FINAL

INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TOPANGA STATE PARK
PUBLIC USE IMPROVEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2005

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: **TOPANGA STATE PARK PUBLIC USE IMPROVEMENTS**

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 Department of Parks & Rec.
1925 Las Virgenes Road
Calasbasas, CA 91302

Malibu Public Library
23519 Civic Center Way
Malibu, CA 90265

Santa Monica Public Library
1343 Sixth St.
Santa Monica, CA 90406

Pacific Palisades Library
861 Alma Real Dr.
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Woodland Hills Branch Library
22200 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland hills, CA 91364

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project will make improvements to public use facilities at three high-use areas within Topanga State park: Trippet Ranch, Hub Junction, and Los Liones Canyon. At Trippet Ranch, the project will rehabilitate the historic Skeet Lodge for use as an interpretive center; provide accessible pathways, exterior exhibits, and interpretive panels; and restore the landscape to historic prominence. At Hub Junction, miscellaneous site improvements and an interpretive panel will be constructed. Work in the Los Liones area will construct park amenities including an entrance treatment, trailhead improvements and restroom, accessible pathways, interpretive facility improvements, natural creek restoration, native plant revegetation, a demonstration garden, and irrigation improvements.

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

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.

Original signed by: _____ July 5, 2005
Ronald P. Schafer Date
District Superintendent

Original signed by: _____ July 5, 2005
Tina Robinson Date
Environmental Coordinator

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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 Topanga State Park Public Use Improvements project at Topanga State Park, located in the communities of Pacific Palisades and Topanga in the City of Los Angeles, 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. 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 and Recreation
8885 Rio San Diego Dr. #270
San Diego, CA 92108

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Topanga State Park Public Use Improvements project at Topanga 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. Text added for the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration is identified in gray highlighting.

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 less-than-significant levels.

- 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.

- Chapter 7 - Report Preparation
  This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

- Chapter 8 – Public Comment and Responses
  This chapter provides the public comment letters and responses.

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 Topanga State Park Public Use 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 proposed Topanga State Park Public Use Improvements project at Topanga State Park, located in the communities of Pacific Palisades and Topanga in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California. The proposed project would make improvements to public use facilities at three high-use areas within Topanga State park: Trippet Ranch, Hub Junction, and Los Liones Canyon. At Trippet Ranch, the project will rehabilitate the historic Skeet Lodge for use as an interpretive center; provide accessible pathways, exterior exhibits, and interpretive panels; and refurbish the landscape to historic prominence. At Hub Junction, miscellaneous site improvements and an interpretive panel will be constructed. Work in the Los Liones area will construct park amenities including an entrance kiosk/gate, trailhead improvements and restroom, accessible pathways, interpretive facility improvements, natural creek restoration, native plant revegetation, a demonstration garden, various site aesthetic improvements and amenities, and irrigation improvements.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Located within the cliffs and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga State Park features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks and along ridgelines with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The Park is located entirely within the city limits of Los Angeles, approximately 30 miles from the downtown area and near the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu. The Park is located within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and is considered the world's largest wildland park within the boundaries of a major city. Access to the Park is either from State Highway 101 or State Highway 1 to Topanga Canyon Boulevard to the Trippet Ranch, from Sunset Boulevard to Los Liones/Will Rogers SHP/Rustic Canyon, or from Mulholland Drive (State Highway 268) where it runs along the crest of the mountains north of the Park. Trail access is also available from various points within the outlying communities, adjacent parkland, and from Will Rogers State Historic Park which adjoins the southeastern boundary of the Park. Three different public-use areas within the Park are identified for the project improvements – Los Liones Canyon, Trippet Ranch and Hub Junction.

2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Los Liones Canyon is located less than a mile from State Highway 1 (Pacific Coast Highway - PCH) off Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades. Some day-use facilities exist within the 32 acres of this gateway area including a restroom, picnic tables and shade ramadas, an outdoor amphitheater, a trailer & pad, trails, and several parking areas. Additional improvements are needed to serve both the public and school groups. A trailhead restroom, additional accessible trails, interpretive facility improvements, natural creek reconstruction, a demonstration garden, and native plant revegetation would enhance the visitor's experience. Public safety and acts of

vandalism are after-hours issues at the Los Liones site, therefore, the project originally proposed to construct an electric gate with keypad and remote access that would close at sunset and open at 8:00 AM. 24 hour gate access would have been provided to the two other users of Los Liones Road, the nearby Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) and a secondary entrance for the Getty Villa. However, during the public review period, a letter was received from the representative for the J. Paul Getty Trust opposing the installation of the gate. An agreement could not be reached with the J. Paul Getty Trust that would allow the installation of a gate as part of this project. The J. Paul Getty Trust is entitled to use the secondary entrance on Los Liones Drive per the conditions of City Plan Case No 98-0361 CU & Coastal Development Permit No. 98-015 as follows: "*Vehicular access for the general public shall be limited to entering the Villa property from Pacific Coast highway (its present entrance) and exiting from the Villa property onto Coastline Drive over the existing driveway to Pacific Coast highway, except that employees, visiting scholars, business visitors, and deliveries shall primarily use Los Liones Drive for ingress and egress to the site. Buses shall be limited to entering the site from Pacific Coast Highway and exiting the site onto Los Liones Drive." "Access to Los Liones Drive shall be provided as an alternate means for exiting of visitors in an emergency or temporary closure or restriction of traffic on Pacific Coast Highway.*"

Trippet Ranch, located in the Park near the community of Topanga, contains structures built between 1917 and 1940. The buildings are in a state of disrepair and moderate deterioration. The area is also rich in archaeological sites and some of the oldest recorded sites in the region are located nearby. Within the ranch area, the Skeet Lodge provides interpretive programs to approximately 80 school groups per year. Traditionally, these programs have relied heavily on volunteer support but there is no formal planning documentation for exhibits and interpretive programs. The school groups and the public are underserved by existing interpretive facilities and the existing curatorial maintenance and collection documentation do not meet professional standards. Formal development of interpretive exhibits in a rehabilitated historic building would better accommodate the large number of school groups, the visiting public, and the volunteers that assist California Department of Parks and Recreation in serving them. Rehabilitation of the Skeet Lodge would also provide meeting space for special use groups. Additionally, the grounds need to be landscaped to eliminate dead and dying plantings, restore the historic setting, accommodate ADA uses, repair erosion damage, and remove potentially hazardous lead contaminated soil from the former skeet range.

The area known as Hub Junction is a major confluence of several trails originating from within the Park as well as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property, Will Rogers State Historic Park, and city-owned property. The extensive "Backbone Trail" passes through Hub Junction and spans over 50 miles between Will Rogers SHP and Point Mugu State Park. The large numbers of users in this area make this an ideal spot for interpretive and educational panels. Additionally, a future phase may contain a permanent restroom facility (currently unfunded). The site will allow for portable restrooms in the interim. A restroom is necessary at the site to provide waste management for the large number of people that pass through the area.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project will enhance the visitor experience at Los Liones by reducing vandalism and improving both the function and appearance of the park facilities at the site. Additionally, the construction of the shunt would provide a superior environment for the native flora and fauna at the site, water quality and visitor experience.

Restoration of the historic Skeet Lodge and the surrounding environment will provide necessary stewardship for the park resources at the site. Additionally, the rehabilitation will provide ADA access to the Skeet Lodge. The facility at Hub Junction will provide an improved environment and information resource for park users at a site central to many trail users.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Topanga Public Use Improvements will take place in three separate locations within the park and utilize several funding sources. The primary source of funding is provided through the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (2002 Resources Bond – Prop 40). The locations are shown on Figure 2 and are described separately below.

Los Liones Canyon:

ARCHITECTURAL:

Work at this location includes the construction of an entrance treatment with stone-clad architectural features that will "announce" the entrance into the canyon; construction of a new public Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant restroom at the westerly end of the canyon near the trailhead entrance to the hiking trail; and additional pathway construction to accommodate accessibility to the new public restroom.

The new ADA compliant public restroom will match the existing restroom in design but will incorporate sustainable design techniques and materials. A new accessible path will be constructed from the upper parking lot to this new public restroom and to the trail head vicinity located at the western end of the canyon.

An existing chain-link fence will be removed from the existing masonry wall located at the western end of the canyon. Stone veneer and a new metal fence will be added to this wall. This will enhance the existing masonry wall and become an aesthetically pleasing focal point for the entrance to the hiking trail and Topanga Canyon.

ENGINEERING:

Work at this location will support the architectural work outlined above, with exception of a "Shunt" that will be used as a water source to redirect a portion of the water from a storm drain to a previously constructed creekbed.

In order to accommodate an entrance treatment and park entrance sign, the design of street improvements (island) and required traffic control changes (striping, signage, etc.) will be necessary. Approval from the City of Los Angeles will be required. The entrance

treatment will provide an aesthetically pleasing entrance to the Los Liones site improvements. The entrance treatment will be designed to match the existing rockwork at the Los Liones site. Additionally, the Department of Parks and Recreation will coordinate with The J. Paul Getty Trust and Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints to develop a final design for the entrance treatment and appropriate signage prior to the application to the City of Los Angeles for an encroachment permit.

In order to accommodate new restroom facilities, excavation for building pad footings approximately three feet in depth, and minor surface grading will be necessary.

Minor surface grading will also be required to provide identified accessible trail improvements extending from the existing parking lot west of the outdoor classroom to the vicinity or the existing parking lot adjacent to the park's trail head. These accessible trail improvements will also provide an accessible path of travel to the new restroom facility as shown on Figure 8. Native soil will be mixed with a partial decomposed granite surface and a polymer-based soil stabilizer that provides improved erosion control while preserving the appearance of the native soil.

Trenching within already improved city streets will be required to provide utility services to the new park restroom, and electrical service to the entrance gate area.

Construction of a shunt (diversion pipe) will be completed near the trail entrance, within an existing drainage structure that currently directs seasonal creek water into a storm drain system. This portion of the project may occur in a later phase and will require approval from permitting authorities for streambed alteration. The installation of the shunt will require a hydrology study and includes trenching and installing pipe from the existing drainage structure to the previously constructed streambed. The purpose of the shunt is to divert water from the storm drain system into the constructed stream, during high water flows. This water diversion is designed to de-silt run-off from Topanga Canyon, minimize irrigation of the native vegetation on-site, and recharge the aquifer. Approval from the City and County of Los Angeles will also be required for the shunt and connections for utility services.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:

Around the existing out-door amphitheater/classroom, a native plant demonstration garden will be an installed, as shown on Figure 8. The native plant species will be selected from the Plant list in Table 1. The size, quantities and locations are to be determined by the State Resource Ecologist. Descriptive plant placards will be placed adjacent to the native plantings.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Landscaping work will include tree trimming and removal, re-planting, and facility construction that may adversely affect native birds during nesting season. Therefore, monitoring may be required during construction to assess the presence or absence of breeding birds. If sensitive species are encountered during construction activities, work will stop in that area until a State Representative can evaluate the situation.

The Landscape Architect will assist in determining the species type, size, quantities and

TABLE 1
Demonstration Garden Plant List

Astralagas trichopodus…….Southern California Locoweed
Calochortus spp…….. Mariposa Lily
Cardamine californica…….. Milkmaids, Toothwort?
Castilleja spp…….. Indian Paintbrush
Centaurium venustum…… Canchalagua
Chlorogalum pomeridianum...Soap Plant, Amole
Cryptantha spp……...Popcorn Flower
Delphinium spp…….. Larkspur
Dudleya spp…… Dudleya
Encelia californica…….. California Encelia
Eremocarpus setigerus……...Turkey Mullein, Dove Weed
Erigeron foliosus……. Fleabane
Eriogonum spp……. Buckwheat
Erysimum capitatum……... Wallflower
Fritillaria biflora……. Chocolate Lily
Gnaphalium californicum…...California Everlasting
Helianthus spp……. Sunflower
Lasthenia chrysostoma……..Common Goldfields
Layia platyglossa…….. Tidy Tips
Lotus spp…….. Lotus
Mimulus spp…….. .Monkey Flower
Nemophila menziesii……. .Baby Blue Eyes
Orthocarpus purpurascens….Owl's Clover
Penstemon spp……. Penstemon
Phacelia spp……. Phacelea
Ranunculus californicus…… California Buttercup
Rhamnus californica…….. .Coffeeberry
Rhamnus crocea……. Redberry
Rhus integrifolia……. Lemonade berry
Rhus trilobata……. Squaw Bush
Ribes aureum…….. Golden Current
Ribes malvaceum……..Chaparral Current
Ribes speciosum……. Fuschia-flowered Gooseberry
Rosa californica…….. California Wild Rose
Silene laciniata…….. Fringed Indian Pink
Sisyrinchium bellum…….. Blue-eyed Grass
Thysanocarpus curvipes…….Hairy Fringe-pod, Lace-pod
Trichostema lanatum……. Woolly Blue Curls
Venegasia carpesioides……..Canyon Sunflower
Viola pendunculata……. Johnny-jump-up
Zauschneria californica…….. California Fuschia

Vines for Trellising

Clematis
Honeysuckle
Wild Morning Glory
Wild Cucumber
Canyon Pea

location of native plants for use in the native interpretive garden. The Landscape Architect will also assist the Interpreters in the correct plant descriptions for the native plant descriptive placards and coordinate with the District Resource Ecologist to salvage the existing native plants in the area of the new restroom construction.

A Biological Monitor shall be present during all vegetative pruning and during construction and grading activities within the bird breeding season, if sensitive species are located during presence/absence surveys. If a sensitive species is encountered, work shall be stopped in that area until a State Representative/Resource Ecologist can evaluate the situation to avoid impacting native wildlife. Due to the close proximity of the shunt to riparian habitat, work activities for the shunt should take place outside the breeding season for migratory birds (March 15 – September 15). Existing southwestern willow scrub shall be pruned prior to construction and take place outside the breeding season. Pruned willow cuttings shall be salvaged and used for replanting at the end of construction.

Trippet Ranch

ARCHITECTURAL:

The historic Skeet Lodge will be rehabilitated for better use as an interpretive center. This will include structural repair to the exterior of the brick masonry walls, replacement of structural wood framing damaged by dry-rot and termites, and repair of doors and windows to their original working conditions. Improvements will be undertaken to provide ADA accessibility into the building's interior and to its surrounding landscaped areas. This shall include the path of travel from accessible parking to the Skeet Lodge entrance.

Hazardous material remediation will also be undertaken depending on the recommendations of HAZMAT Report that is currently being prepared. These may include lead and asbestos abatement both in and on the Skeet Lodge as well as its surrounding landscaped areas.

ENGINEERING:

The grounds immediately adjacent to the historic Skeet Lodge and historic caretaker's house (Superintendent's residence) require drainage improvements and other measures to protect the existing structures.

In regards to the Skeet Lodge, minor grading of the areas immediately to the north and east of the structure will be needed to redirect water runoff toward the empty lawn area north of the building. Surface drains will be installed in areas where grading is not feasible, and will be connected to the existing surface drainage system. In addition, shallow trenching approximately two feet in depth will be required to provide phone lines to the lodge allowing installation of an alarm system. Phone lines can be installed within the existing accessible path of travel to the lodge, requiring repair to existing walk areas that are damaged.

In regard to the Trippet Ranch House, the project proposes to excavate a trench to replace existing drain pipe and surface drains, and install new piping/surface drains with

impermeable backing material. Existing piping being replaced can be found up to eight feet in depth from the finish ground surface. Minor area grading will be completed to direct runoff water to installed surface drains. All or a portion of the work near the Trippet Ranch House may occur in a later phase due to existing funding constraints.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:

Landscape Architecture work at this location consists of three different sites as follows:

The first area is located along the Park entry road and is known as the "Historic Orchard". In this area, missing or dead orchard trees will be replaced. Quantities, type, size, and location of the replacement trees will be determined by the State Park Historian and the District State Resource Ecologist. Along with the restoration of the "Historic Orchard" there will be a need to restore proper drainage away from the existing historic Trippet Ranch House and restore the existing retaining walls. This drainage area will require some sub-surface engineering as well as site specific surface grading as addressed above under Engineering. The rock retaining walls near the Trippet Ranch House are in need of immediate maintenance and repair and will be repaired initially by regrouting the sections in disrepair to match the existing grout. All work will be done in accordance with the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The second area consists of the row of eucalyptus trees directly in front of the Superintendent's house, a historic structure along the edge of the parking lot. These trees have been cut to the stumps and the stumps have re-sprouted new growth. The new re-growth will be removed and the stumps will be stump ground and removed. Replacement trees will be planted per the direction of the State Park Historian and State Resource Ecologist. Along with the tree replacement, a new information/interpretation panel will be installed in front of the accessible parking stalls. The new information panel will match the existing panel located across the parking lot to the north.

The third area encompasses the restoration of the landscaping near the Skeet Lodge. The soil access road that leads to the historic Skeet Lodge will be repaired, selected native trees will be pruned and trimmed, the skeet range lawn will be restored, and minor drainage improvements will be made around the foundation of the Skeet Lodge. The soil access road has areas with erosion damage that will require some fine grading. To prevent future erosion damage to the access road, the entire area shall have a soil stabilizer applied and will be re-compacted to ensure proper drainage and firmness. Several oak trees close to or growing into the historic Skeet Lodge shall be pruned by a certified arborist to prevent damage to the building's historic fabric. Additionally, the pruning of these oak trees shall be monitored by the District State Resource Ecologist to ensure proper pruning techniques of native plant materials. The skeet range lawn may contain contaminants (especially lead from skeet shooting) and require removal and replacement of the topsoil. The soil will be analyzed and deposed of according to acceptable protocols for the removal of hazardous waste, as necessary. Additionally, the irrigation system will need to be replaced and the entire lawn shall be reseeded. The decomposed granite path and picnic area that circles the lawn shall also be reestablished.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL:

Archaeological work will include pre-work testing to determine the presence/absence of subsurface cultural resources in the area of the historic orchard and the Skeet Lodge lawn. Testing will include no more than 20 hand-excavated auger holes (ca. 10cm diameter) or Shovel Test Pits (ca. 30 cm diameter). Shovel Test Pits will be used if the soil is too rocky to effectively use the hand auger. Augers (or Shovel Test Pits) will be approximately 50 cm deep, or if an archaeological deposit is found, to sterile soil if it is not beyond the reach of the equipment. If potential archaeological deposits are found during auguring, one to two 1x1m test units (excavated to 50 to 100 centimeters or depth of deposit) will be placed in those locations deemed to need further inspection and evaluation.

The results of this testing will be used to assist the project team in avoiding any significant impacts to cultural resources during the course of the project.

Additionally, archaeological monitoring of any subsurface project work (grading, excavation, etc.) in the Trippet Ranch area will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to any potentially buried historic or prehistoric resources. If significant cultural resources are found during monitoring, work will stop in that area until a State Archaeologist can evaluate the find and determine a recovery, avoidance, or protection plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Landscaping work will include tree trimming and removal, re-planting, and facility construction that may adversely affect native birds during nesting season. Therefore, monitoring will be required during construction to assess the presence or absence of breeding birds. If sensitive species are encountered during construction activities, work will stop in that area until a State Representative can evaluate the situation.

At the Skeet Lodge there is a large oak tree that is leaning against the lodge in the NW corner. The project team will determine, in consultation with an arborist, if the tree will be pruned or removed. Exotics in the landscape surrounding the shooting range will be removed. Tree pruning and trimming shall take place outside the bird breeding season (March 15 – September 15). A Biological Monitor shall be present during all vegetative pruning.

Hub Junction

ARCHITECTURAL:

A rest area/interpretive shade structure will be constructed for the hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers who travel along the backbone trail of the Santa Monica Mountains.

ENGINEERING:

In order to accommodate all park patrons visiting this area, minor surface grading and shallow excavation work will be required. Footings approximately three feet in depth or less are necessary to construct the planned interpretive shade structure. Various surface areas surrounding the structure will need to be graded to comply with current

California Building Code Title 24 Standards to accommodate disabled park patrons.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:

“Hub Junction” is located at the intersection of three different access roads in the Topanga Canyon trail system. An interpretive exhibit structure shall be constructed to provide information and shade at this location. For complete structure reference see Topanga Canyon State Park, Hub Junction Interpretive Exhibit, Details sheet L-3 for size, materials, and construction/installation.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Landscaping work will include tree trimming and removal, re-planting, and facility construction that may adversely affect native birds during nesting season. Therefore, monitoring may be required during construction to assess the presence or absence of breeding birds. If sensitive species are encountered during construction activities, work will stop in that area until a State Representative can evaluate the situation.

A biological monitor shall either direct placement of fencing on site prior to or be present during construction and grading activities of the rest area/interpretive structure to ensure avoidance of impacts to the surrounding native vegetation and wildlife. A State Resource Ecologist will assist the Interpreters in the correct descriptions of native plants and animals as needed.

2.6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

All work will occur during the daylight hours Monday through Friday. Heavy equipment or loud equipment use, if necessary, will not occur before 7:00 AM or after 7:00 PM. Staging areas for construction will be limited to existing hard surfaces, disturbed areas, or designated parking areas. No staging will be allowed in natural habitat or in archaeologically sensitive areas.

2.7 VISITATION TO TOPANGA STATE PARK

Topanga State Park is located adjacent to the densest populated urban area in California and receives heavy use. The Park is used by many school groups for interpretive activities and receives tremendous support from local volunteers. The Park is also used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking, wildlife viewing, remote camping, and cross-country running.

2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The project is consistent with the Topanga State Park General Plan. The gating of Los Liones Road is likely not consistent with City of Los Angeles policies for public roads. However, Los Liones Road only serves two users other than the State Park and is not a through road. The area is subject to vandalism and the road closure would be consistent with public park policies to close public access after sunset. Nearby residents have also expressed concerns about vandalism in the Park to park staff in the past.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

This project will require encroachment permits and approval from the City of Los Angeles for work done within the Los Liones Road right of way, and from Los Angeles County for improvements associated with the sedimentation basin. A Coastal Permit will be required for the work at the Los Liones site. Additionally, construction of the shunt will require a 1601 Streambed Alteration permit from the California Department of Fish and Game and may require approval from the US Army Corp of Engineers. All project sites may be subject to approval from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

The Interim Public Use Plan for the Lower Topanga Acquisition (SCH # 201121028) is another State Park project located in the general vicinity. This project will serve the recent acquisition at Lower Topanga and future projects will proceed at that site as funding becomes available. It is not anticipated that the scope and scale of such projects would create any adverse cumulative effects such as traffic generation due to the small size of any proposed new public access. Several projects for habitat restoration may proceed at the site. Cultural resources will be evaluated and, if necessary, any potentially significant adverse effects avoided as a condition of project approval.

CHAPTER 3
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1.	Project Title:	Topanga State Park Public Use Improvements
2.	Lead Agency Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
3.	Contact Person & Phone Number:	Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator (619) 220-5300
4.	Project Location:	Topanga State Park
5.	Project Sponsor Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation Angeles District 1925 Las Virgenes Road Calabasas, CA 91302
6.	General Plan Designation:	State Park
7.	Zoning:	State Park

8.Description of Project: The project will make improvements to public use facilities at three high-use areas within Topanga State park: Trippet Ranch, Hub Junction, and Los Liones Canyon. At Trippet Ranch, the project will rehabilitate the historic Skeet Lodge for better use as an interpretive center; provide accessible pathways, exterior exhibits, and interpretive panels; and restore the landscape to historic prominence. At Hub Junction, miscellaneous site improvements and an interpretive panel will be constructed. Work in the Los Liones area will construct park amenities including an entrance kiosk/gate, trailhead improvements and restroom, accessible pathways, interpretive facility improvements, natural creek restoration, native plant revegetation, a demonstration garden, and irrigation improvements.

9.	Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:	Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use Planning)
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.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☒ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☒ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☒ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☐ 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. ☐

Original signed by: July 5, 2005

Tina Robinson — Date

Environmental Coordinator

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

The scenic values at Topanga State Park vary from high quality to less pleasing urban edge aesthetics. The aesthetic values at Los Liones are compromised by its urban interface, lack of vistas, and intermittent graffiti on the park buildings and retention basin. Prior to Park acquisition, the site was proposed for development and fill material was placed within the canyon. The day-use site is built on the fill material. Aesthetically pleasing attributes at Los Liones were built with the help of local volunteers and include a man-made creek, native plantings, rock posts on the picnic area ramadas, trails, and the amphitheatre. The Trippet Ranch has generally high scenic values which are somewhat detracted by minor maintenance needs at the park. Hub Junction is located at a high point with high scenic values that are detracted by fire breaks and roads within the Park.

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

DISCUSSION

a, b, c, & d)

MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS-1

- The project design incorporates park scenic values and will provide a much improved entrance and appearance at Los Liones, landscape repair and restoration at Trippet Ranch, and a Park Interpretive Panel at Hub Junction that will provide shade and a resting place for park users.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The sites are located within a State Park and no commercial agricultural production exists. A portion of the project at Trippet Ranch has a small private orchard that is old and not viable.

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* 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) No land will be converted into a new use that eliminates agriculture.

b) No zoning is proposed to be changed.

c) The old orchard will be replanted to provide consistency with the historic landscape elements for the Trippet Ranch.

III. AIR QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of the Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties in southern California. The site is in an air quality non attainment district however, according to the 2000 Air Quality Report for the South Coast Air Basin, this basin is no longer recording the highest ozone concentration in the nation.

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* 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,b,c,d,& e) The scope and scale of the proposed activities are small in nature and do not require excessive ground disturbance. More vehicular trips may be generated due to the improved amenities at Trippet Ranch and Los Liones Canyon, however, the air quality effect would be nominal because they would be less than 100 trips per day to each site. Dust control measures will be implemented according to CSP standard specifications to reduce airborne dust during construction. Any potentially hazardous substances such as lead and asbestos will be removed and disposed of according to accepted protocols for the handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1

- Dust control measures will be implemented according to CSP standard specifications to reduce airborne dust during construction.
- Any potentially hazardous substances such as lead and asbestos will be removed and disposed of according to accepted protocols for the handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plant Communities

Habitat types located within Topanga State Park, and in the area of this project, include a mix of live oak woodlands and mixed chaparral on the hills and in ravines, and southern willow scrub in the perennial intermittent streams. Plant communities for each location are discussed below.

Los Liones: Los Liones Canyon is located on the Pacific Palisades part of Topanga State Park. There are several areas of development within this site, including trails, a restroom, and picnic ramada's. Los Liones Canyon is characterized by very steep chaparral covered canyon walls and Los Liones Creek. Los Liones Creek is dominated by southern willow scrub at the trailhead and somewhat barren down below the trail head. Recent revegetation efforts have occurred in this area and include the area on the northside of Los Liones Road. Recent revegetation efforts focused on shrub lands and exotic removal. Revegetated areas support salvaged shrubs such as California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*).

Trippet Ranch: Trippet Ranch is the main entrance to the State Park from the Topanga Canyon side and is located near the top of the canyon. This area is dominated by oak woodlands and chaparral covered hills. In addition, in and around the existing facilities there are areas of historic and nonhistoric landscaping and ornamental trees. At the ranch house, the area is covered by historical vegetation and landscaping and includes a former garden area and orchard. Additional historic period ornamental vegetation includes grapes and typical potted flowers such as geraniums. Within the main parking lot adjacent to the ranch house, coast live oaks have been planted in islands. The dominant vegetation surrounding this area is live oak woodlands. At the Skeet Lodge, the area is surrounded by coast live oaks and non-native ruderal vegetation on the slopes directly below the trail and above the shooting range.

Hub Junction: Hub Junction is a large bare area where several trails meet. This area is marked as a confluence of several trails and fire roads and is maintained for routes of travel. As a result, Hub Junction itself is barren. However, the surrounding vegetation community is mixed chaparral dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*) and ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.). Slopes are steep and the soils loose, resulting in erosion and slope failures where the native vegetation is no longer present. In open areas between shrubs, wildflowers can be abundant in years of adequate rainfall.

Sensitive Plants

Topanga State Park is home to several sensitive plant species and plant communities. The varied topography of the Santa Monica Mountain creates a variety of habitat types which is turn supports a diverse suite of native plants. DFG's Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind 2003) identifies four sensitive plant species and one sensitive plant community from the Topanga USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map. Table 1 lists those species and communities known to occur in the vicinity.

Table 1. Sensitive Plant Taxa known to occur in the project vicinity

Species	**Status**	**CNDDB Location**	**Potential for Occurrence**
Astragalus brauntonii – Braunton's milkvetch	FE 1B	Topanga Canyon/Hub Junction, Los Liones Canyon, Temescal Ridge	High
Astragalus pynchostachyus var. *lanosissimus* – Ventura marsh milk vetch	FE SE 1B	Near seahore at Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat type does not occur within the project area.
Calochortus plummerae – Plummer's mariposa lily	1B	Topanga Canyon	Moderate to high
Dudleya cymosa ssp. *ovalifolia* – Santa Monica Mountain's dudleya	FT 1B	South of Trippet Ranch within the Park. Occurs on conglomerate rock	Moderate to high
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland		Topanga Canyon, Temescal Canyon on valley floor	Low – project does not occur on the valley floor

FE – Federally endangered; FT – Federally threatened; SE – State Endangered; ST – State threatened

Sensitive Wildlife

Topanga State Park is home to a diverse wildlife population. Chaparral and oak woodland species are present within the project area. DFG's Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind 2003) search of the Topanga USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map resulted in seven sensitive species being known from the project vicinity. Table 2 lists those species and habitats found to occur within the project vicinity.

Table 2: Sensitive Wildlife Species Known to Occur within the Project Vicinity

Species	**Status**	**CNDDB Location**	**Potential for Occurrence**
Southern steelhead – *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	FE CSC	Topanga Canyon/Topanga Creek	Low – Topanga Creek does not pass through the project area.
Southwestern pond turtle – *Clemmys marmorata pallida*	FSC CSC	Old Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat does not occur on site.
Coastal western whiptail – *Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*	CSC	Topanga Canyon Blvd.	Moderate to high
Coast horned lizard – *Phrynosoma coronatum*	FSC CSC	Topanga Canyon	Moderate to high
Santa Monica shieldback katydid – *Neduba longipennis*		Topanga Canyon	High
Globose dune beetle – *Coelus globosus*		Foredune habitat at Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat not present on site
Monarch butterfly – *Danaus plexippus*		Los Liones Canyon – known to overwinter at the Getty Museum	High

FE – Federally endangered; FSC – Federal Species of Special Concern; CSC – California Species of Special Concern.

Listed Birds
No listed or sensitive bird species are known to occur in the project vicinity. However, migratory birds are protected during the breeding season (March 15 – Sept. 15), therefore any tree removal, trimming or thinning shall take place outside the breeding season.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

DISCUSSION

a, d, e & f) The proposed project is located within a State Park that provides protected habitat to native flora and fauna, including sensitive, candidate or special status species. However, the project has been designed to avoid significant impacts to native flora and fauna. The work primarily occurs within the developed portions of Topanga State Park. Previous restoration efforts by State Parks and local citizens will be protected, enhanced, or, if necessary, replanted as part of the project.

b) The construction of the shunt is located near riparian habitat and may require minor trimming and/or removal of riparian vegetation. All work will be monitored and reviewed by a State Park Resource Ecologist to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects.

c) The majority of the project is not located within a wetland or riparian area. The construction of the shunt would occur within a maintained flood control structure and provide water to a manmade creek.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1

- No tree work (removal, pruning, trimming or thinning) shall take place during the passerine or migratory bird breeding season (March 1-Sept. 15) and tree work between February 1 and 28, shall be monitored by a qualified biologist once a week to ensure that no impacts occur to nesting raptors..
- Trimming or removal of native oak trees must be approved by a certified arborist and State Park Resource Ecologist.
- Oak trees that must be removed will be replaced on site in a location approved by a State Park Resource Ecologist and Cultural Resource Specialist in a ratio of 10:1 for mature trees and 5:1 for trees with 4" or less diameter.
- A biological monitor shall be on site during any vegetation removal or modification. Additionally, should potentially disturbing project activities (such as vegetation removal or equipment use adjacent to habitat) take place during the raptor, passerine, or migratory bird breeding season, a biological monitor shall be onsite as determined by weekly presence or absence surveys for breeding birds and redirect construction activities to avoid impacts to such birds.
- BMPs shall be used for all exposed dirt/spoils, exposed excavated dirt shall be covered, silt fencing shall be used at Los Liones and Hub Junction, and wattles or some other appropriate (not straw bales) slope stabilizer shall be used at Hub Junction to help prevent excessive runoff.
- Native plants (especially shrubs) shall be salvaged whenever possible and replaced on site at Los Liones.
- Any areas to be revegetated shall only use native southern California species known to occur in the area or were collected on site. Seeding should take place during the fall month (Oct. – Dec.).
- Construction equipment shall be cleaned before and after working on site.
- Staging areas shall be in areas currently barren of native vegetation. Native vegetation shall not be removed for staging.
- If necessary, snow fencing shall be placed along any area where native vegetation could be impacted by ongoing construction (delineated as Environmentally Sensitive Area/ESA).

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Precontact and Ethnographic Information

The earliest evidence of human habitation in the region was found at Arlington Springs on Santa Rosa Island where the skeletal remains of a woman have yielded a date of ca. 13,000 years before present (BP). Other early dates along the coast include sites that have been dated to 8,000 to 10,000 years BP.

A. Treganza and A. Bierman first defined the precontact chronology of the Topanga Canyon area in 1958. They identified and named the Topanga Complex and identified two phases within this complex based on excavations at CA-LAN-1 (the Tank Site) and CA-LAN-2 in upper Topanga Canyon near the project area at Trippet Ranch. Phase I (pre-5,000 BP) is typified by chipped-stone scraper-planes, choppers, and hammerstones. In addition, they recovered several thousand “millingstones” and manos that were presumed to indicate exploitation of seed resources. Phase II (circa 5,000-3,000 BP) is typified by mortars and pestles, smaller side-notched projectile points, and cogged stones. K. Johnson defined a third Topanga phase (3,000-2,000 BP) in 1966. This phase was characterized by the presence of large rock-lined earth ovens, flexed burials, pressure-flaked points and an increase in the use of mortars and pestles.

During the Late Period (2,000 BP to contact) the area of Topanga Canyon was on the border between the territories of the Tongva (Gabrielino) to the east, and the Ventureño Chumash to the west. Linguistically, the Chumash appear to be the descendents of the earlier inhabitants of the region, while the Tongva are linguistically related to the desert and Great Basin tribes of the Uto-Aztecan language family and appear to have moved into the area around 3,000 years ago. Although these two groups spoke different languages there seems to have been significant interaction—including marriage, trade, and political alliances—between the Tongva and the Chumash within this border region. The Chumash are considered to be one of the most complex native Californian groups. They had a highly developed maritime industry and a complex political and social organization, marked by the use of a bead money system. The Tongva had similar political organization and material culture as the Chumash, but unlike the Chumash, Tongva social organization was based on patrilineal lineages.

Cabrillo may have had contact with local populations in this region during his explorations of 1542, but Europeans did not frequently visit the Santa Monica Mountain region in the early historic period. Missions San Gabriel and San Fernando were established in 1771 and 1797 respectively and began recruitment within the Native American communities. The relocation of neophytes to these missions depopulated many Tongva and Chumash villages and disease further decimated the indigenous population.

Historic Information

The Trippet Ranch contains a concentration of unique buildings and landscape features that are eligible for listing on both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources. Completed in 1940, the ranch also contains certain historic landscape elements that date back to 1917. These and other character-defining elements contribute to a historic rural landscape district, which includes a ranch house, skeet lodge, horse stables, maintenance shed, stonework retaining walls, earthen dam and holding pond, gardens, and orchard. Together, the ranch is representative of a type and style of recreational

“gentleman’s ranch,” found throughout the mountain and foothill areas that surround the Los Angeles Basin. Dating back to before World War I, these ranches represent the broad pattern of Los Angeles County’s recreational history extending well into the post-World War II period. They are the material manifestation of the type of buildings and their associative rural landscapes representative of a lifestyle known as a “gentleman’s ranch.” Built more as a weekend retreat from urban life, their owners were typically members of Los Angeles’ upper-middle class social elite. The Trippet Ranch is also historically associated with its owner, Oscar Trippet, Jr., a noted corporate lawyer and civic leader who was serving as president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce during the ranch’s period of historic significance. From 1940 to 1960, Trippet developed the ranch, which he had inherited from his father, U. S. District Court Judge Oscar A. Trippet, Sr. The latter had acquired the property in 1917 as a place where he and his family could visit, socialize, and recreate with friends and business associates. Except for a few minor structures dating back to his father’s ownership, Trippet, Jr. made extensive improvements to the ranch. He hired noted Los Angeles architect and city planner Sumner Spaulding, who specialized in country estates. Among his noteworthy works are the Santa Catalina Island Casino, the campus buildings at Pomona College and UCLA, and Harold Lloyd's "Greenacres" estate at Beverly Hills. Noted for his rational approach to the specifics of environment and to the needs of his clients, Spaulding’s design materialized into a cluster of Monterey Revival style ranch buildings that continue to convey a romantic pastoral scene of early California, while carefully and functionally linked to the present. Their key character-defining features include low-scaled volumes; an easy-going, rationally devised plan; undecorated and uninterrupted exterior surfaces; and an ability to open up to the outdoors, which did more to contribute to their real mood. Their mortared brick exterior walls and burned clay roofing tile shingles yield important information regarding mid-20th century brick masonry building materials and roofing practices.

An actual working ranch, *Rancho Las Lomas Celestiales* [Heavenly Hills Ranch]’s primary function was to provide relaxation and recreational opportunities for the Trippet family and their guests. Avid recreational hunters, the Trippets stayed at the Skeet Lodge building, where they and their guests could practice shooting at clay pigeons catapulted from two trap houses some 120 feet to the north. Besides skeet shooting—a sport that had attained widespread popularity among the wealthy elite during this time—the ranch offered horseback riding and hunting in the nearby mountains. The Trippets often entertained their guests in front of the lodge’s large sunken fireplace, or outside under the covered patio by the built-in barbecue grill. They left the ranch’s daily operation to a superintendent, who lived with his own family in the Trippet Ranch House across from the stables and maintenance shed. The Trippet Ranch House is recorded as the Superintendent’s House on historic documents.

While many of the historic gentleman’s ranches of the period have been sold and subdivided into smaller residential tracts, the Trippet Ranch, like the nearby Will Rogers Ranch, is a relatively rare surviving example of a historic period landscape that can offer the public a rare glimpse into a lifestyle unique to the area.

All of the contributing buildings, structures, and landscape features have undergone alterations to adapt them to park use. However these are minimal and they still manage to retain a great deal of their historic integrity. The landscaping, including the original gardens, is relatively intact, however, it is lacking some if not all of its original planting material, especially the garden and groundcover areas to the northwest and west of the Superintendent’s house. The semi-circular walk that was part of the original skeet range in the lawn area next to the Skeet Lodge is no longer extant.

Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

A records and literature search, conducted at the South Central Coastal Information Center, revealed that there was one precontact archaeological site (CA-LAN-1265) previously recorded immediately adjacent to the project area at Trippet Ranch, and five other sites located within a ½-mile radius of the project location. No previously recorded sites were found to be located within or adjacent to the other two project areas.

In November 2000, California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) historian Alexander D. Bevil conducted a preliminary survey, inventory, evaluation, and recordation of the Trippet Ranch complex to determine whether it was eligible for listing on the National and California Registers as a historic district. Based on this information, in December 2002, DPR contracted the firm of BOA Architecture to complete a historic structures report (HSR) on the ranch complex, which included an update of the previous DPR recordation forms. The HSR supported Mr. Bevil's initial conclusion that the ranch complex was eligible for listing. The only difference was that the consultant's architectural historian recommended its listing as a historic cultural landscape historic district. To date, the recommendations have not been forwarded to the State Office of Historic Preservation for determination.

A letter was sent to the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting information on traditional cultural properties within the project areas. The search of the NAHC sacred lands file did not indicate the presence of any resources within or immediately adjacent to any of the three project areas. Letters were sent to those Chumash and Tongva/Gabrielino identified by the NAHC as points of contact for the area. Phone calls were placed to those who had not responded within two weeks of receipt of the letter, to ensure that there were no concerns, comments, or questions regarding this project. Most had no concerns. A few Native American contacts recommended monitoring, especially at Trippet Ranch, due to its proximity to known archaeological sites.

Project Work

Archaeological Investigations

Archaeological survey investigations were conducted at the three project areas during three separate site visits. Initial project area surveys were conducted by Marla Mealey—Associate State Archaeologist, and Karen Shabel—Archaeological Project Leader in the fall of 2001. Additional survey work and specific project location examinations were conducted by Marla Mealey and Patricia McFarland—Archaeological Project Leader in September and October 2004. Project areas were walked by archaeologists in 15- to 20-meter transects. Ground visibility was generally good and averaged about 75%. Site materials were documented using GPS recorders, photographs, and DPR523 site record form series.

Trippet Ranch

Prehistoric artifacts were identified on the surface within the Trippet Ranch project area, near the previously recorded site (CA-LAN-1265). This area was recorded as Locus C of the site. No previous archaeological excavations have been done at any of the loci of this site, so it is not known if the deposit has any depth to it, or if it is just a surface scatter of artifacts. The new locus was recorded and an updated site record was prepared and sent to the South Central Coastal Information Center.

Although no historic artifacts were observed within the project area, historic features exist within the complex and both artifacts and features may exist subsurface within the area proposed for rehabilitation.

Limited pre-work archaeological testing (approximately thirty hand-dug auger holes) will be carried out within the Trippet Ranch project area to determine presence or absence of buried artifacts or features in and around the newly recorded site locus of CA-LAN-1265 and within historic areas proposed for grading, trenching, or other ground-disturbance work. If buried historic or prehistoric archaeological resources are found, archaeologists will work with the rest of the project team to redesign the project to avoid or minimize damage or disturbance to the cultural resources. Archaeological and Native American monitors will be present during subsurface project work in any areas identified to have higher potential for prehistoric cultural remains, as determined by the pre-work testing.

Hub Junction

No sites or artifacts were observed at this location. No additional archaeological work needs to be done within the APE of this project area.

Los Liones

The park area at Los Liones was built on fill dirt brought in to the location in the late 1960s and early 1970s. According to various geological reports on the area, some of the fill was from the immediate area while other fill was brought in from various locations. A scattered shell midden deposit that was observed on the surface near the project area was determined to have been transported in with the fill dirt from an unknown location. These redeposited cultural materials are no longer in situ, and thus have no data potential or significance due to their disturbed nature. However, these materials were documented and a site record describing their location, condition, and redeposited nature has been sent to the South Central Coastal Information Center. Project work will not impact this redeposited site material.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WILL THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to§15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a,b) A new locus of a previously recorded precontact archaeological site was identified to be within the area proposed for rehabilitation in the Trippet Ranch area of the project. The site appears to be a surface manifestation only and does not appear to have any depth; however, subsurface testing in the form of hand-dug auger holes, will be carried out prior to project work to determine if that is indeed the case. Project work

will be designed to avoid significant impacts to the precontact archaeological resources within this area. As such the overall project should have no significant impacts to any known precontact cultural resources.

Although no evidence of historic archaeological subsurface features or deposits were found during previous field surveys of the project site, subsequent research suggests the possible presence of one or more post 1917- pre 1940 ranch related buildings or structures.. Archaeological test investigations in the form of hand-dug auger holes will be carried out to determine if any features or deposits exist within area proposed for grading, trenching, or other subsurface work. Project work will be designed to avoid significant impacts to the historic archaeological resources within this area, if they are found to exist. The overall project should have no significant impacts to any known historic archaeological resources.

Because precontact a site is known to exist within the project area, a request for a Native American monitor shall be made prior to all subsurface work in the area of Trippet Ranch. In general, all surface and subsurface project-related activities have the potential to cause impacts to buried cultural resources. There is a potential for the occurrence of precontact or historic cultural resources within the project APE at Trippet Ranch. A qualified Archaeologist will monitor all ground disturbances during construction. This action provides assurances that the project will not damage any unknown buried cultural deposits. If intact cultural remains are uncovered during monitoring, work will cease at the location and an archaeologist will record and evaluate the find and implement avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures as appropriate. Therefore it is expected that the potential for project-related construction activity to have a significant impact on cultural resources will be less than significant. Implementation of the treatment/mitigation measures listed below will further reduce the potential for significant impacts.

Likewise, the proposed project has the potential to remove and/or replace historic fabric in order to restore and rehabilitate the historic buildings, structures, and landscape features. However, the project manager and individuals involved in the restoration/rehabilitation project have been directed to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Treatments for the Preservation of Historic Buildings. By doing so, these impacts would be reduced to a minimum, thereby reducing any potential adverse effects to any visible historical fabric, or to impair the public's view of the historic district and its surroundings.

TREATMENT/MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-1

- A qualified archaeologist will monitor all subsurface work including trenching, grading and excavations to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to cultural resources.
- A request for a Native American Monitor shall be made prior to any subsurface work, including grading, trenching, and excavations in the area of the recorded precontact site.
- In the event that previously unknown precontact or historic cultural resources are encountered during project construction, work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified cultural resource specialist has recorded and evaluated the find, and implemented appropriate avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures.

c) Although burials were found and recorded at two nearby sites: CA-LAN-1 and CA-LAN-2, no human remains have been recorded or reported within the project area.

TREATMENT/MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-2 HUMAN REMAINS

- A qualified archaeologist will monitor all subsurface work including grading, trenching and excavations to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to cultural remains.
- A request for a Native American Monitor shall be made prior to any subsurface work, including grading, trenching, and excavations in the area of the recorded precontact site.
- In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines the remains represent Native American internment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete. (PRC §5097.98)

TREATMENT/MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-3—TRIPPET RANCH SKEET LODGE AND THE LANDSCAPING ADJACENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

- Prior to any work, photo-documentation is required for the Skeet Lodge, especially the interior, and the row of eucalyptus tree stumps and orchard area near the Trippet Ranch House. This will include photo-documentation of character-defining historic fabric and landscape.
- The existing eucalyptus tree trunks will be replaced in kind with compatible species per the State Park Historian/Ecologist's recommendation.
- The project team and consultants shall consult with the State Park Historian regarding preservation issues prior to approval of project working drawings, at pre-construction meetings, and as appropriate during construction.
- Photo-documentation of the Skeet Lodge and landscaped areas is required after project completion
- The State Park Historian will update The Department of Parks and Recreation recordation forms to indicate all project induced changes at the Trippet Ranch site.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Santa Monica Mountains are a part of the transverse ranges of southern California, which is a region of great topographic and geologic contrasts. The Santa Monica Range is essentially a broad anticline which has been severely ruptured by faulting and intruded by sills and dikes of various materials. Most of the park area is very steep, except for the areas at the Trippet Ranch and Los Liones Canyon. A highly complex network of faults underlies the entire Santa Monica range. There is a range of hazardous faults and landslide-prone areas.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
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.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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, 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project sites are all located in the seismically active Los Angeles area. However, the project does not propose uses that would place park users in greater risk than currently exists. Only one new structure is proposed (the comfort station at Los Liones) and it will be constructed to comply with current seismic safety standards. The restoration of the Trippet Ranch Skeet Lodge and the landscaped areas around the Trippet Ranch will better protect users from geological and soil related hazards.

b & c) The proposed project will reduce the existing erosion/landslide potential around the Trippet Ranch (please see Section 2.5 for additional detail.) Very little landform/grading changes are proposed at Los Liones Canyon and Hub Junction resulting in no change from the existing condition.

d, e & f) Only very limited grading will occur and it will be located in previously disturbed areas. The proposed comfort station will connect to the City of Los Angeles sewer. All work will be done according to current architectural guidelines.

MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1
• The project proposes to construct mitigation measures in the Project Description that will reduce existing erosion and small landslide potential at the site.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Los Liones site is a primarily natural site located on fill and the Hub Junction site is at the top of the crest within Topanga SP. Both sites show little evidence of potentially hazardous substances. The Trippet Ranch contains structures that may contain asbestos and lead paint and the Skeet Range lawn was used for skeet shooting and the soil may contain lead shot. Fire hazard in the park is high, particularly during the dry season and when Santa Ana winds are present.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:					
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a, b, c, d, e, g, & h) Potentially hazardous substances (lead and asbestos) will be removed during project implementation according to accepted protocols for the handling of hazardous substances. As necessary, new material will be imported to replace the soil under the Skeet Lodge lawn. DPR has public safety officers (Park Rangers) on site to address potentially dangerous conditions for park users. Such conditions include landslide during or after rain events and wildfire. Sections of the park are closed as necessary to project the visitors until conditions change.

MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT 1
▪ Potentially hazardous substances (lead and asbestos) will be removed during project implementation according to accepted protocols for the handling of hazardous substances. As necessary, new material will be imported to replace the soil under the Skeet Lodge lawn.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Topanga State Park is located primarily within the steep crests and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains and contains a number of drainages and creeks. The Los Liones site is located at the mouth of a canyon at the edge of the urban interface and less than a mile from the Pacific Ocean. An existing storm drain diverts most of the canyon runoff directly into the urban storm drain system at the upstream portion of the project (please see Figures 3 and 8). California Department of Parks and Recreation and local volunteers previously constructed a man-made streambed to mimic the natural streambed, however, this streambed does not connect to the natural stream. The natural stream empties into the sedimentation basin and storm drain system. Trippet Ranch has existing erosion from runoff due to the slopes and historic design of the ranch setting. Little erosion damage is seen at Hub Junction since is it located at the crest within the Park. There are areas of erosion on the trails that connect at Hub Junction and potential water quality issues due to the disposal of human waste.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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)?				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f)	Substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h)	Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-y ear flood hazard area?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j)	Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a,b,c,d,e,g,h,i,& j) All construction will be accordance with accepted protocols for NPDES stormwater control. These protocols include the use of Best Management Practices to contain potential sedimentation and/or other potential pollutants from construction such as wash from concrete trucks. The newly graded surfaces and excavations will be on a small scale but will include standard BMPS. Additionally, the project will revegetate exposed soil surfaces at Los Liones and Trippet Ranch to prevent erosion. Prior to construction of the shunt, a hydraulic study will be prepared to direct the design such that flood risk is minimized and water quality and ground water recharge is improved.

MITIGATION MEASURE HYDROLOGY 1
▪ Use of Best Management Practices at all sites, revegetation at Los Liones & Trippet Ranch
MITIGATION MEASURE HYDROLOGY 2
▪ Preparation and compliance with Hydraulic Study. ▪ Approval of appropriate permits from the California Department of Fish & Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board and the US Army Corp of Engineers.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project is located at the mouth of a small canyon near single family homes, the Mormon Church, the Getty Villa, and a fire station (Please see Figure 3). It is an existing park site with day-use facilities including parking, a small trailer used by Park staff and volunteers, a trailhead, an existing restroom, ADA trails, an amphitheatre, and picnic tables with shade ramadas. As stated above, the project sites are located within Topanga State Park in the City of Los Angeles and near the Cities of Santa Monica and Malibu. The community of Topanga is also located near the project site along Topanga Canyon Boulevard in the unincorporated county.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a, b, & c) The project does not introduce a substantial new use nor change the existing land use at any of the three sites. The installation of the gate at Los Liones would have reduced vandalism after park hours and improve safety for the nearby residences, the Getty Villa, and Mormon Church. The gate would not prevent after-hours access for the Getty Villa or the church because they will have access when needed. However, the Getty opposed construction of the gate and it has been removed from the project and replaced with an entrance treatment. It is expected that the proposed project will make the Los Liones site more compatible with the surrounding land uses and improve the function and appearance of the existing park use. A coastal permit will be required for the work at the Los Liones site. The other project sites are located within the interior of Topanga State Park and are not expected to change the area's land use or planning.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The setting is within a State Park that currently does not have mineral resource extraction, nor is it expected to have such activities in the future.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known 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) There are no mineral resource activities on any of the three site locations.

XI. NOISE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

All the sites are located in quiet settings. The Los Liones site has an urban interface and would be noisier than the other sites due to more prevalent human activities including the noise of people coming and going to the Park and church. However, these activities are limited due to the passive uses at the Park and the need for quiet during worship at the church. There would also be intermittent noise from delivery and/or service vehicles entering the Getty Villa.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a, b, c, d, e, & f) Overall, all three of the sites are located in areas with quiet ambient noise. Los Liones would have greater noise due to its interface with the nearby urban setting and human activities at the site. The project will create noise during construction that may adversely affect nearby neighbors, including the church and residences. But the construction will be a temporary impact and the construction hours will be limited to Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM to 7PM. Additionally, biological monitors will determine whether or not construction noise is adversely affecting native species on site and either redirect work away from the species location or develop a temporary barrier to reduce noise. The project sites are not located near an airport.

MITIGATION MEASURE NOISE 1

- Construction hours will be limited to Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM to 7PM. Additionally, biological monitors will determine whether or not construction noise is adversely affecting native species on site and either redirect work away from the species location or develop a temporary barrier to reduce noise.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The portion of Census Tract 8005.1 which includes Topanga and the unincorporated county has 2008 residents, of which 88.9% are White, 4.0% Hispanic, 1% Black, 0.3% Native American, and 5.7% Asian with a median age of 44.8. Housing in the project area is single family residential.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a, b, & c) There will be no direct effects on population or housing at any of the project sites because the project does not propose to build or demolish housing. Improved park amenities at Los Liones will make the immediate area more attractive and that may improve the marketability of nearby homes.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project sites are located within a public park and public right of way. Currently the public has unrestricted access to Los Liones Drive, a dead end street located off Sunset Boulevard. A fire station is located near the intersection of Los Liones Drive and Sunset Boulevard. There are no schools located within a mile of the project but Los Liones and Trippet Ranch provide for numerous school activities.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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:	☐	☐	☒	☐
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Parks?	☐	☒	☐	☐
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) The project will provide a benefit to public services by providing new/improved sites for school activities.

XIV. RECREATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Day-use facilities exist at Los Liones including a restroom, picnic tables and shade ramadas, an outdoor amphitheater, a trailer, trails, and several parking areas. The historic Trippet Ranch in the Park contains structures built between 1917 and 1940. Within the ranch area, the Skeet Lodge provides interpretive programs to approximately 80 school groups per year. The area known as Hub Junction is a major confluence of several trails originating from within the Park as well as the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy property, Will Rogers State

Historic park, and city-owned property. The extensive "Backbone Trail" passes through Hub Junction and spans over 50 miles between Will Rogers SHP and Point Mugu State Park.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a &b) The construction of this project will increase the existing use of the Los Liones and Trippet Ranch sites in the long-term but not in a significantly adverse way. The purpose of the project is to improve the facilities at these sites and Hub Junction. All three of these sites need improvements to increase their function and appearance. Trippet Ranch is a historic landscape district that needs preservation and improved maintenance. Project construction at these sensitive sites may cause adverse physical effects to archaeological, historic, and biological resources but will either be avoided or mitigated below a level of significance.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Access to the Park is either from State Highway 101 or State Highway 1 to Topanga Canyon Boulevard to the Trippet Ranch, from Sunset Boulevard to Los Liones/Will Rogers SHP/Rustic Canyon, or from Mulholland Drive (State Highway 268) where it runs along the crest of the mountains north of the Park. None of the three sites are located adjacent to a State Highway and all are located away from local roads with high traffic volumes.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?				
d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a, b, c, d, e, f, g) As previously discussed, the project will make improvements to existing park day-use facilities. Although there may be some increase in trips, it is anticipated to be small. Primarily, the quality of the visitor's experience will be improved. The proposed gate on Los Liones Drive would have closed a public right of way during the hours between sunset and 8 AM. However, only two other users (the church and the Getty Villa service entrance) would have been affected. The gate would not be installed without meeting their needs since they hold a legal right to access at that point. The J. Paul Getty Trust indicated through the public review process that they are opposed to the gate and the proposed gate installation was eliminated as part of this project and replaced with an entrance treatment to improve aesthetics.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

As previously stated, all the project sites are at locations with existing park facilities. Electricity, water and sewer are available at Los Liones, electricity, a waste treatment system, and water at Trippet Ranch, and a portable toilet at Hub Junction. Trash is removed from all these sites and properly disposed of by park staff. Additionally, there is a flood control sedimentation basin operated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works at Los Liones.

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

	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, b, c, d, e, f, g) The project will require electrical, sewer and water hookup for the new Comfort Station at Los Liones. These utilities are available in Los Liones Drive and connection will require permit approval by each of the agencies providing the utility. Any work done on or near the sedimentation basin will require approval by the County of Los Angeles. This would include both the proposed shunt and the aesthetic treatments for the wall and fence. There are no new hookups for utilities planned at Trippet Ranch other than that required by the restoration of the Skeet Lodge. In the future, a composting toilet and/or waterless urinals may be constructed at Hub Junction to replace the existing chemical toilet. It is not anticipated that such a structure would require a septic system.

CHAPTER 4
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) The project sites and activities are located within Topanga State Park, a park with many native flora and fauna. The activities are located within existing day-use areas of the Park and will be monitored by State Park Ecologists to ensure the avoidance or mitigation of potential impacts below a level of significance.

b) The Trippet Ranch site contains both archaeological and historic resources. The primary purpose of the project at Trippet Ranch is to repair & rehabilitate the historic landscape and various structures in need of repair. All work will be done in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. An archaeologist will be on site to monitor all subsurface work and redirect work as necessary. A treatment plan has been prepared and will be implemented prior to project construction.

c & d) These projects are small in scope and scale and will not cause cumulatively considerable or indirect adverse effects on humans or the environment.

CHAPTER 5
SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

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

AESTHETICS
MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS

- The project design incorporates park scenic values and will provide a much improved entrance and appearance at Los Liones, buildings & landscape repair and restoration at Trippet Ranch, and a Park Interpretive Panel at Hub Junction that will provide shade and a resting place for park users.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
MITIGATION MEASURES AG

- No mitigation necessary

AIR QUALITY
MITIGATION MEASURES AIR

- Dust control measures will be implemented according to CSP standard specifications to reduce airborne dust during construction.
- Any potentially hazardous substances such as lead and asbestos will be removed and disposed of according to accepted protocols for the handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
MITIGATION MEASURES BIO

- No tree work (removal, pruning, trimming or thinning) shall take place during the migratory bird breeding season (March 15-Sept. 15).
- Trimming or removal of native oak trees must be approved by a certified arborist and State Park Resource Ecologist.
- Oak trees that must be removed will be replaced on site in a location approved by a State Park Resource Ecologist and Cultural Resource Specialist in a ratio of 10:1 for mature trees and 5:1 for trees with 4” or less diameter.
- A biological monitor shall be on site during any vegetation removal or modification. Additionally, should construction or project activities take place during the migratory bird breeding season, a biological monitor shall be onsite as determined by presence or absence surveys for breeding birds and redirect construction activities to avoid impacts to such birds.
- BMPs shall be used for all exposed dirt/spoils, exposed excavated dirt shall be covered, silt fencing shall be used at Los Liones and Hub Junction, and wattles or some other appropriate (not straw bales) slope stabilizer shall be used at Hub Junction to help prevent excessive runoff.
- Native plants (especially shrubs) shall be salvaged whenever possible and replaced on site at Los Liones.
- Any areas to be revegetated shall only use native southern California species known to

occur in the area or were collected on site. Seeding should take place during the fall month (Oct. – Dec.).
- Construction equipment shall be cleaned before and after working on site.
- Staging areas shall be in areas currently barren of native vegetation. Native vegetation shall not be removed for staging.
- If necessary, snow fencing shall be placed along any area where native vegetation could be impacted by ongoing construction (delineated at Environmentally Sensitive Area/ESA).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-1

- A qualified archaeologist will monitor all subsurface work including trenching, grading and excavations to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to cultural resources.
- A Native American Monitor will be present for any subsurface work, including grading, trenching, and excavations in the area of the recorded precontact site.
- In the event that previously unknown precontact or historic cultural resources are encountered during project construction, work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified cultural resource specialist has recorded and evaluated the find, and implemented appropriate avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures.

MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-2 HUMAN REMAINS

- A qualified archaeologist will monitor all subsurface work including trenching, grading and excavations to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to cultural resources.
- A Native American Monitor will be present for any subsurface work, including grading, trenching, and excavations in the area of the recorded precontact site.
- In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines the remains represent Native American internment, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete. (PRC §5097.98)

TREATMENT/MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-3—TRIPPET RANCH SKEET LODGE AND THE LANDSCAPING ADJACENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

- Photo-documentation is required for the Skeet Lodge, especially the interior, and the row of eucalyptus tree stumps and orchard area near the Trippet Ranch House. This will include photo-documentation of character-defining historic fabric and landscape.
- The existing eucalyptus tree trunks will be replaced in kind with compatible species per the State Park Historian/Ecologist's recommendation.
- The project team and consultants shall consult with the State Park Historian regarding preservation issues prior to approval of project working drawings, at pre-construction meetings, and as appropriate during construction.
- Photo-documentation of the Skeet Lodge and landscaped areas is required after project completion

- The State Park Historian will update The Department of Parks and Recreation recordation forms to indicate all project induced changes at the Trippet Ranch site.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

MITIGATION MEASURES GEO-1

- The project proposes to construct mitigation measures in the Project Description that will reduce existing erosion and small landslide potential at the site.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

MITIGATION MEASURES HAZMAT-1

- Potentially hazardous substances (lead and asbestos) will be removed during project implementation according to accepted protocols for the handling of hazardous substances. As necessary, new material will be imported to replace the soil under the Skeet Lodge lawn.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

MITIGATION MEASURES HYDRO-1

- Use of Best Management Practices at all sites, revegetation at Los Liones & Trippet Ranch

Mitigation **M**easure **H**ydrology **2**

- Preparation and compliance with Hydraulic Study for Shunt.
- Approval of appropriate permits from the California Department of Fish & Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board and the US Army Corp of Engineers.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

MITIGATION MEASURES LAND-1

- No mitigation necessary

MINERAL RESOURCES

MITIGATION MEASURES MINERAL-1

- No mitigation necessary

NOISE

MITIGATION MEASURES NOISE-1

- Construction hours will be limited to Monday through Friday between the hours of 7AM to 7PM. Additionally, biological monitors will determine whether or not construction noise is adversely affecting native species on site and either redirect work away from the species location or develop a temporary barrier to reduce noise.

POPULATION AND HOUSING
MITIGATION MEASURES POP-1

- No mitigation necessary

PUBLIC SERVICES
MITIGATION MEASURES SERVICE-1

- No mitigation necessary

RECREATION
MITIGATION MEASURES REC-1

- No mitigation necessary

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC
MITIGATION MEASURES TRANS-1

- No mitigation necessary

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS
MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1

- Permit approvals for electrical, water and sewer hookups.

CHAPTER 6
REFERENCES

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Chapter 7
Report Preparation

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSES

Attn: Scott Harris
Larry L. Eng, Ph.D., Regional Manager
California Department of Fish & Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Dr. Eng:

Thank you for your comment letter on the Topanga Public Use Improvements project, SCH# 2005071097. The following are the Department of Park and Recreation's (DPR)responses to comments for the California Department of Fish & Game letter dated August 19, 2005. I hope these responses satisfy your questions and concerns as DPR wishes to coordinate fully with the Department of Fish & Game in the implementation of the Topanga Public Use Improvements project. The responses are numbered to coincide with your comments.

#1 Native Nesting Birds – As stated in the Environmental Issues, IV Biological Resources, Discussion on page 23 of the July 2005 MND, the project has been designed to avoid significant impacts to native flora and fauna. Please also note the Natural Resources project descriptions for each site on pages 8, 12, and 13. The majority of the work will occur within active use and previously disturbed areas of the park in all three project locations. Two areas will require the trimming and removal of vegetation within or adjacent to natural habitat. The first location is near the potential installation of the shunt in Los Liones Canyon. The second location is adjacent to the lawn and Skeet Lodge building and will require the removal and/or trimming of both native and exotic vegetation. The Department of Parks and Recreation will provide a qualified biological monitor for all trimming or removal of vegetation to reduce potential impacts to habitat and assess the presence or absence of breeding birds. Additionally, as stated in Mitigation Measure Noise 1, Biological monitors will determine whether or not construction noise is adversely affecting native species on site and either redirect work away from the species location or develop a temporary barrier to reduce noise.

#1 (a & b) Mitigation Measure Bio-1 will be changed to state:

> ***(First bullet)** No tree work (removal, trimming, or thinning) shall take place during the passerine or migratory bird breeding season (March 1 –Sept. 15) and tree work between February 1 and 28, shall be monitored by a qualified biologist once a week to ensure that no impacts occur to nesting raptors.
> ***(Fourth bullet)** A biological monitor shall be on site during any vegetation removal or modification. Additionally, should potentially disturbing project activities (such as vegetation removal or equipment use adjacent to habitat) take place during the raptor, passerine, or migratory bird breeding season, a biological monitor shall be onsite as determined by weekly presence or absence surveys for breeding birds and redirect construction activities to avoid impacts to such birds.

2. Impacts to Riparian Resources – When the design, approvals and funding are in place for the shunt at Los Liones, the Department of Parks and Recreation will apply for the appropriate Section 1600 permit and abide by all constraints issued by the CDFG 1600 permit analyst.

A copy of the NOP will be sent to you after certification and approval by DPR. We look forward to working with you and please call me directly at (619) 220-5324 if you have any questions regarding the project or the proposed responses.

Attn: Donald P. Baker
Latham & Watkins, LLP
633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4000
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2007

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your comment letter on the Topanga Public Use Improvements project, SCH# 2005071097. The following are the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) responses to comments for your letter, representing The J. Paul Getty Trust (Getty), dated August 19, 2005. I hope these responses satisfy your questions and concerns as DPR wishes to coordinate fully with the Getty in the implementation of the Topanga Public Use Improvements project.

The project proposed to build an electronic gate on Los Liones Drive with keypad and remote access for the Getty and the Church of Latter Day Saints. This gate proposal has been eliminated from the project and, instead, an entrance treatment schematic is proposed (shown on the revised Figure 9). The entrance treatment would still require permitting from the City of Los Angeles. Final design of the entrance will be coordinated with the Getty and the Church of Latter Day Saints to ensure mutually satisfactory signage and design prior to a DPR application for a City of Los Angeles encroachment permit.

Additionally, Sections 2.3 and 2.5 of the Mitigated Negative Declaration have been changed to address the Getty's comments and permitted access addressed in Exhibit A, the City Plan Case No. CU and Coastal Development Permit No. 98-015. These sections also include the removal of the previously proposed gate and description of the entrance treatment. The new text will be highlighted in grey.

It should be noted that DPR is reluctant to remove the project's proposed electronic gate because of documented safety and vandalism issues after hours at the Los Liones site within Topanga State Park. Additionally, the Church of Latter Day Saints and the Temescal Canyon Association have expressed support for the gate. However, DPR also recognizes the Getty's right to access for the Getty Villa on Los Liones Drive and does not wish to interfere with the Getty's use of the access for ongoing business activities.

A copy of the NOP and CD of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration will be sent to you after certification and approval by California State Parks. We look forward to working with you and please call me directly at (619) 220-5324 if you have any questions regarding the project or the proposed responses.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES