would also be placed upstream and downstream of the culvert to control the grade, reduce the intensity of flows, and minimize overall erosion. Additionally, in the area of the second bridge, grading of the channel/tributary would be undertaken and rock step pools would be installed to correct head-cutting and stabilize the stream profile (Figures 17 and 32-33).

As part of the project, trees and/or shrubs within the work boundaries would be avoided, to the maximum extent practicable, or salvaged for subsequent use. No mature oak trees (>12.7 cm [5 in] diameter breast height [DBH]) should be removed; however, if

such action is unavoidable, the tree(s) would be compensated at an appropriate ratio based on DPR and/or local guidelines. Following construction, all temporarily disturbed areas would either be stabilized using cleared/salvaged, native vegetation or potentially revegetated with locally occurring species obtained from a qualified nursery. As planned, construction is scheduled to begin around January 2010 and continue over an approximately 11-month period, with activities concluding by December 2010. Standard equipment, such as bulldozers, small excavators, small dump trucks, power and manual wheelbarrows would be used to conduct the proposed work. Minor tasks would generally be performed by crews using hand tools, such as shovels, Pulaskis, McLeods, picks, hammers, drills, rock bars, and a grip hoist. No utility work or associated trenching would be needed to complete the ADA improvements. Any excess soil from the project would be used as fill within or along the trail to provide a compliant path of travel or restore nearby slopes.

## **2.6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Construction is proposed to start in early 2010 and take approximately 11 months to complete. Geotechnical testing, if needed, would occur prior to project construction and during the preparation of the final plans. A Coastal Development Permit, Streambed Alteration Agreement, Army Corp of Engineers 404 Nationwide Permit, and California Regional Water Quality 401 Certification would be required. This project will incorporate best management practices (BMP's) to control erosion and protect waterways to include: The Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook for Construction (California Stormwater Quality Association, January 2003), California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Road to Trail Conversion" and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Stream Crossing Removal" and Best Management Practices (BMP's) shall be implemented during construction and revegetation of the site.

## **2.7 VISITATION TO LEO CARRILLO STATE PARK**

Annual visitor use at Leo Carrillo State Park has varied from a low of 118,461 in 1997 to a high of 590,581 in 2003. Visitor use was highest when the Day-Use fees were reduced for several years but has consistently been near or above 500,000 from 2001 through 2007. Annual figures for overnight camping has ranged from a low of 30,936 to a high of 175,502 in 2002. Overnight camping has been consistently between about 152,000 users and 175,000 from 2001 through 2007. The campground at Leo Carrillo State Park is one of the more popular campgrounds in Southern California due to it's shady campsites and coastal location. The project location is up on the coastal terrace inland from the campground area and accessed from a separate road, making it a quieter, less visited area of the Park.

## **2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES**

The Leo Carrillo State Park General Plan was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission in October 1996 and reclassified Leo Carrillo from a State Beach to a State Park. Nicholas Flat is located in a secluded upland area of the Park that was once the homestead site of a ranch now gone. Trails and old ranch roads run through a variety of landscapes including native and non-native grasslands, oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and riparian areas. The General Plan (GP) identifies the following goals at Nicholas Flat:

- 1) Enhance and preserve the integrity of the native grasslands found at Nicholas Flat;
- 2) Preserve and interpret the rich blend of natural and cultural history reflected in the landscape patterns; and
- 3) Preserve the integrity of the landscape at Nicholas Flat as a valuable educational, inspirational, and environmental resource.

In addition, the GP establishes the Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve pursuant to Section 5019.71, Div 5, Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Public Resource Code and states the preserve shall be managed as an integrated resource management zone in which all resource values (natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational) are given due consideration for management policies and practices.

## **2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS**

The project will be required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit, Department of Fish and Game 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, Army Corp of Engineers 404 Nationwide Permit, and a 401 Water Quality Permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

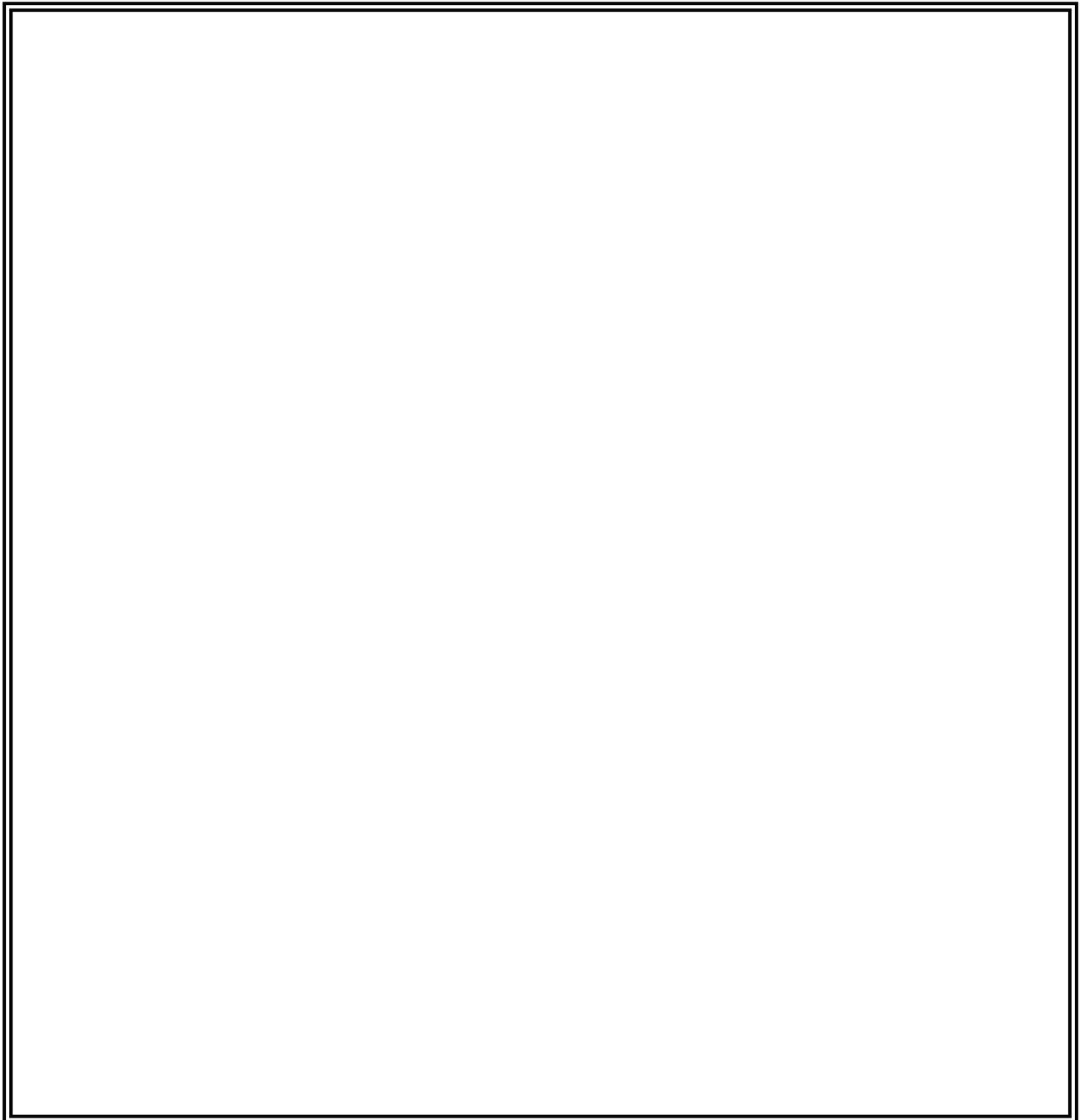
## **2.10 RELATED PROJECTS**

Currently there are a number of minor repair and upgrade projects at Leo Carrillo State Beach that have either recently been completed, are in the planning stages, or will soon be constructed. The majority of these projects upgrade existing facilities to accommodate ADA standards and guidelines. These include the recent construction of the restroom at the North Beach Day-Use area, an accessible trail, and forthcoming upgrades to all the existing restrooms in the campground and the Visitor Center relocation in late 2008 or early 2009. Additionally, a NOD is expected to be posted with the State Clearinghouse in July 2009 regarding a project to install 11 overnight cabins (up to 300 square feet each, 3,300 square feet total) on precast concrete blocks near and along the North Beach parking lot. In addition, DPR is finalizing plans to replace an existing sewage collection and treatment system at nearby state park housing with a new tank and septic system that complies with current health and safety standards.

**CHAPTER 3  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

- |                                                  |                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Project Title:                                | Nicholas Pond Trail-Accessibility and Hydrologic Improvements                                                      |
| 2. Lead Agency Name & Address:                   | California Department of Parks and Recreation                                                                      |
| 3. Contact Person & Phone Number:                | Tina Robinson, (619) 220-5300                                                                                      |
| 4. Project Location:                             | Leo Carrillo State Beach                                                                                           |
| 5. Project Sponsor Name & Address:               | California Department of Parks and Recreation<br>Angeles District<br>1925 Las Virgenes Road<br>Calabasas, CA 91302 |
| 6. General Plan Designation:                     | Natural Preserve with Passive Day Use Recreation                                                                   |
| 7. Zoning:                                       | State Park                                                                                                         |
| 8. Description of Project:                       | Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.5                                                                                    |
| 9. Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:              | Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.2 of this document                                                                   |
| 10. Approval Required from Other Public Agencies | Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.9                                                                                    |



**1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |                                                                   |                                                             |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | <input type="checkbox"/> None                     |

**DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

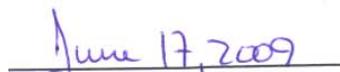
I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.



Tina Robinson  
Environmental Coordinator

  
June 17, 2009

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:
  - a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.
  - b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.
  - c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.
8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
  - a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
  - b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## I. AESTHETICS.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

As discussed in Section 2.2, the project site is located in a secluded, relatively undeveloped, upland area of the Park. The topography is reasonably flat near the pond and surrounded by rolling hills. It is the homestead site of a ranch and contains a variety of landscapes including grasslands, coastal sage, trails and old ranch roads, oak woodland, riparian vegetation, wetland, and rock outcroppings.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### DISCUSSION

a-c) The project will create new features within the project area including two bridges, an overlook, and stream improvements. Though the project includes the removal of vegetation and an existing road, no substantial long-term damage to scenic resources will occur. Removal of the road should improve the aesthetic character of the project site and the new trail will allow Park visitors with disabilities the opportunity to access and view portions of the Park which were not previously accessible. Aside from the proposed parking space at the end of Decker School Rd., the project elements are not visible from any roads, houses, or businesses. The parking portion of the project includes striping and signage, as required by the CDPR Accessibility Guidelines which will increase the man-made intrusion into this setting. During construction, the project area will have visible blight that will be cleaned up and landscaped by the end of construction.

d) No new source of light or glare would be created as a result of the project.

**MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS-1**

Trees with a minimum diameter at breast height (DBH) of 5” will not be disturbed unless absolutely necessary for project installation or sustainability. All vegetation outside of the project limits will be protected during construction.

All disturbed locations will be mulched or revegetated after project installation. Where feasible, vegetation within the construction area will be replanted in post-construction cut and fill areas. Vegetation which cannot be saved or salvaged from construction zones shall be replanted. The site shall be returned to as natural of an appearance as possible at project completion compatible with park scenic values.

**II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The setting, as described in Section 2.2 is located fully within a state park and does not contain agricultural resources or operations on site. Any agriculture associated with the old ranch was discontinued prior to the Park acquisition.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT*:</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

\* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

**DISCUSSION**

a - c) There would be no impacts to farmland since the site is located in a Natural Preserve within a state park.

### III. AIR QUALITY.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located at the extreme northern edge of the South Coast Air Basin and immediately adjacent to the South Central Coast Air Basin. The South Coast Air Basin historically has been in a non attainment area for the criteria pollutants of NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG (ozone precursors), CO (Carbon Monoxide), PM<sub>10</sub> (large particulate matter), and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particulate matter). The air quality trends over the last five years in both air basins have shown that all the pollutants except the particulate matter have been decreasing and is expected to continue declining in the future due to improved emission control technologies. The particulate matter emissions are expected to remain at about the same levels.

No air quality monitoring station is located near the project site but air quality generally appears to be quite good due to the coastal location, protective backdrop of steep mountains, and frequent strong onshore winds. The exception would be during and immediately after Santa Ana wind events when the wind blows pollutants from the metropolitan areas to the southeast. The Santa Ana winds frequently cause or enhance large wildfires that would increase the particulate matter to unhealthy levels for outdoor activities.

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

#### DISCUSSION

a – e) Due to the limited scope and scale of the project, there would only be nominal changes in air quality with project implementation due to increased vehicle trips and associated air

pollution. It is not anticipated that these trips would exceed 20 vehicles per day, and could only be a few vehicles or less per day. The amount is insignificant when compared to the vehicle trips and daily combustible use within the South Coast Air Basin. During construction, dust is a potential particulate pollutant and dust control measures will be strictly enforced during construction.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1</b>
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During project construction, specific guidelines for dust control will be implemented to prevent, or reduce below significance, the spread of contaminant dust both on and off the site.
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#### **IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.**

##### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

A detailed description of the existing biological resources is located in Appendix B, the Natural Environmental Study Report. Leo Carrillo State Park encompasses parts of five different ecosystems or ecological units. These include marine, coastal beach and bluff, coastal terrace, riparian and aquatic, and coastal mountain foothill ecosystems. Nicholas Flat is situated within a 600 acre natural preserve found in the northeast portion of the Park. The area supports a variety of habitat types (e.g., coast live oak woodland, Venturan coastal sage scrub, nonnative grassland, and valley freshwater marsh) and remains largely undeveloped, with the exception of some dirt trails/roads, remnant ranching equipment, Native American artifacts, and an asphalt entry road and parking area. Nicholas Pond, a frequent destination for visitors, is a natural, ephemeral pond that was enhanced in 1954 for the benefit of livestock. Approximately 5 acres at maximum capacity, the pond serves as habitat for waterfowl and other birds, amphibians, and some mammals.

A search of the CNDDDB database (CDFG 2008) indicated that one sensitive vegetation community could be present within or near Leo Carrillo SP. Southern coast live oak riparian forest has previously been documented along Arroyo Sequit and the middle-to-lower portions of Nicholas Canyon, with the closest occurrence located roughly 165 feet south of Nicholas Pond. Field reviews found mostly native habitat on-site, but did not observe any noticeable areas of southern coast live oak riparian forest. However, five other communities deemed sensitive by CDFG (i.e., coast live oak woodland, Venturan coastal sage scrub coast, southern willow scrub, nonnative grassland, and valley freshwater marsh) were recorded within the project boundaries.

Within the survey boundaries, coast live oak woodland was documented in the area immediately west and east of the existing culvert. The habitat also continued northward along the west side of the fire road towards the trailhead/cul-de-sac. At these locations, the understory was dominated by poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), in combination with such species as mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), wild pea (*Lathyrus vestitus* var. *vestitus*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*). In contrast, the

oak woodland situated on the slopes, to the east of the entrance road, was heavily intermixed with greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*) and bigpod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), creating a rather dense and obstructed understory. Overall, coast live oak woodland was the most extensive vegetation type found on-site, covering an estimated 10.75 acres.

Venturan coastal sage scrub was largely distributed as scattered patches along Nicholas Pond Trail. The two most contiguous stands were located near the entrance to the fire road (east side) and adjacent to the proposed overlook (west side). In the former, the major components of the vegetation were chaparral mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*) and bigpod ceanothus, while at the latter site the vegetation was more characteristically composed of California sagebrush, with laurel sumac, purple sage, mallow, and ceanothus providing some species diversity. Other smaller and isolated patches of coastal sage were interspersed in the nonnative grassland and oak woodland, including a monotypic stand of purple sage established just beyond the southern end of the fire road. Only 1.83 acres of the lands surveyed for the ADA improvements could be classified as Venturan coastal sage scrub.

During the field review, individual willows were documented throughout the oak woodlands, but only one large, representative stand of southern willow scrub, along with two isolated patches, could be found on-site. Located to the west of the creek and largely north of Nicholas Pond, the habitat predominately supported arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*) and had no distinct or noticeable understory components. Collectively, the southern willow scrub comprised less than 0.67 acre and was one of the smallest-sized, native communities within the survey boundaries.

At Nicholas Flat, large expanses of nonnative grassland were mapped on the flat or gently sloping uplands mostly to the northwest and northeast of the pond. An additional area was noted just south of the fire road on either side of the trail. Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) was a primary constituent of the habitat, along with scattered/patchy numbers of milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), oats, and ripgut grass. Native species also interspersed among the exotics included, foothill needlegrass (*Nassella lepida*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*). As estimated, 5.0 acres of nonnative grassland were identified during the site assessment.

The only area supporting freshwater marsh was restricted to the immediate perimeter of Nicholas Pond, along the north and northwest sides. At these sites, the vegetation was overwhelmingly composed of dense groupings of scirpus (*Scirpus californicus*), which crowded the shoreline and obstructed access to open water, except at a few, discrete locations (e.g., proposed overlook). Due to the prevalence and growth characteristics of the perennial plant, other species were not evident, although an occasional stand of broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) could be observed. As anticipated, the approximately 0.54 acre of coastal and valley freshwater marsh found at Nicholas Flat would not be affected by any of the proposed ADA upgrades.

Within the project boundaries, the developed/disturbed areas include the paved cul-de-sac, existing fire road, and dirt hiking trails. The habitat accounts for roughly 0.68 acre of the lands

inside the survey boundaries.

For the proposed project, a wetland delineation was performed, in accordance with the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (ACOE 1987), to determine the extent of jurisdictional wetlands/waters that could be affected by construction. During an initial review of topographic and aerial mapping for the Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve it was found that San Nicholas Creek and one tributary were blue-line streams. An on-site assessment, though, revealed that hydrophytic vegetation and/or hydric soils were lacking, therefore, the drainage would not qualify as ACOE jurisdictional wetlands. However, due to the presence of a defined bed and bank, evidence of drift lines, noticeable sediment deposits, and information from the topographic map, the watercourse could be assumed to support intermittent flows. In addition, because of the connectivity between San Nicholas Creek and interstate waters (e.g., Nicholas Pond, Pacific Ocean), the drainage would qualify as other Waters of the U.S. Consequently, using the ordinary high water mark and/or the perimeter of the oak woodland canopy, the limits of the federally and State regulated waters were defined.

**Listed/Sensitive Wildlife**

A review of the CNDDDB (CDFG 2008) and past surveys efforts (DPR 1996b) found that two special-status wildlife could exist within/near the Park. Subsequent field work determined that appropriate habitat was not present at Nicholas Flat for either the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) or southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*); therefore, the species are not anticipated and would not be impacted by the ADA work. The initial site assessment, though, documented the occurrence of the sensitive San Diego mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata [pulchra]*) at the southern end of the project limits. Historically, the San Diego mountain kingsnake is known from Cold Creek Preserve, located approximately 24.5 km (15.2 mi) to the east of Nicholas Pond Trail (CNDDG 2008). Within the park, no species records have been noted, but one individual was sighted during the field review, at the base of a coast live oak near the overlook. From the observation, the kingsnake, measuring approximately 61 cm (24 in), likely maintains a shelter/burrow below the tree's root system. Other coast live oak woodland in the area could also potentially support the San Diego mountain kingsnake. Since the species exists within the project limits, and could be affected by construction, measures would have to be employed to minimize habitat disturbance and avoid incidents of harm or harassment.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                          |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION**

- a) The San Diego mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata pulchra*), designated a species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), has been documented in the vicinity of the proposed ADA overlook. With implementation of the project, habitat that could potentially be used by the species (e.g., foraging, sheltering) would be subject to disturbance. However, the impact would be limited in size and short-term in nature, and would not be expected to have substantial adverse effect on the San Diego mountain kingsnake.
- b) The project footprint supports coast live oak woodland, which is identified as a sensitive vegetation community by the California Natural Diversity Database. Additionally, the Los Angeles County General Plan and Local Coastal Program (e.g., Santa Monica Mountains) have designated lands surrounding the ADA improvements as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area. As proposed, construction would partially encroach into oak woodlands, but the majority of work would be concentrated along existing trails or in areas containing nonnative grasslands; thereby, minimizing disturbance to sensitive habitat. The improvements would also be occurring within the Nicholas Flat Preserve, requiring adherence to State Park regulations regarding the protection and conservation of the lands.
- c) Wetlands regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board would undergo dredging, filling, and hydrologic interruption during the course of project operations. The work, though, would involve the reestablishment of a natural stream course and corrections to erosion problems that would, over the long-term, enhance the structure/function of the existing wetlands and riparian system.
- d) The movement of resident/migratory fish and wildlife species along San Nicholas Creek would likely be disrupted by construction, but the project would also include the excavation of a culvert, which currently restricts/limits flows along the creek. As a consequence, upon

completion of the work, locally-occurring species would benefit by having easier and unimpeded passage along the drainage.

- e) The proposed ADA improvements could result in the potential removal of oak trees considered “protected” (5 inches or greater in diameter) under the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance. However, replacement and/or restitution for any trees that would be unavoidably impacted by the work shall be conducted in compliance with the local guidelines and regulations.
- f) The proposed project is not known to conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

(More information and details, if needed, are included in the Natural Environment Study Report).

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All vegetation within the project footprint will be cleared between September 15 and February 14 to avoid potential impacts to breeding birds. If habitat removal can not occur during this timeframe, then a pre-construction survey (one week prior) shall be conducted by a State Environmental Scientist to ensure that no breeding/nesting birds are present in the work area. Should a nest site be located, then appropriate measures, as determined by the State Environmental Scientist, will be used to minimize disturbance to the species.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to the start of construction, temporary fencing shall be installed around the project limits. In areas adjoining or requiring access into San Nicholas Creek (e.g., road to trail conversion, bridge construction, overlook site), silt fencing, or other barrier approved by the State’s Representative, shall be placed in a manner that prevents sediments from entering/collecting in the drainage or being transported downstream. For the road to trail conversion, the fencing shall be limited to the bermed shoulder of the road and will not be allowed to extend into the side bank of the creek.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• San Nicholas Creek and other sensitive habitat, lying outside the project boundaries, are designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and shall be strictly avoided. All ESAs shall be depicted on the project plans and no encroachment (i.e., workers, equipment, materials) will be allowed in these locations at any time. Sensitive vegetation or resources will be marked and protected by temporary fencing (e.g., orange plastic fencing, silt fencing) or other acceptable method. Work areas will be clearly marked in the field and confirmed by the State Environmental Scientist prior to habitat removal. All staked/fenced boundaries will be maintained throughout the construction period.</li> </ul>

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work associated with the proposed overlook shall be completed from April 30 to October 30 (active season) to reduce the likelihood of harm/harassment to the San Diego mountain kingsnake. Should the species be observed on-site during construction, then the State's Representative shall halt activities until the State Environmental Scientist has the opportunity to review the situation. Any recommendations provided by the State Environmental Scientist shall be implemented before activities are allowed to recommence.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During vegetation trimming/clearing, all roots 5 cm (2 in) in diameter or greater that need to be removed shall be cleanly cut as supervised/directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No oak tree(s) with a DBH of 13 cm (5 in) or greater shall be removed to construct the ADA improvements. However, if such action is unavoidable, then DPR shall mitigate for the loss of each tree at a 5:1 ratio, which shall be planted within the oak woodlands temporarily impacted by construction or the developed/disturbed areas permanently removed from the trail system. Trimming of oak branches shall only be allowed, if necessary to install project features or obtain clearance for vehicle/equipment operations.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only wheeled vehicles shall be used within the drip line of an oak to prevent potential soil compaction and possible tree damage. Additionally, no parking of equipment or storage of vehicles, materials, or debris shall be allowed underneath an oak's canopy.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-8</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access routes, staging areas, and the total footprint of disturbance shall be limited to the minimum number/size necessary to complete the project. Routes of travel and project boundaries will be configured to avoid unnecessary intrusions into coast live oak woodland, Venturan coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, nonnative grassland, or San Nicholas Creek.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-9</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A State Environmental Scientist will be made available for both the pre-construction and construction phases to review grading plans, address resource issues, and monitor ongoing work. The State Environmental Scientist shall maintain communications with the State's Representative to ensure that concerns related to sensitive species/habitats are appropriately and lawfully managed.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Management Practices (BMPs), to address both the stabilization of soils throughout construction and provide contingencies during rainfall events, shall be incorporated into the project. Measures that could be used include, temporary fencing, hay bales, fiber rolls, organic erosion control blankets, gravel bags, and any other items deemed appropriate by the State's Representative. Where applicable, weed-free products shall be used to minimize the spread of exotics. At all times, sufficient amounts of erosion control materials shall be available on-site to respond to potential emergencies and any rains forecasted within 24 hours</li> </ul>

<p><b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMPs shall also comply with water quality standards outlined in the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook (California Stormwater Quality Association, 2003) and guidelines/specifications described in the California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Road to Trail Conversion”, and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Stream Crossing Removal”, as appropriate. The State’s Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, will have the ability to make changes to the BMPs, based on existing site conditions and the potential for excess erosion/siltation, or hazardous spills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimize the spread of exotic/invasive plants, all heavy equipment used for the project shall be pressure washed, prior to entering the Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any work required along the banks or within the channel of San Nicholas Creek shall be conducted during low/no flow conditions (between May 15 and October 15) to reduce the potential for water pollution. Some BMPs that will be employed to control potential erosion and sedimentation include, but are not limited, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction areas encroaching into a flowing San Nicholas Creek shall be equipped with barriers that prevent muddy waters from entering the channel and carried downstream. Installation of the barriers shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the release of soils/sediments into the watercourse. Barriers shall be maintained until work in the drainage has been concluded or soils along the bed/bank have undergone final recontouring and stabilization.</li> <li>Silt fencing, fine mesh netting, or fiber rolls will be placed immediately downslope of abutment excavations, and downstream of bridge crossings and instream earthwork, to restrict excess silt, woody debris, and construction waste from entering the drainage.</li> <li>Any removal of material from beneath/within the flows of San Nicholas Creek will not commence until a diversion system, capable of conveying unpolluted waters, is established around the areas of excavation. Diversions systems may consist of a small upstream dam, with flows piped around the work site and discharged into the channel below the disturbance. Alternatively, a berm may be constructed adjacent to the work area that redirects/carries waters away from the instream activities.</li> <li>All fill, removed during excavations within the drainage, shall be stored on stable trail sections or similar nearby locations (approved by the State’s Representative in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist) in a manner that prevents accidental discharge/entry into San Nicholas Creek.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any areas requiring hydroseeding for temporary erosion control shall use only local, native plant species, approved by the State’s Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist. No invasive, exotics shall be included in any proposed seed palette. Species identified on Lists A &amp; B of the California Invasive Plant Council’s List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California, as of October 1999, will be prohibited.</li> </ul>

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-15</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion control measures shall be inspected daily during rainfall events and at least weekly throughout construction. Prior to the onset of any precipitation, both active (disturbed) soil areas and stockpiled soils shall be stabilized to prevent sediments from escaping off-site or into San Nicholas Creek. Should inspection determine that any BMPs are in disrepair or ineffectual, action shall be immediately taken to fix the deficiency.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-16</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A toxic material control and spill-response plan shall be prepared and submitted to the State's Representative before the onset of construction. The plan shall outline techniques that will be used to promptly and effectively respond to any accidental spill. All construction workers will receive instruction regarding spill prevention and methods of containment.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-17</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The changing of oil, refueling, and other actions that could result in the release of a hazardous substance shall be restricted to designated areas that are a minimum of 15 m (50 ft) from any sensitive habitat (e.g., coast live oak woodland) or drainage. These sites shall be surrounded with berms, sandbags, or other barriers to further prevent the accidental spill of fuel, oil, or chemicals. Any discharges shall be immediately contained, cleaned up, and properly disposed, in accordance with the toxic material control and spill-response plan.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-18</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debris or runoff, generated by the project, shall be directed away from any drainage to prevent deposition into waterways. The disposal of materials must be performed in a manner that will minimize unnecessary effects to the environment.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-19</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction dust impacts will be offset through implementation of measures that will appropriately reduce/control emissions generated by the project. The project biologist will also periodically inspect the work area to ensure that construction-related activities do not generate excessive amounts of dust or cause other disturbances.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-20</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage and staging areas shall be placed a minimum of 15 m (50 ft) from the banks of San Nicholas Creek and its tributaries. The site(s) shall be reviewed and approved by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, and shall be limited to areas of development, disturbance, or nonnative habitat. All locations used for storage/staging shall be kept free from trash and other waste. No project-related items shall be stored outside approved staging areas at any time.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-21</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any dried plant material, thatch, and/or dead wood within the project limits that could potentially pose a fire hazard will be removed at the beginning of operations, as directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist</li> </ul>

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-22</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All heavy equipment shall be outfitted with spark arrestors or turbo-charging, and maintain a fire extinguisher on board. Service vehicles shall park away from flammable materials (e.g., dry grass, brush) to reduce the chance for wildfires.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-23</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For reasons of safety, areas of excavation (e.g., large holes) shall be covered overnight or during periods of inactivity. These locations will be periodically inspected, over the course of the project, by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, to ensure that no wildlife has become entrapped and that erosion control measures, as appropriate, are implemented.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-24</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All native habitat temporarily impacted by construction or developed/disturbed areas permanently removed from the trail system shall either be stabilized with vegetation cleared/salvaged by project operations or revegetated with locally occurring native species, as appropriate. Coordination between the DPR and permitting agencies, regarding mitigation procedures, will be completed to ensure both regulatory compliance and long-term enhancement of the habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-25</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any plants used for revegetation work will comply with Federal, State, and County laws requiring inspection for infestations. If requested, a certificate of inspection from the appropriate, overseeing agency shall be provided to DPR. Plants will be examined by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, before accepting delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-26</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any weedy vegetation removed during the clearing and grading activities shall be collected and transported to a disposal site within the park. No weedy materials shall be used as mulch on areas temporarily disturbed by construction.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-27</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project footprint shall be kept clear of trash to avoid attracting predators. All food and garbage shall be placed in sealed containers and regularly transported from the property. Following construction, any trash, debris, or rubbish remaining within the work limits shall be collected and hauled off to an appropriate facility.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-28</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the conclusion of activities, any erosion control measures that are no longer needed, as deemed by the State's Representative, shall be removed and properly disposed off-site. BMPs may remain if the measures are necessary to provide continued stabilization or minimize pollution.</li> </ul>
<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-29</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All work related to the Nicholas Pond Trail ADA Improvement Project shall be performed during daylight hours. No nighttime operations (including lighting) shall be allowed to complete the project.</li> </ul>

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-30</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conditions set forth in the 401 Water Quality Certification, 404 Nationwide Permit, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and the Coastal Development Permit shall be observed and implemented as part of the proposed construction.</li> </ul>

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Leo Carrillo State Park contains many cultural resources including archaeological sites and several historic features that are reflective of past land uses prior to State ownership in the 1950s. Homesteads were formed in and around the north and west portions of the Park in the 1880's and 1890's and evolved into a mountain community of small cattle ranches in the 1920's and 1930's. Los Angeles attorney, Stewart Salisbury, purchased on Nicholas Flat. The little complex of structures at Nicholas Flat included Salisbury's stone house and was demolished by the the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1985. The natural pond on the site was enhanced by Salisbury and signs of his petroleum prospecting, as well as gate posts, walnut trees, and water tanks are among the few remnants of the old ranches and homesteads at Nicholas Flat.

Additionally, Leo Carrillo State Park has some of the richest and most diverse archaeological resources in the north Malibu Coast area. Archaeological sites that have been dated to over 7,500 years ago have been located within the coastal area of the park. The park is located in the ethnographic area of the Ventureño Chumash. The Chumash are considered to be one of the most complex native Californian tribes. They had a highly developed maritime industry and a complex political and social organization, marked by the use of a bead money system. The Chumash had an elaborate subsistence strategy that included the use of acorns and other plant foods, marine resources, and terrestrial animals. Their material culture included pole-and-thatch structures, plank canoes, extensive steatite and shell industries, woodcarving, and basket-making technologies. Coastal village sites, inland occupational sites, temporary camps, and resource collecting areas are found within the Park.

Sites at Nicholas Flat include a large habitation site with multiple bedrock milling stations and several lithic features. Based on local oral history, rock art may be buried in a rock shelter under the pond and a Native American cemetery feature may have been located nearby.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

## DISCUSSION

a) The project's A.P.E. is located within the boundaries of the Salisbury/Mesa Ranch Site at Nicholas Flat. The resource contains extant landscape features and objects, including dirt roads, a rock an earthen dam and water impound pond, other ranch/farming-related equipment, and several surviving walnut trees dating to the ranch's 1933-1954 period of historical significance. The resource is potentially eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources as a historic site associated with early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century "Gentlemen Ranching" activities in the western Santa Monica Mountain Range. Aerial photos of the park unit, as well as early land ownership maps and other archival documentation indicate that there is the potential for the discovery of several yet-undiscovered ranch-related structures, features, and objects that may exist below ground within the project's A.P.E. These, which may include, homestead cabin, barn, windmills, and well sites, along with known ranch-related features and objects, have not been evaluated for their historic context or integrity. The project will alter and modify what appears to be a historic unimproved dirt road associated with early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century ranching activities in the Nichols Flat and Nicholas Canyon areas.

b) Archaeological resources exist within the project area. The existing trail and proposed reroute on the east side of the creek fall within the boundaries of archaeological site: CA-LAN-2264. The site is a lithic scatter with an associated bedrock feature containing mortars and cupules. This site was identified in 1991 (J. Hood, J. Kelly, N. Evans, and J. MacAleer), revisited and recorded in 1994 (H. Dallas and M. Mealey), surveyed and documented in 2000 (Wake 2000), and tested and updated in 2009 (M. Mealey, J. Harrison, and B. Tejada).

The archaeological testing program completed as part of the current study examined extent and content of the deposit along the proposed trail reroute. Fifteen 20-cm-diameter shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated in 20-cm levels to a depth of 60 cm or bottom of deposit. Only seven STPs were found to contain any artifacts and most artifacts were found in the upper 20-cm levels. Only one STP contained an artifact below 40 cm. These artifacts consist of 13 lithic flakes and pieces of debitage (chert, chalcedony, basalt, and fused shale). A couple pieces of charcoal and possible fire-affected rock were also noted within the STPs. All test excavations were monitored by a Native American monitor.

Based on the limited amount of material recovered during the testing (only 13 flakes/pieces of debitage) and observed during the survey (9 flakes/pieces of debitage), the site appears to be a sparse lithic scatter without much depth (<20cm). It does not appear to contain significant cultural deposits, materials, or features other than the mortar and cupule rocks, which are outside the current project area. Cupules can be forms of rock art that are considered sacred to many Native Americans.

An isolated artifact was found within the existing trail bed on the west side of the creek. This basalt flake is not considered to be in situ and is not considered to be significant.

The project area is approximately 30 meters to the north of Archaeological Site CA-LAN-49. This large site is made up of multiple bedrock grinding features, dense midden deposits, scattered artifacts, and rumored rock art and human remains. The site was tested by UCLA in 2000 and found to contain a 65cm deep deposit containing ground- and chipped-stone tools,

lithic debitage, bone tools, a shell disk bead, and bone and shell subsistence remains. Radiocarbon dates for this site place it within the Late Middle and Late Prehistoric Periods (770 +/- 40 years before present and 290 +/- 40 years before present).

Because of the results of the archaeological survey and testing and the proximity of the cupule rocks at CA-LAN-2264, and the proximity of archaeological site CA-LAN-49 to the southern extent of the proposed trail and overlook, it is recommended that archaeological and Native American monitoring be employed during construction of the new trail alignment, excavation for bridge footings, rehabilitation of the existing trail beds, and any ground disturbance involved in the construction of the Nicholas Pond overlook. This monitoring will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to unknown buried cultural resources that may be present. Although it is not anticipated, if any unknown feature or significant deposits are located during monitoring, work will stop in that location and the find will be evaluated by a State Parks archaeologist who will determine the best measures for avoidance, protection, or removal.

**MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1**

- Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be employed during construction of the new trail alignment, excavation for bridge footings, rehabilitation of the existing trail beds, and any ground disturbance involved in the construction of the Nicholas Pond overlook. This monitoring will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to unknown buried cultural resources that may be present. The project would then be consistent with State-mandated preservation standards and guidelines used for the adaptive reuse of historic landscape features through the identification and preservation of known and potential historic archaeological resources associated with a historic site.

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Leo Carrillo State Park encompasses over 2000 acres extending from the ocean inland approximately 2 miles. It is located adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and extends into the Santa Monica Mountain Range. Most of the topography is steep and drains to the Pacific Ocean through canyons. The more level areas are primarily at the coastal margin, the alluvial fan at Arroyo Sequit Creek, or at Nicholas Flat in the inland portion of the Park. The coastal bluffs vary in height and range from very steep to slight. There are both natural and man-made coastal terraces.

At Nicholas Flat, a total of seven different soil types underlie the project area. Near the parking lot and trailhead entrance, Gilroy clay loam (9 to 15 percent slopes, eroded) occurs as a minor component. Along the fire road (road to trail conversion area), the west and east sides are known to have Los Osos clay loam (15 to 30 percent slopes, eroded) and Millsholm loam (15 to 50 percent slopes), respectively. The two series are characterized as being well-drained, typical of moderately steep or steep uplands/slopes. The Millsholm soils, however, are subject to faster runoff and pose an overall, higher erosion hazard. One other substrate found near

the southern end of the fire road is Malibu loam (30 to 50 percent slopes), that is also associated with strongly sloping areas and is known to be extremely susceptible to erosion.

Near the two proposed crossings, and along the west side of Nicholas Pond, the predominate soil is Lockwood loam (9 to 15 percent slopes, eroded and 2 to 9 percent slopes, eroded), which tends to be deep and well-drained. Derived from mixed, but predominately sedimentary materials, this substrate is common to the Nicholas Flat grassland and coastal sage scrub areas. Gazos silty clay loam (30 to 50 percent slopes), a secondary/smaller mapping unit, is located to the north of the pond and northwest of the culvert. The soil has been recorded on very steep uplands and is usually underscored by hard fractured, banded shale. The Gazos silt clay loam is distinguished as having moderately slow permeability and rapid runoff that contributes to a high erosion hazard.

Since the site is located in southern California, it is subject to active geological faults that may cause earthquakes. The Simi Santa Rosa Fault is listed as a Principal Fault on the California Department of Conservation’s Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map and is located approximately 30 miles to the north and the Malibu Coast Fault is also listed. The Malibu Coast Fault is part of a system of Faults and passes through the Park, concealed beneath surficial deposits. Although there is no evidence of recent seismic activity along this fault, major earthquakes have and will continue to occur in the region, and will not always occur along faults visible at the earth’s surface. The Park General Plan identifies that the bluffs at North Beach are considered “Generally Susceptible” to landslide and one small portion of the bluff is considered “Most Susceptible”.

<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

liquefaction, or collapse?

- |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## DISCUSSION

a-d) The project site is located in Southern California, an area known for seismic activity. The site is not located directly on a Principal Fault but is located in proximity to the Malibu Coast Fault, listed in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map. It is not anticipated that construction of the project would expose people or property to a high risk of danger due to seismic activity, although the risk of a landslide in the event of a catastrophic seismic event cannot be completely eliminated.

While many of the project elements are intended to reduce erosion, during construction and until revegetated slopes mature, the project would have a risk of soil erosion without appropriate measures. However the use of appropriate BMPs will be employed to minimize these risks.

e) A septic system is not an element of the proposed project, and would therefore not be an impact.

f) There are often paleontological resources located in coastal settings and the General Plan states that fossil shells are located in the sandstone deposits, some of which are close to the project site. However, grading for the project is minimal and it is not anticipated that undisturbed sandstone areas would be excavated. It is not expected that there would be significant adverse effects to paleontological resources due to the soil horizon that would be disturbed by grading.

**MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1**

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated to prevent erosion and sediment control during construction wherever the soil is disturbed and until the landscaping has matured. These BMPs would include the preservation of the existing native vegetation, fiber rolls, silt fences, dust control and sandbags or Eco Blok Barriers. The use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) to support areas with a risk of soil erosion or landslides will be incorporated to control erosion and protect waterways to include: The Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction (California Stormwater Quality Association, January 2003), California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Road to Trail Conversion" and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Stream Crossing Removal".
- Please also note Bio Mitigation measures

**MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-2**

- The project will be monitored by a cultural specialist for all ground disturbing activities. Should paleontological material be unearthed during construction, the archaeologist will make arrangements to salvage the material and consult with a paleontologist.

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project site is located in a relatively undeveloped area within a state park. There is unlikely to be any hazardous materials on the site, although there was historic human activity within the project area. The Park contains native vegetation that is highly flammable during the dry season and during Santa Ana wind events. During periods of extreme fire danger, this portion of the park may be closed to visitor use.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**DISCUSSION**

a-d) The proposed project does not involve the routine use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. It is not anticipated that there would be any exposure to hazardous material for the public. Additionally, the project site is not a hazardous materials site and during construction the public would not be exposed to hazardous materials.

e-f) There are no schools, airports, or airstrips in the project vicinity.

g-h) The Park is prone to wildfires and the project site is in a remote, wooded location. Campfires are prohibited in the project site, therefore an increase in visitors as a result of the project would have no effect on the probability of a fire occurrence. Nonetheless, during fire season, Park rangers monitor the Park and communicate with all emergency response agencies, including CAL FIRE.

During extreme fire danger events the Park may be closed and all visitors requested to leave. In the event of a rapidly moving fire, Park rangers and lifeguards would assist with evacuation of the Park. Unfortunately, fire danger and wildfire events have frequently affected a number of state parks.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT 1</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State Park lifeguards and rangers would assist in preventative or evacuation methods, as appropriate</li> </ul>

## VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Leo Carrillo SP lies within the Malibu Hydrologic Unit, which is a subset of the larger Los Angeles Hydrologic Basin that encompasses an area of approximately 4,215 mi<sup>2</sup> within Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Arroyo Sequit, the largest stream in the unit, and Willow Creek are part of the Arroyo Sequit Hydrologic Subarea (HAS). San Nicholas Creek, located furthest to the east and passing through the project site, is contained within the Nicholas Canyon HAS. Roughly 70% of San Nicholas Creek, the second largest drainage at 896 acres, falls inside the park's boundaries. Generally, this watercourse runs in a north-south direction, with flows collecting in Nicholas Pond (upper drainage area) before continuing downstream. Portions of the creek extending upstream of, and including, the pond are situated on a coastal foothill among gently or moderately sloping flats. South of the pond, the flows drop steeply into San Nicholas Canyon and traverse over approximately 2.5 miles before reaching the Pacific Ocean. Along this section, rapid runoff events can occur due to severe slopes, which range up to 200%. Discharges within San Nicholas Creek also exhibit strong seasonal fluctuations, mainly in response to intense winter rains, and may have radically reduced flows during the summer. San Nicholas Creek is the only known stream course located within the project limits.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

sources of polluted runoff?

- |                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| f) Substantially degrade water quality?                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION**

a-f) The project will be constructed in coordination with the appropriate State/local agencies and comply with applicable water quality control standards during construction and operation. Two bridges will be constructed for trail access across the stream and to eliminate the need for a culvert and associated filling of the stream and trail use within the stream bed and bank. In addition to removing visitor use out of stream bed and bank, the project proposes stream restoration and stabilization components to control streambed grade and reduce erosion.

g-j) The project will not be within a 100-year flood hazard area or expose people or structures to risk as a result of flooding. Due to its location and altitude, the project is not likely to result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

<p><b>MITIGATION MEASURE HYDROLOGY &amp; WATER QUALITY 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP’s) to support areas with a risk of soil erosion or landslides will be incorporated to control erosion and protect waterways to include: The Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction (California Stormwater Quality Association, January 2003), California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Road to Trail Conversion” and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Stream Crossing Removal”. In addition, permits will be acquired from the appropriate regulating agencies (Army Corp of Engineers, California Dept of Fish and Game, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board).</li> </ul>
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**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.  
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

As discussed in Section 2.2, the site is located within Leo Carrillo State Park and a natural Preserve. There are existing trails on the site.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

a-c) The proposed project is consistent with the Leo Carrillo State Park General Plan. The LCSP General Plan identifies the project site as a Natural Preserve with passive day-use recreation. Additionally, the Nicholas Flat area is identified as an area of low allowable use intensity. Areas determined to have low allowable use intensity should, for the most part, have no facility development and well-designed trails. Appropriate activities include passive recreational activities and large numbers of visitors, noise, and facility development should not be allowed. Regarding accessibility, the General Plan states that the special qualities of the Nicholas Flat area make it worth exploring for some level of accessibility. It also specifies that parking and trailheads remain in the cul-de-sac, no restroom facilities are planned, and trail widths should be kept to a minimum. Access to Decker Canyon Rd., where the proposed accessible parking space is to be located, is under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County and a permit from the County will be required prior to construction. A Coastal Development Permit will need to be acquired prior to project construction. CDPR will coordinate with all appropriate resource agencies and the County of Los Angeles to ensure that the project is in conformance with any applicable planning efforts.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE PLANNING AND LAND USE</b>
▪ No mitigation is proposed other than coordination with the County of Los Angeles

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The site is fully within a state park and there are no mineral resources available for extraction.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

**DISCUSSION**

a- b) The site is owned by C DPR and operated as a state park. This precludes any mineral extraction because it would conflict with the C DPR Mission and the Leo Carrillo State Park General Plan.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE MINERAL RESOURCES</b>
▪ No mitigation is proposed

**XI. NOISE.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project site is located within a state park passive day-use area. Since the site is isolated, the ambient noise levels are fairly low.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

a - f) The project is not anticipated to affect the ambient noise levels except during the short period of construction.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE</b>
▪ No mitigation is proposed

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project is located within a state park with no housing in the immediate proximity. Park staff housing is located upcoast with a different access and is not visible from the project site. A seasonal camp host has a travel trailer at the North Beach Day-Use Area and the Park campground is located on the other side of PCH.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

a- c) The project is fully located within a State Park would have no effect on population growth or housing.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE POPULATION AND HOUSING</b>
▪ No mitigation is proposed

**XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The site is located within and immediately adjacent to an existing park passive day-use area. Park safety, maintenance, and other operations personnel currently manage the site.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

a) Leo Carrillo State Park currently has both law enforcement lifeguards and rangers that administer the site. Few new personnel, if any, would be required to administer services at the project site once the project has been completed. Park personnel may be involved during construction to assist with resource monitoring. The project would not have an effect on nearby schools. The project would slightly increase visitation to this portion of the Park; however, there are currently no restrooms at the project site and no new facilities are proposed at this time. It is not anticipated that the project would have any noticeable effect on public services, other than to make the site accessible to a greater variety of park users.

**XIV. RECREATION.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The site is located within an existing park day-use area with trails. Park safety, maintenance, and other operations personnel currently manage the site.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
--	-----------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	----------------------

**WOULD THE PROJECT:**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**DISCUSSION**

a & b) Park use at the Nicholas Flat would increase slightly, offering a broader range of Park visitors access to the trails on the site. However, due to the small scope and scale of the project, this increase is not expected to be substantial. The project will provide a needed recreational experience to segments of the population currently not served by traditional trails, creating a beneficial recreational experience.

**XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The site access is from PCH to Decker Canyon Road to Decker School Road. This is a very curvy two lane county road with low traffic levels.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
--	-----------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	----------------------

**WOULD THE PROJECT:**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?

- |                                                                                                                                  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access?                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**DISCUSSION**

a-g) The project would nominally increase vehicle trips to the project site and, specifically, trips made by accessible vans. An accessible parking space will be delineated, per DPR accessibility guidelines. There is an entrance gate at the end of the cul-de-sac, which can be opened by Park staff and/or emergency vehicles. Access to this gate will not be blocked by the placement of the new accessible parking space.

<b>MITIGATION MEASURE TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic control would be put in to place to move equipment in and out of the project site during construction. The County of Los Angeles will be consulted with regarding the location of the accessible parking spot.</li> </ul>

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The site is currently is only open during the daylight hours and no utility or service systems are available.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

- e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?
- g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?

**DISCUSSION**

a-g) No new infrastructure will need to be installed to facilitate the project. No restrooms or facilities are proposed. Trash will be collected by CDPR employees.

## CHAPTER 4 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<b>WOULD THE PROJECT:</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project site is in an area which has sensitive natural resources (Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve). The DPR will survey these areas prior to start of construction and avoid areas known to have significant or sensitive resources. It is the intention of DPR to avoid or minimize adverse effects to resources and to minimize and mitigate any adverse effects to these resources to the fullest extent possible. A DPR Environmental Scientist shall approve the removal and replanting of all vegetation.

b) It is not anticipated that cultural resources would be adversely affected or impacted after review of the project design and location. Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be employed during construction of the new trail alignment, excavation for bridge footings, rehabilitation of the existing trail beds, and any ground disturbance involved in the construction of the Nicholas Pond overlook. Should any cultural material, either historic or pre-historic be encountered during the minor grading or excavation, work shall be redirected until a cultural resource specialist can determine the appropriate avoidance or recovery methodology.

c) Leo Carrillo State Park is a large park with multiple visitor activities and infrastructure to support these activities. There are several other projects that have either been recently completed, are planned for the near future, or are planned within the next few years. Most of

the projects involve upgrading existing infrastructure to meet current health, safety, and accessibility standards. This project and other ADA projects provide new visitor services in response to a growing need to accommodate a greater diversity of park visitors. These projects do not create significant cumulative impacts to sensitive resources (natural or cultural) or the environment.

d) The site location is physically separated from other uses in the Park, including the campground and beach day-use area. Because the site is remote and subject to wildfires, there is a potential for public safety risks. These risks are mitigated through the emergency response and presence of state park lifeguards and rangers. Because of its small scope, it is not anticipated to have an adverse effect on visitors to this area.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES**

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Project.

#### **AESTHETICS**

##### **MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS-1**

- Trees with a minimum diameter at breast height (DBH) of 5" will not be disturbed unless absolutely necessary for project installation or sustainability. All vegetation outside of the project limits will be protected during construction.
- All disturbed locations will be mulched or revegetated after project installation. Where feasible, vegetation within the construction area will be replanted in post-construction cut and fill areas. Vegetation which cannot be saved or salvaged from construction zones shall be replanted. The site shall be returned to as natural of an appearance as possible at project completion compatible with park scenic values.

#### **AIR QUALITY**

##### **MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1**

- During project construction, specific guidelines for dust control will be implemented to prevent, or reduce below significance, the spread of contaminant dust both on and off the site.

#### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

##### **MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1**

- All vegetation within the project footprint will be cleared between September 15 and February 14 to avoid potential impacts to breeding birds. If habitat removal can not occur during this timeframe, then a pre-construction survey (one week prior) shall be conducted by a State Environmental Scientist to ensure that no breeding/nesting birds are present in the work area. Should a nest site be located, then appropriate measures, as determined by the State Environmental Scientist, will be used to minimize disturbance to the species.

##### **MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2**

- Prior to the start of construction, temporary fencing shall be installed around the project limits. In areas adjoining or requiring access into San Nicholas Creek (e.g., road to trail conversion, bridge construction, overlook site), silt fencing, or other barrier approved by the State's Representative, shall be placed in a manner that prevents sediments from entering/collecting in the drainage or being transported downstream. For the road to trail conversion, the fencing shall be limited to the bermed shoulder of the road and will not be allowed to extend into the side bank of the creek.

##### **MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3**

- San Nicholas Creek and other sensitive habitat, lying outside the project boundaries, are designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and shall be strictly avoided. All ESAs shall be depicted on the project plans and no encroachment (i.e., workers, equipment, materials) will be allowed in these locations at any time. Sensitive vegetation or resources will be marked and protected by temporary fencing (e.g., orange plastic

fencing, silt fencing) or other acceptable method. Work areas will be clearly marked in the field and confirmed by the State Environmental Scientist prior to habitat removal. All staked/fenced boundaries will be maintained throughout the construction period.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4**

- Work associated with the proposed overlook shall be completed from April 30 to October 30 (active season) to reduce the likelihood of harm/harassment to the San Diego mountain kingsnake. Should the species be observed on-site during construction, then the State's Representative shall halt activities until the State Environmental Scientist has the opportunity to review the situation. Any recommendations provided by the State Environmental Scientist shall be implemented before activities are allowed to recommence.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5**

- During vegetation trimming/clearing, all roots 5 cm (2 in) in diameter or greater that need to be removed shall be cleanly cut as supervised/directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6**

- No oak tree(s) with a DBH of 13 cm (5 in) or greater shall be removed to construct the ADA improvements. However, if such action is unavoidable, then DPR shall mitigate for the loss of each tree at a 5:1 ratio, which shall be planted within the oak woodlands temporarily impacted by construction or the developed/disturbed areas permanently removed from the trail system. Trimming of oak branches shall only be allowed, if necessary to install project features or obtain clearance for vehicle/equipment operations.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7**

- Only wheeled vehicles shall be used within the drip line of an oak to prevent potential soil compaction and possible tree damage. Additionally, no parking of equipment or storage of vehicles, materials, or debris shall be allowed underneath an oak's canopy.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-8**

- Access routes, staging areas, and the total footprint of disturbance shall be limited to the minimum number/size necessary to complete the project. Routes of travel and project boundaries will be configured to avoid unnecessary intrusions into coast live oak woodland, Venturan coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, nonnative grassland, or San Nicholas Creek.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-9**

- A State Environmental Scientist will be made available for both the pre-construction and construction phases to review grading plans, address resource issues, and monitor ongoing work. The State Environmental Scientist shall maintain communications with the State's Representative to ensure that concerns related to sensitive species/habitats are appropriately and lawfully managed.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-10**

- Best Management Practices (BMPs), to address both the stabilization of soils throughout construction and provide contingencies during rainfall events, shall be incorporated into the project. Measures that could be used include, temporary fencing, hay bales, fiber rolls, organic erosion control blankets, gravel bags, and any other items deemed appropriate by the State's Representative. Where applicable, weed-free products shall be used to minimize the spread of exotics. At all times, sufficient amounts of erosion control

materials shall be available on-site to respond to potential emergencies and any rains forecasted within 24 hours

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-11**

- BMPs shall also comply with water quality standards outlined in the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook (California Stormwater Quality Association, 2003) and guidelines/specifications described in the California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Road to Trail Conversion”, and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Stream Crossing Removal”, as appropriate. The State’s Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, will have the ability to make changes to the BMPs, based on existing site conditions and the potential for excess erosion/siltation, or hazardous spills.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-12**

- To minimize the spread of exotic/invasive plants, all heavy equipment used for the project shall be pressure washed, prior to entering the Nicholas Flat Natural Preserve.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-13**

- Any work required along the banks or within the channel of San Nicholas Creek shall be conducted during low/no flow conditions (between May 15 and October 15) to reduce the potential for water pollution. Some BMPs that will be employed to control potential erosion and sedimentation include, but are not limited, to:
  - Construction areas encroaching into a flowing San Nicholas Creek shall be equipped with barriers that prevent muddy waters from entering the channel and carried downstream. Installation of the barriers shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the release of soils/sediments into the watercourse. Barriers shall be maintained until work in the drainage has been concluded or soils along the bed/bank have undergone final recontouring and stabilization.
  - Silt fencing, fine mesh netting, or fiber rolls will be placed immediately downslope of abutment excavations, and downstream of bridge crossings and instream earthwork, to restrict excess silt, woody debris, and construction waste from entering the drainage.
  - Any removal of material from beneath/within the flows of San Nicholas Creek will not commence until a diversion system, capable of conveying unpolluted waters, is established around the areas of excavation. Diversions systems may consist of a small upstream dam, with flows piped around the work site and discharged into the channel below the disturbance. Alternatively, a berm may be constructed adjacent to the work area that redirects/carries waters away from the instream activities.
  - All fill, removed during excavations within the drainage, shall be stored on stable trail sections or similar nearby locations (approved by the State’s Representative in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist) in a manner that prevents accidental discharge/entry into San Nicholas Creek.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-14**

- Any areas requiring hydroseeding for temporary erosion control shall use only local, native plant species, approved by the State’s Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist. No invasive, exotics shall be included in any proposed seed palette. Species identified on Lists A & B of the California Invasive Plant Council’s List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California, as of October

1999, will be prohibited.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-15**

- Erosion control measures shall be inspected daily during rainfall events and at least weekly throughout construction. Prior to the onset of any precipitation, both active (disturbed) soil areas and stockpiled soils shall be stabilized to prevent sediments from escaping off-site or into San Nicholas Creek. Should inspection determine that any BMPs are in disrepair or ineffectual, action shall be immediately taken to fix the deficiency.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-16**

- A toxic material control and spill-response plan shall be prepared and submitted to the State's Representative before the onset of construction. The plan shall outline techniques that will be used to promptly and effectively respond to any accidental spill. All construction workers will receive instruction regarding spill prevention and methods of containment.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-17**

- The changing of oil, refueling, and other actions that could result in the release of a hazardous substance shall be restricted to designated areas that are a minimum of 15 m (50 ft) from any sensitive habitat (e.g., coast live oak woodland) or drainage. These sites shall be surrounded with berms, sandbags, or other barriers to further prevent the accidental spill of fuel, oil, or chemicals. Any discharges shall be immediately contained, cleaned up, and properly disposed, in accordance with the toxic material control and spill-response plan.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-18**

- Debris or runoff, generated by the project, shall be directed away from any drainage to prevent deposition into waterways. The disposal of materials must be performed in a manner that will minimize unnecessary effects to the environment.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-19**

- Construction dust impacts will be offset through implementation of measures that will appropriately reduce/control emissions generated by the project. The project biologist will also periodically inspect the work area to ensure that construction-related activities do not generate excessive amounts of dust or cause other disturbances.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-20**

- Storage and staging areas shall be placed a minimum of 15 m (50 ft) from the banks of San Nicholas Creek and its tributaries. The site(s) shall be reviewed and approved by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, and shall be limited to areas of development, disturbance, or nonnative habitat. All locations used for storage/staging shall be kept free from trash and other waste. No project-related items shall be stored outside approved staging areas at any time.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-21**

- Any dried plant material, thatch, and/or dead wood within the project limits that could potentially pose a fire hazard will be removed at the beginning of operations, as directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-22**

- All heavy equipment shall be outfitted with spark arrestors or turbo-charging, and maintain a fire extinguisher on board. Service vehicles shall park away from flammable materials (e.g., dry grass, brush) to reduce the chance for wildfires.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-23**

- For reasons of safety, areas of excavation (e.g., large holes) shall be covered overnight or during periods of inactivity. These locations will be periodically inspected, over the course of the project, by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, to ensure that no wildlife has become entrapped and that erosion control measures, as appropriate, are implemented.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-24**

- All native habitat temporarily impacted by construction or developed/disturbed areas permanently removed from the trail system shall either be stabilized with vegetation cleared/salvaged by project operations or revegetated with locally occurring native species, as appropriate. Coordination between the DPR and permitting agencies, regarding mitigation procedures, will be completed to ensure both regulatory compliance and long-term enhancement of the habitat.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-25**

- Any plants used for revegetation work will comply with Federal, State, and County laws requiring inspection for infestations. If requested, a certificate of inspection from the appropriate, overseeing agency shall be provided to DPR. Plants will be examined by the State's Representative, in coordination with the State Environmental Scientist, before accepting delivery.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-26**

- Any weedy vegetation removed during the clearing and grading activities shall be collected and transported to a disposal site within the park. No weedy materials shall be used as mulch on areas temporarily disturbed by construction.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-27**

- The project footprint shall be kept clear of trash to avoid attracting predators. All food and garbage shall be placed in sealed containers and regularly transported from the property. Following construction, any trash, debris, or rubbish remaining within the work limits shall be collected and hauled off to an appropriate facility.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-28**

- At the conclusion of activities, any erosion control measures that are no longer needed, as deemed by the State's Representative, shall be removed and properly disposed off-site. BMPs may remain if the measures are necessary to provide continued stabilization or minimize pollution.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-29**

- All work related to the Nicholas Pond Trail ADA Improvement Project shall be performed during daylight hours. No nighttime operations (including lighting) shall be allowed to complete the project.

**MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-30**

- Conditions set forth in the 401 Water Quality Certification, 404 Nationwide Permit, 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and the Coastal Development Permit shall be observed and implemented as part of the proposed construction.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1**

- Archaeological and Native American monitoring will be employed during construction of the new trail alignment, excavation for bridge footings, rehabilitation of the existing trail beds, and any ground disturbance involved in the construction of the Nicholas Pond overlook. This monitoring will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to unknown buried cultural resources that may be present. The project would then be consistent with State-mandated preservation standards and guidelines used for the adaptive reuse of historic landscape features through the identification and preservation of known and potential historic archaeological resources associated with a historic site.

## **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

### **MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1**

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated to prevent erosion and sediment control during construction wherever the soil is disturbed and until the landscaping has matured. These BMPs would include the preservation of the existing native vegetation, fiber rolls, silt fences, dust control and sandbags or Eco Blok Barriers. The use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) to support areas with a risk of soil erosion or landslides will be incorporated to control erosion and protect waterways to include: The Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction (California Stormwater Quality Association, January 2003), California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Road to Trail Conversion" and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Stream Crossing Removal".
- Please also note Bio Mitigation measures

### **MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-2**

- The project will be monitored by a cultural specialist for all ground disturbing activities. Should paleontological material be unearthed during construction, the archaeologist will make arrangements to salvage the material and consult with a paleontologist.

## **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

### **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT 1**

- State Park lifeguards and rangers would assist in preventative or evacuation methods, as appropriate

## **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY**

### **MITIGATION MEASURE HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY 1**

- The use of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMP's) to support areas with a risk of soil erosion or landslides will be incorporated to control erosion and protect waterways to include: The Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction (California Stormwater Quality Association, January 2003), California State Parks Trails Handbook, Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation "Road to Trail Conversion"

and Best Management Practices for Road Rehabilitation “Stream Crossing Removal”. In addition, permits will be acquired from the appropriate regulating agencies (Army Corp of Engineers, California Dept of Fish and Game, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board).

**NOISE**

No mitigation required

**RECREATION**

No mitigation required

**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

**MITIGATION MEASURE TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

- Traffic control would be put in to place to move equipment in and out of the project site during construction. The County of Los Angeles will be consulted with regarding the location of the accessible parking spot.



## CHAPTER 6 REFERENCES

California Air Resources Board, California Almanac of Emissions and Air Quality 2008

<http://arb.ca.gov/aqd/almanac/almanac08/pdf/chap408.pdf>

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California Department of Parks and Recreation, Leo Carrillo State Park General Plan, October 1996

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey,

[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/rghm/ap/Map\\_index/Pages/F4D.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/rghm/ap/Map_index/Pages/F4D.aspx)

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Hood, J., J. Kelly, N. Evans, and J. MacAleer

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Wake, T.

2000. Archaeological Investigations at CA-LAN-49, and Archaeological Site in the Uplands of Leo Carrillo State Park, Los Angeles County, California.

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