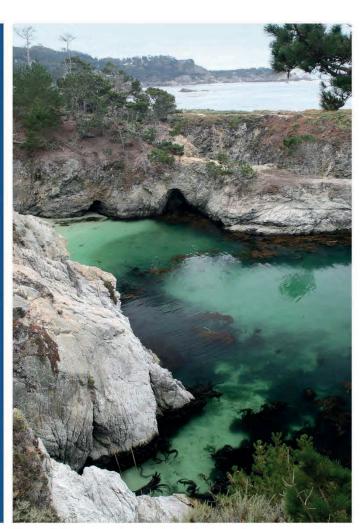
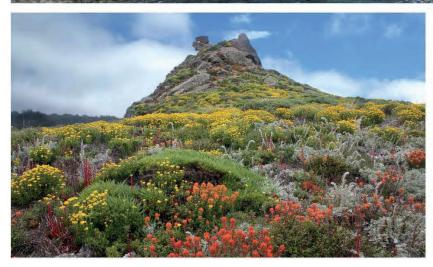
**JULY 2018** 

## Carmel Area State Parks

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report









Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
Carmel River State Beach
Point Lobos Ranch Property
Hatton Canyon Property

Written inquiries regarding the General Plan should be submitted to the address below:
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## **Carmel Area State Parks**

# Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report

State Clearinghouse #2012041016

July 2018

Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor, State of California

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#### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AB Assembly Bill

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

AMBAG Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

ASBS Area of Special Biological Significance

BMP best management practice

BSLT Big Sur Land Trust

CAAQS California Ambient Air Quality Standards

CalAm California American Water

CAL FIRE California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Caltrans California Department of Transportation

CALUP Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program

CAP criteria air pollutant

CARB California Air Resources Board

CASP Carmel Area State Parks

CAWD Carmel Area Wastewater District

CCC California Conservation Corps or California Coastal Commission

CDFW California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA California Environmental Quality Act
CLCC Carmelo Land and Coal Company
CNDDB California Natural Diversity Database

CNPS California Native Plant Society

CNRA California Natural Resources Agency

CO carbon monoxide

CRHR California Register of Historical Resources

CSP California State Parks

CSUMB California State University at Monterey Bay

CWA Clean Water Act

DOC California Department of Conservation

DOF California Department of Finance

EIR environmental impact report

EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ESA Endangered Species Act

FHWA Federal Highway Administration

FREE Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement

GHG greenhouse gas

GPA general plan amendment

Hatton Canyon Hatton Canyon Property
HSR Historic Structure Report

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LCP Local Coastal Program

League Save-the-Redwoods League

LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LTS less than significant

MMPA Marine Mammal Protection Act
MOU memorandum of understanding

MPA marine protected areas

MPRPD Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

MPWMD Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
MRWMD Monterey Regional Waste Management District

NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC Native American Heritage Commission

NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NOP Notice of Preparation

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

OPC California Ocean Protection Council

PLF Point Lobos Foundation

PM<sub>10</sub> respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of

10 micrometers or less

PM<sub>2.5</sub> fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of

2.5 micrometers or less

Point Lobos Ranch Property

PRC Public Resources Code

RCP representative concentration pathway
Reserve Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
RMA Resource Management Agency
RTP regional transportation plan

SB State Beach

SHP State Historic Park

SHPO State Historic Preservation Officer
SMCA State Marine Conservation Area

SMR State Marine Reserve

SR State Route

State Beach Carmel River State Beach

SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board

TAC toxic air contaminant

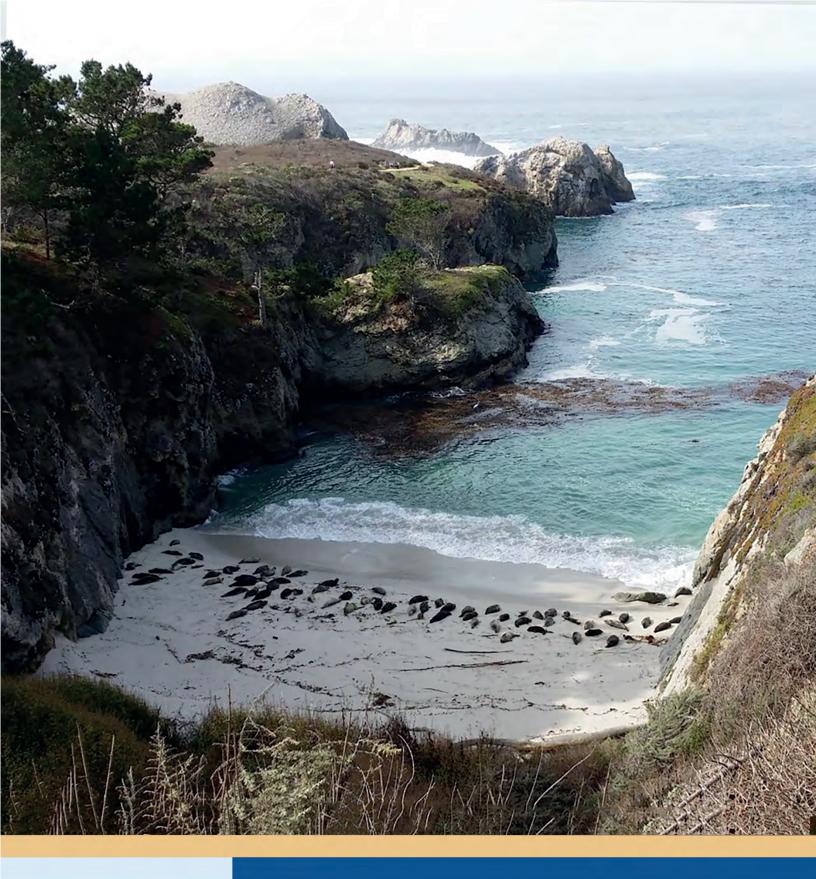
TAMC Transportation Agency of Monterey County

TMPFW The Monterey Pine Forest Watch

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

California State Parks (CSP) has prepared this General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) to cover four separate park units located in Monterey County just south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea: two classified units of the State Park System - Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (Reserve) and Carmel River State Beach (State Beach, and two unclassified properties - Point Lobos Ranch Property (Point Lobos Ranch) and Hatton Canyon Property (Hatton Canyon). The park lands were acquired at different times and for different purposes beginning in 1933 with the Reserve west of State Route (SR) I. Acquisition of Carmel River State Beach began in 1953. The eastern parcel of the Reserve was added in 1962. Other parcels were soon added to the Reserve north of Point Lobos and to the State Beach at Odello Farm. A General Plan was adopted in 1979 for the Reserve and State Beach. Point Lobos Ranch was later acquired by CSP in 1998 and Hatton Canyon was deeded to CSP from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 2001. This General Plan will supersede and replace the 1979 General Plan for the Reserve and State Beach, and include a new general plan for Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon.

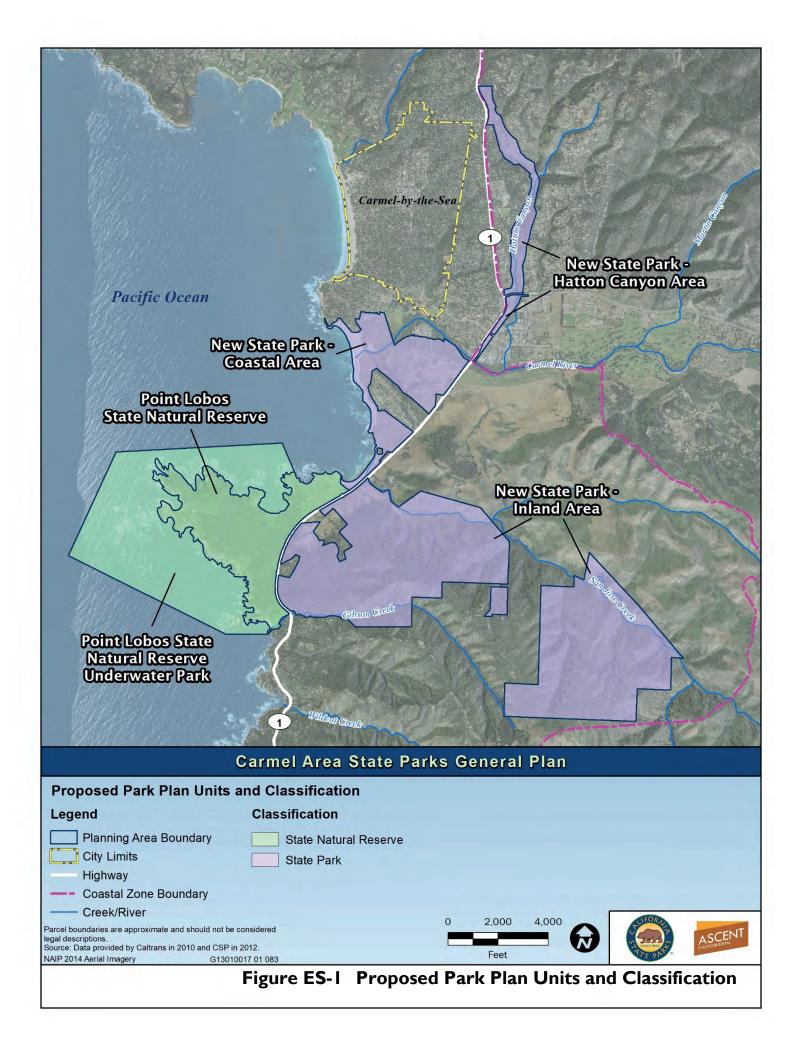
Existing Units/Properties	Proposed Park Units
Point Lobos State	Point Lobos State
Natural Reserve	Natural Reserve
Carmel River State	New State Park -
Beach	Coastal Area
Point Lobos Ranch	New State Park -
Property	Inland Area
Hatton Canyon	New State Park -
Property	Hatton Canyon Area

The proposed plan continues the existing classification of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve for the land and marine areas west of SR I and creates a new State Park unit to unify the management of the remainder of the state land. This will require reclassification of the State Beach to State Park and the classification of Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon as part of the State Park. The new State Park would consist of a coastal area (currently Carmel River State Beach), inland area (Point Lobos Ranch Property and the eastern parcel of the Reserve), and Hatton Canyon area (Hatton Canyon Property). Figure ES-I shows the unit classifications in the proposed park plan.

Naming the new State Park will occur in conjunction with General Plan approval as a separate action by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

### Park Description

The CASP units capture the dramatic diversity of open land within California's central coast from the Pacific Ocean to the ridgeline of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Some portions are remote and wild and others are in the urban community. With ecosystems ranging from benthic marine to the coast range mountains, the units support a wide variety of vegetation and animal communities. The parks possess striking scenery, priceless cultural heritage, and immense ecological value.



The Reserve and New State Park are in Monterey County along SR I, approximately I to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-bythe-Sea. The Reserve is located west of SR I on Point Lobos, surrounded on three sides by the ocean. The Coastal Area is located west of SR I encompassing beaches and coves between the Reserve and the mouth of the Carmel River. It is made up of three beaches, Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach, as well as a fresh water lagoon behind Carmel River Beach. The Inland Area is east of SR I across from the Reserve and is made up of multiple parcels, two of which are separated from the other state properties by regional open space and private property. The eastern parcel of the Reserve is incorporated into the Inland Area. Together, these lands contain coastal terrace and mountain slopes, two streams (San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek), and rare plant community types. Hatton Canyon Area is the northernmost property, east of Carmel-by-the-Sea and SR 1. The property is a long narrow, former Caltrans highway right-of-way surrounded by numerous subdivisions and made up of upper and lower canyon parcels divided by Carmel Valley Road.



Waves hitting rocks at the Reserve

### Purpose of the General Plan

The 1979 Point Lobos State Reserve and Carmel River State Beach General Plan recognized that dramatic changes had occurred since the Reserve and State Beach were established as public lands decades earlier. Visitation had grown considerably, risking damage to "one of the most beautiful spots in the world." Landscapes were shifting with the encroachment of Monterey pine forest into coastal meadows. Parking problems were increasing on the Caltrans highway right-of-way of SR I at both Point Lobos State Reserve and Monastery Beach (then called San Jose Creek Beach), causing local traffic congestion and safety issues. At that time, the public expressed the strong desire to protect the native qualities of the coast, including its scenery, habitats, wildlife, and "quietness."

Dramatic changes affecting the parks have continued since 1979. Visitation to the Reserve, recorded in the 1979 plan as 270,000 people per year, now exceeds 500,000 visitors arriving by auto, plus potentially several hundred thousand additional walk-in visitors. Point Lobos has become popular with both national and international tourists. Carmel River State Beach has become another popular destination, including for special events such as weddings, which take advantage of the spectacular scenery.

Public input during the preparation of this General Plan emphasized the urgent need to address how the unique resources of the parks are being "loved to death." The addition of the Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property provides new opportunities to reduce resource degradation by redistributing visitor use, in conjunction with other visitor management strategies.

A general plan is the primary management document for a park. It defines a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and operations. Because a general plan can be in effect for 20 years or more, it must be flexible enough to accommodate expected future changes.

See Appendix A for summaries of each of the public workshops.



June 2015 Public Workshop on the General Plan alternatives

## Planning Efforts and Public Outreach

The planning team used a combination of approaches to reach out to tribal representatives, local and regional agencies, stakeholders, and the public. The planning team facilitated meetings with stakeholders, agencies, and the public at several points in the process. In February 2012, January 2015, and June 2016, the planning team held meetings with agencies and other stakeholders regarding the General Plan, the planning process, and timeline and accepted early input on what should be addressed and how the process should be conducted. The Monterey District planning team staff also met with neighborhood groups representing residents of Hatton Canyon, Red Wolf Drive, Ribera Road/Carmel Meadows, and Carmel Highlands, as well as the Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) and Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT).

The first public workshop in support of the planning process was held on April 18, 2012, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel. The meeting included a presentation and open house. The planning team provided an overview of the planning and environmental review process and tentative schedule. A public workshop to present alternative concepts was held on July 22, 2015, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club. This workshop introduced two General Plan alternatives under consideration and the range of potential resource conservation approaches, visitor uses, and facilities that could be included in the parks. An open house to provide information about the preferred alternative proposed for the General Plan was held on June 1, 2016 at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club. In addition, the State Park and Recreation Commission held a CASP and regional park tour and public meeting on March 24, 2017.

The General Plan preparation included comprehensive public involvement with the purpose of informing the public throughout the planning process, as well as gathering public input about issues and ideas for the CASP units. The planning team used a variety of methods to update and involve the public, including email updates, newsletters, public workshops, and a project information website. CSP hosted a project website and updated it frequently with meeting announcements and summaries, as well as documents and meeting materials. Email updates and newsletters were used throughout the process to alert interested parties to upcoming meetings, provide a summary of the current progress, and provide contact information for the general planning process. Newsletters were sent in April 2012, June 2015, and May 2016.

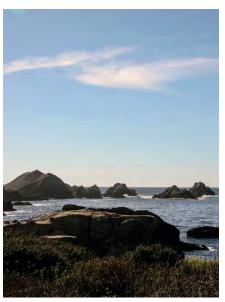
## Carmel Area State Parks Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for the CASP units as a whole (called "parkwide" herein) describes the role the combination of parks will play in meeting the CSP mission. The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of a unit as determined by its prime resource values, opportunities, and relationship to the larger context of the State Park System. The proposed Declaration of Purpose for CASP addresses the intent to achieve the delicate balance required to provide high-quality recreational opportunities and resource protection in the sensitive marine and terrestrial setting of the central California coast. Declarations of Purpose are also provided for the Reserve and New State Park addressing the specific resources and recreation opportunities of each unit. Section 4.2 contains the full narrative of the purpose statements.

See Section 4.2 for the full text of the CASP parkwide and individual unit statements of purpose and vision.

### Carmel Area State Parks Vision Statement

The parkwide Vision Statement presents a narrative of desired future conditions, character, uses, and functions of the parks. Like the parks' integrated purpose, the parkwide vision is comprehensive, addressing all the units. The parkwide vision is to provide a world-class, natural environment and outdoor recreational experience on the central California coast for local, regional, national, and international visitors. The vision includes inspiring people through the visitor experience to appreciate, protect, and steward the parks' resources. The Reserve's unit vision emphasizes the dramatic convergence of land and ocean that takes place at Point Lobos. New State Park's vision focuses on providing opportunities to explore the progression of landscapes from the ocean beaches to the Santa Lucia Range ridgeline.



Coastal scenery of the Reserve

#### **Key Issues**

Based on consideration of existing natural and cultural resources in the CASP units, visitor experience needs, and outreach to agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public, a number of issues emerged during the planning process. Key issues and the Park Plan's proposed approach to address the issues are summarized here. For purposes of environmental review, these also represent the areas of known controversy and issues to be resolved.

## Visitor Use Management, Sustainable Use, and Resource Protection

The appropriate visitor capacity of the Reserve has been a topic of both CSP management focus and public input for decades. Because of the national and international renown of the Reserve, large numbers of visitors arrive every year and create numerous peak visitation days. The high level of visitor use continues to have an impact on sensitive marine resources in the Reserve and coastal natural and cultural resources within both the Reserve and New State Park - Coastal Area. High levels of visitation also substantially diminish the quality of visitors' experience. Managing visitation levels and reducing resource degradation from overuse continue to be critical issues for agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

Implementation of CSP's reservation system will be the key approach for managing the level of peak-demand and total visitation. Also, redistribution of visitors will occur from overused locations to other CASP areas that can support use without resource degradation. Day use reservations will be initiated at the Reserve and evaluated for application to other areas, as needed. The reservation system will be operated continuously or at peakdemand periods (seasonally), coordinated with docent-led tours or self-guided visits, and implemented with digital and internet applications for convenience. Opening of the Inland Area to sustainable levels of public use offers another part of the solution, because the addition of trails, scenic vistas, and nature appreciation in this unit will provide new options for visitor experiences away from known, overused, and resource-degraded locations. The Park Plan proposes a follow-up evaluation to determine the most effective reservation approach and identification of appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities in the Inland Area.

#### Traffic and Parking

While not an issue limited just to CASP as a destination, transportation and parking issues have become more urgent as the popularity of parks, reserves, National Forest lands, other public open space, and tourism in the Monterey-to-Big Sur region has grown. Interrelated issues include traffic congestion, vehicle circulation, parking adequacy, and pedestrian access and safety. Currently, the vast majority of visitors must rely on personal autos as the primary transportation mode to reach CASP units and other similar destinations in the region. SR I becomes heavily congested during periods of substantial visitation and peak local commute times, causing mobility problems for local residents and visitors alike. Parking on the highway shoulders within the right-of-way of SR I near the Reserve and Coastal Area contributes to traffic congestion, creates pedestrian risks, and adds to excessive uncontrolled walk-in visitation to the Reserve.



Parking along the shoulder of SR I near the parks contributes to traffic congestion

Parking within the Reserve needs to be removed from unpaved surfaces to prevent continued erosion and water quality degradation. Also, if overuse of specific areas or resource damage continues to occur, other general visitor parking may warrant relocation from the Reserve to the Inland Area. This process can take place in stages, if and when it may be needed. In the Inland Area, sites may be suitable to relocate parking from resourcedegraded areas in the Reserve; however, care in locating facilities is important because the Inland Area contains significant cultural and natural resources. Lower Hatton Canyon Area has potential to be a site for a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies and organizations. With such a center, transit and/or shuttle operations may be able to link to multiple parks in the region, including CASP units, providing important alternative travel modes and reducing the need for visitors to use personal autos. The opportunity for CSP to participate in improved local and regional traffic conditions is important to the local community, based on input during the planning process.

The addition of the Inland Area and Hatton Canyon Area to the CASP units provides opportunities to develop solutions to current vehicular access, congestion, and parking problems.

#### Protection of Natural Resources

CSP considers the needs of the native flora and fauna, rare and endangered species, sensitive habitats, the natural processes and functions that support sensitive marine, aquatic, and terrestrial communities as critical when defining approaches to manage the recreational uses and operations of CASP. The many special natural resources of the CASP units include, but are not limited to, marine mammals and birds, underwater kelp forests, freshwater lagoon and wetlands of the Carmel River, southcentral California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog habitat of San Jose Creek, one of the world's largest native Monterey pine forests, one of only two places supporting the rare Monterey and Gowen cypress, maritime chaparral, and broad areas of mountain lion habitat.

Natural resource protection strategies include the appropriate classification of the CASP units and designation of natural preserves. The Reserve will retain its State Natural Reserve classification with an emphasis on natural resource protection. Within New State Park, existing and new natural preserves will help protect resources, including the Carmel River lagoon and wetland, San Jose Creek corridor, and broad expanse of coastal terrace and mountain slopes. In addition, goals and guidelines focus on identifying, protecting, restoring, monitoring, and managing visitor use around sensitive natural resources. The Park Plan is designed to achieve protection of natural resources, while providing for high-quality outdoor recreation experiences, interpretation, and education for park visitors.



Coastal bluff habitat restoration in the Reserve

Chapter 4 Park Plan includes the goals and guidelines for the parks that focus on identifying, protecting, restoring, monitoring, and managing visitor use around sensitive natural resources.



Point Lobos Ranch

#### Protection of the Native American Heritage and Prehistoric Cultural Resources

The central coast of California was the home of indigenous peoples for many generations prior to European contact. Within the CASP units are several places that are sacred and support invaluable prehistoric resources related to the region's Native American heritage. CSP emphasizes the importance of protecting the sacred places, prehistoric resources, and heritage of the tribes affiliated with the region in its management of visitors to and operation of CASP units.

Cultural resource protection strategies focus on protection of all resources and designation of the most important heritage locations as cultural preserves. One existing cultural preserve in the New State Park — Coastal Area and a new cultural preserve in the Inland Area are sub-unit classifications proposed within New State Park. Goals and guidelines emphasize reduction of visitor-caused degradation of cultural resources, security of areas with artifacts, and ongoing consultation with tribal representatives. The Park Plan is designed to secure the protection of sacred places and cultural resources to preserve CASP's Native American heritage.

#### Protection of Historic Cultural Resources

CASP units are distinctive in that they contain a diverse array of historic archaeological resources, buildings, and cultural landscapes exemplifying the importance of the region from the first European contact to missions, fishing/whaling, and farming/ranching periods, followed by the more recent, but still important history of resource conservation. Several significant historic locations occur in the Reserve (e.g., Whalers Cove), Coastal Area (e.g., Odello Farm complex), and Inland Area (e.g., A.M. Allan Ranch complex). Considerable opportunity exists to better understand and be inspired by historical stories through expanded and coordinated interpretation.

Critical elements addressed in the General Plan for historic resources include completing the inventory and evaluation of historic resources in the parks so decisions regarding stabilization, renovation, and adaptive reuse can be effectively made. Management action is proposed to preserve and prevent deterioration of historic buildings, structures, objects, and collections. Protection of the integrity of the historic character-defining features of the resources is essential, and development of interpretive elements and education programs will help inspire visitors to become involved in the region's history and support preservation of the important historic resources in the parks.

#### Facilities and Operations

The Reserve and New State Park – Coastal Area have been in operation for decades, so their facilities and operational staffing are well established. The most significant constraints related to facilities and operations are restrictions on water supply, limitations in drainage and sewer infrastructure, and limitations in available parking, compared to the level of visitation. Also, CSP has recognized and has received substantial public feedback that the staffing level is not adequate to effectively protect resources, control visitation at sustainable use levels, and keep up with maintenance needs for trails and other facilities.

Facilities and operations strategies in the General Plan emphasize achievement of sustainable visitor use levels in CASP units, improving operational support, and establishing environmentally compatible and logistically convenient facilities to meet visitor, staff, and park management needs. Site selection criteria are established to help guide the location of trails, scenic viewpoints, parking areas, day use areas, and operational facilities. Public safety is a key emphasis in park operations with the focus on protecting visitors' life, health, and property, just as importantly as protection the natural and cultural resources in the parks. A key goal is the pursuit of improved staffing, equipment, and procedures to provide adequate maintenance, visitor support, and resource protection.



Bird Island Trail at the Reserve

#### Overview of the Park Plan

The Park Plan would result in two classified units: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and New State Park. The Reserve will continue in its current classification as a State Natural Reserve, as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5019.65, and will continue to be managed specifically to preserve the terrestrial and marine habitats, ecological processes, sensitive species, cultural resources, and scenic qualities exemplified by the unique land and seascape of Point Lobos.

Carmel River State Beach and the eastern parcel of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will be reclassified and combined with the Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property, which will together become classified as a new State Park, as defined by PRC Section 5019.53. The new State Park will be managed as a composite whole to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes in balance with creating high-quality visitor experiences and outdoor recreation opportunities.

There are 16 management zones in the Reserve and New State Park. Management zones spatially define the management concept for a unit. They describe the management intent, goals by area, and guidelines for implementation of area-specific goals.

Management zones are established for each park unit based on the distinct features, resources, geographic location, interpretive characteristics, and the desired visitor experiences and uses of each zone. The management zones are as follows:

#### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

#### **New State Park - Coastal Area**

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone
- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone
- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

#### **New State Park - Inland Area**

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

#### **New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area**

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

Each management zone is described in Chapter 4, with summaries of characteristics, cultural and natural resource values, desired visitor experiences, proposed facilities and uses, and public access opportunities. Approximate size, location, and extent are also provided, along with the management intent for each zone.

#### Major Features of the Park Plan

The Reserve and New State Park both contain significant natural and cultural resources and a range of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Park Plan emphasizes the need to balance visitor use and park operations with the protection of resources, consistent with CSP's mission. The following highlight the main features proposed in the Park Plan.

#### **Partnerships**

Partnerships with other agencies and non-governmental organizations have been and continue to be essential for the effective park operation, protection of sensitive resources, provision of visitor services, and implementation of interpretive and educational programs. Many partner agencies and organizations have participated extensively in the planning process. A regional planning effort, called the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project, has been initiated by the BSLT, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), PLF, and CSP to work together as part of an integrated multi-agency effort to preserve and manage parklands and open space between the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur to enhance public recreation, outdoor education, and stewardship opportunities. CASP plays an important role in this regional public park and open space vision.

While goals and guidelines in the General Plan focus on the facilities and resources under the authority of CSP, collaboration continues with PLF, BSLT, MPRPD, Monterey County, Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD), City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and other agencies and organizations. These partnerships will continue to be important to achieve the CASP vision and implement the goals and guidelines in the Park Plan that address mutual interests.



Carmel River lagoon

#### Natural Resource Protection

Natural resources management goals and guidelines form the heart of the General Plan's direction for protection of the natural qualities and processes that create CASP's ecological significance and contribute to high-quality visitor experiences. The Park Plan emphasizes that the flora, fauna, and ecosystems of CASP units need to be protected, restored if needed, interpreted, and supported by management strategies that do not allow degradation by visitor use. Within the Inland and Coastal areas of New State Park, there are three sub-units identified as Natural Preserves, as defined by PRC Section 5019.71. These natural preserves require that management of the areas focus on protection of the natural processes, functions, and qualities of the protected area, while still allowing for limited, compatible visitor-serving facilities and interpretive elements. Goals and guidelines, as outlined in Chapter 4 of the Park Plan, provide specific direction in other management zones to prioritize the preservation and protection of the natural and unique qualities of CASP.



Historic loafing barn at Point Lobos Ranch

#### **Cultural Resource Protection**

The park units contain a diverse combination of prehistoric and historic resources that are invaluable for preservation of native heritage and historic period information. Goals and guidelines in Chapter 4 of the Park Plan focus on protecting, documenting, and interpreting significant prehistoric archaeological and cultural resources, in consultation with local tribal representatives. Protection of these cultural resources is an important responsibility and there are numerous opportunities for interpretation in the parks. The Park Plan also aims to identify, protect, maintain, restore, and preserve significant historic resources including, but not limited to, Hudson House, A.M. Allan Ranch structures, and the historic structures at the Odello Farm complex.

#### Visitor Experience and Use

The Park Plan recognizes that with the popularity and visitation levels of the Reserve and the New State Park – Coastal Area, providing high-quality visitor experience without degrading the environment requires more engaging visitor use management measures. Goals and guidelines in Chapter 4 focus on providing high-quality outdoor recreation experience opportunities, while avoiding or minimizing significant damage to sensitive resources. Strategies include carefully redistributing visitor use among the park units and reducing the number of visitors in peak times in sensitive areas where resources are experiencing stress and degradation. Visitor use management strategies, including implementation of a reservation system in needed places (including the Reserve), will have the two-fold benefit of improving visitor experience and use and addressing overuse that can lead to degraded resources.

#### Transportation and Parking

Personal autos are currently the primary transportation mode for access to CASP units. An emphasis of the goals and guidelines presented in the Park Plan is to support development of facilities and multimodal transportation systems, in partnership with transportation agencies, to improve accessibility and reduce reliance on personal autos, which will also help reduce congestion on SR I. Strategies are proposed to reduce parking within the Reserve by eliminating use of unpaved surfaces for visitor parking to prevent water quality degradation, and potentially relocating visitor parking from other locations in the Reserve, if conditions warrant. The potential for distributing visitor parking into small lots in strategic locations is a part of the Park Plan, including within the Inland Area near the A.M. Allan Ranch complex or along San Jose Creek Canyon Road and within the Coastal Area



Park sign at Reserve entrance and SR I indicating that all parking lots are full

near Bay School, the Odello Farm complex, or adjacent to the entrance road to the CAWD treatment plant. Lower Hatton Canyon may also serve as the site of a park shuttle and multimodal transportation center, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies and organizations.

#### Park Operations and Maintenance

The administration and operation of the parks includes visitor services, public safety, facility maintenance, utilities and infrastructure maintenance, and visitor interaction as performed by maintenance staff, rangers, resource specialists, interpreters, and other administrative personnel. Volunteers and participating partner groups also play an important role in park operations by providing additional services. Staffing, funding, and support will continue to be important for the parks to be able to provide visitor safety and enjoyment, protect resource values, and provide overall maintenance of the units. Goals and guidelines in the Park Plan recognize that on-site staff are needed to enhance natural resource management, protect sensitive resources, manage operations of the units, create safe environments, expand educational and interpretive programs, and keep facilities clean and well maintained. Substantial new operational facilities are not planned, but existing facilities will be well maintained and upgraded, as needed.



Storage facilities at Rat Hill maintenance and operations area in the Reserve

#### Plan Implementation

Specific programs and projects that will help implement the General Plan will require follow-up planning. Future planning efforts may include preparing specific resource management plans and feasibility studies. Resource management plans define the specific objectives, methodologies and/or designs for accomplishing management goals. Occurring on an as-needed basis, they typically focus on specific management topics, goals, or issues. These plans can apply to all, or part, of a park unit and usually include program-level decisions that describe how and when management actions are appropriate and necessary and they are often based on funding and staffing capabilities. Several of the goals and guidelines presented in Chapter 4, Park Plan, recommend either preparing and/or updating specific management plans, preparing more detailed site investigations, and preparing feasibility studies subsequent to the adoption of the General Plan. The General Plan has recommended preparation of the following management plans and follow-up reports (in alphabetical order):

- Cultural Landscape Report
- Cultural Resource Management Plans
- Forest Management Plan (Allan Memorial Cypress Grove)



Picnic tables next to Whalers Cove parking lot in the Reserve



Native wildflowers along the North Shore Trail in the Reserve

- Historic Structure Reports
- Interpretation Master Plan
- Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan
- Natural Resource Management Plans
- Road and Trail Management Plan
- Treatment Plans for Historic Resources
- Wildfire Management Plans

#### **Environmental Analysis**

This Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR provides a program-level evaluation of the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts on aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology, soils, and seismicity; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; public services and utilities; recreation; and traffic and transportation. The criteria used to determine the significance of impacts in the resource discussions were derived from State CEQA Guidelines.

Environmental analysis determined that implementation of the proposed General Plan would not result in significant impacts on the environment. Implementation of the guidelines contained in Chapter 4, Park Plan, CSP policies, and the CSP Standard Project Requirements (Appendix G), in conjunction with federal and state laws and regulations, would avoid potential significant effects or maintain them at less-than-significant levels.

Table ES-I presents a summary of the potential environmental effects that would result from plan implementation; identifies the level of significance; and describes the guidelines that result in less-than-significant impacts.

Table ES-1 Summary of Impacts and Guidelines  Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
Aesthetics		
AESTHETICS-I: Effect on a scenic vista, scenic resources, or the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings General Plan goals and guidelines emphasize ongoing protection of public scenic resources in the Reserve and New State Park. Strategies to manage visitor use levels and limit or restore resources degradation would assist CSP in protecting valuable resources, which have scenic quality as well as natural or cultural importance, from further damage, and preserving the quality of visitor experiences related to scenic appreciation. Plan implementation would also emphasize preservation of the most outstanding scenic qualities of the parks. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a less-than-significant impact related to scenic resources and the visual character of the park units.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.1 Remove or screen from view built elements that have negative aesthetic qualities.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.2 Design infrastructure, use areas, and facilities to integrate scenic quality protection, to maintain important views (including publicly accessible coastal views, consistent with the California Coastal Act), and to be visually compatible with the existing natural landscape or historic character of the location. To the extent feasible, new structures will be sited in currently developed areas near other existing structures and facilities to avoid adding intrusive structural elements into important views or vistas.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.3 Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.4 Minimize visibility of new structures or other facilities to travelers on SR 1, a State Scenic Highway. Use distance, buffering with existing topography and vegetation, planted vegetation screening, low-profile design, appropriate colors that blend with surroundings, and natural appearing non-reflective materials as strategies to protect scenic highway views.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.5 Design signs and interpretive displays to appear consistent with the surrounding natural environment, using low-profile design and natural-appearing materials that are consistent in color and texture to the natural environment.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.6 Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilitites, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Us

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		Parkwide PLAN Guideline I.I Coordinate natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource management, interpretation, operations, staff housing, emergency services, and facility development programs with other regional parks to promote healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and aesthetic resources, and operational efficiencies.
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.1 Improve the coastal viewshed by removing and restoring to native habitat unpaved parking areas that deliver sediment to the ASBS and which have degraded coastal bluff habitat and scenic quality (as specified in the ACCESS Goal 3).
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.2 Locate and design interpretive signs and displays to minimize or avoid obstructing scenic views. Avoid locating signs/displays in areas that diminish expansive ocean views, especially from designated scenic viewpoints or vistas.
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3 Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR I or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.
AESTHETICS-2: New sources of light or glare With plan implementation, any new outdoor light sources would comply with guidelines that limit the amount, direction, wattage, and spectrum of lighting. In addition, nearby commercial and residential development already contains outdoor lighting that is more intense than lighting that would occur within the CASP units. General Plan implementation would have a less-than-significant effect on light and glare.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.3 Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.6 Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use
		or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities. <b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.7</b> Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines				
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3 Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR I or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.		
Air Quality				
AIR-I: Short-term construction-generated emissions of ROG, NO <sub>X</sub> , and PM that could conflict with or obstruct an air quality management plan or violate an air quality standard Construction-generated emissions of ROG, NO <sub>X</sub> , and PM would not be substantial and would not violate air quality standards. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	No guidelines are required.		
AIR-2: Long-term operations- and visitor-related emissions of ROG, NO <sub>x</sub> , and PM that could conflict with or obstruct an air quality management plan or violate an air quality standard Operations- and visitor-related emissions of ROG, NO <sub>x</sub> , and PM would not be substantially changed and would not violate air quality standards. This impact	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1 Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.		
would be less than significant.		Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2 Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.		
AIR-3: Mobile source emissions of carbon monoxide Implementation of the General Plan would not introduce substantial traffic such that a localized carbon monoxide impact would occur. Additionally, implementation of guidelines in the General Plan would mitigate emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) as compared to current conditions. As such, this impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2 Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.		

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines  Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
AIR-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial toxic air contaminant (TAC) pollutant concentrations Implementation of the General Plan could result in short-term construction-related TACs associated with the use of heavy-duty diesel construction equipment. Construction of projects implementing the General Plan would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for air quality, and TAC emissions would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	No guidelines are required.
Biological Resources		
BIO-1: Adverse effects on special status species While plan implementation could result in direct or indirect impacts to special status species, goals and guidelines within the General Plan and CSP Standard Project Requirements would protect these species. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.1 Inventory and monitor natural botanical resources, including natural communities and special status plants, on a periodic basis to document their abundance and distribution, gain a better understanding of resources, and to inform management decisions. Promote research opportunities with local universities to complete the inventories and monitoring.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.2 Implement management actions using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to maintain or enhance populations for those special status plant species identified as at risk or affected by known threats, including overuse.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.3 Maintain a healthy forest stand consisting of mixed-aged trees by implementing forest management practices and monitor vegetation for diseases, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.4 Protect and restore native plant communities. Identify locations that are degraded from past management practices or visitor use, protect areas from future damage, and maintain or re-establish natural ecological processes. Restore areas through revegetation with native species appropriate to the site and with fenced enclosures. Protect restoration areas using adaptive management strategies as appropriate.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.1 Inventory and monitor native wildlife, including conducting small mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile surveys to identify existing habitats and population trends, and to develop and implement visitor management strategies for the protection and perpetuation of wildlife.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.2 Identify and limit visitor access to important breeding and rearing areas, including visitor exclusion during marine mammal and shore bird breeding and rearing periods and aquatic habitat occupied by special status fish and amphibians.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.3 Locate new facilities to minimize encroachment into native wildlife feeding, resting, breeding, and rearing habitats.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.4 Reduce and eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters and educating visitors about the detrimental effects of human food on wildlife.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.5 Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats to establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting. Minimize human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas and restore wildlife habitat.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.6 Use sound ecological principles to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats, including professionally accepted methods, such as considering the needs of special status species in the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in disturbance to their habitat and minimizing trail and facility building and park maintenance activities in or near breeding and rearing areas during breeding seasons.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.9 Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs and feral pigs, which may create stresses or threats to special status wildlife species. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species most detrimental to the environment.
		MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Monitor visitor access to shoreline, beach, and tidepool areas and limit or prohibit access to locations where visitors can disturb marine mammal haul-out, seabird/shorebird nesting, and sensitive intertidal habitat areas. Limit or restrict access in areas experiencing natural and cultural resource degradation. In areas where access is prohibited, provide clear and appropriate interpretive signage explaining to the public the need and the beneficial outcome of access restrictions, and interpret the goals of habitat restoration and what the public can do to help assist in this effort by staying on designated trail systems.
		<b>MARINE ZONE Guideline I.4</b> Facilitate inter-agency coordination and collaborate with partner agencies responsible for protecting marine species and conducting scientific research to develop strategies for visitor access and management based on changing habitat requirements, including, but not limited to, marine mammal and seabird nesting and breeding seasons.
		<b>MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.5</b> Collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management to develop a joint strategy for the conservation of offshore rock areas to protect marine mammals and nesting seabirds from human disturbance.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines				
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact		
		MARINE ZONE Guideline I.6 Allow controlled access for divers and boaters. Use an adaptive management approach to manage use and avoid disturbance to wildlife and marine resources, implementing appropriate adaptive management strategies, if needed.		
		MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.7 Promote marine mammal protection, consistent with the MMPA and NOAA's guidelines for responsible wildlife viewing, using visitor education and interpretation. Enforce regulations to keep visitors at a sufficient distance to not add stress to or alter the behavior of marine mammals or birds.		
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.3 Prepare a Forest Management Plan for the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove to monitor and evaluate forest health and tree mortality. Identify cypress revegetation needs with periodic forest assessments or as drought conditions warrant. Implement revegetation efforts as needed.		
		<b>UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1</b> Manage forest succession for the restoration, protection, and conservation of coastal prairie/grasslands, Monterey pine forest, and transitional habitats to maintain a diverse range of native coastal plant community types and enhance a more diverse wildlife habitat mosaic. Management actions should include, but should not be limited to, invasive plant removal and control, monitoring the spread of diseases like pitch canker in the Monterey pine forest, protection from visitor intrusion into sensitive areas, and habitat restoration including native plant revegetation.		
		CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline I.I Consider expanding the natural preserve to include the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone when partner agency adjacent construction and Caltrans mitigation projects and mitigation credits associated with the mitigation bank are completed.		
		CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 Continue to collaborate with local regional water quality agencies and nonprofit partners to monitor river and lagoon water quality through ongoing research and documentation. Implement appropriate adaptive management strategies when monitoring results show water quality degradation. Consider the effects of barrier beach berm height management on the freshwater lagoon and exposure to salt water from natural winter flows or manual breaching. Implement adaptive management strategies that retain fresh water in the lagoon during critical seasonal timeframes, including severe to moderate drought conditions. Implement lagoon protection measures, such as posting informational signs and other public outreach, to help prevent unauthorized manual breaching of the Carmel River lagoon.		

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.
		CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.5 Prohibit watercraft use to protect sensitive species and habitat. Provide public information about resource sensitivities at visitor access points around the lagoon.
		LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.1 Coordinate with partner agencies on the Carmel River restoration projects occurring on adjacent lands (Carmel River FREE project) to ensure consideration of all ecological, hydrological, and visitor use-related interests and to provide CSP input into the restoration planning process (as specified in PLAN Guideline 1.2).
		LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2 Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.
		POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.
		POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2. I Provide self-guided and volunteer-guided nature hikes and interpretive elements to educate visitors about the unique resources in the preserve and the importance of conservation.

Table ES-I	Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
	Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
			SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, conservation measures, and procedures that will be used to guide natural resource management. Include habitat restoration, prioritize areas to be restored, identify specific (quantitative, if feasible) water quality, habitat, and species conservation objectives, and develop location-specific implementation measures.
			SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline2. I Monitor water quality through ongoing research and documentation, and identify adaptive management strategies to implement when monitoring results show poor water quality. Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to observe sensitive riparian habitat, identify human-caused impacts to riparian and instream habitat, and develop conservation measures that benefit water quality and critical habitat for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.
			SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2 Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.
			SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3 Study and preserve the native rhododendron population to ensure its protection and avoid human-induced impacts to this second most southern population in California.
			<b>SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4</b> Establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing riparian habitat.
			<b>UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.1</b> Continue to maintain the natural conditions of the urban open space by landscape maintenance that supports native vegetation and controls invasive vegetation.
			<b>UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3</b> Pursue and execute lease agreement(s) with a local or regional agency(ies) to maintain the upper canyon for public access, utility access, and natural landscape management, while fee title is retained by CSP.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
BIO-2: Adverse effects on riparian habitat, wetlands, other waters of the United States, or other sensitive natural communities  Plan implementation could result in adverse effects to sensitive habitats including riparian areas and wetlands; however, guidelines within the General Plan would protect the integrity, habitat qualities, and natural processes of sensitive habitats.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.1 Inventory and monitor natural botanical resources, including natural communities and special status plants, on a periodic basis to document their abundance and distribution, gain a better understanding of resources, and to inform management decisions. Promote research opportunities with local universities to complete the inventories and monitoring.
This impact would be less than significant.		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 1.3 Maintain a healthy forest stand consisting of mixed-aged trees by implementing forest management practices and monitor vegetation for diseases, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.5 Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats to establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting. Minimize human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas and restore wildlife habitat.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.6 Use sound ecological principles to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats, including professionally accepted methods, such as considering the needs of special status species in the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in disturbance to their habitat and minimizing trail and facility building and park maintenance activities in or near breeding and rearing areas during breeding seasons.
		MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.2 Continue promoting research projects that study marine resources and threats. Increase effective communication with universities and research organizations to ensure researchers understand and implement best practices so that research activities do not adversely affect the marine and benthic environments.
		<b>MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.3</b> Identify coastal trails and beaches that may be access-restricted, identify sustainable alternative trail alignments where necessary, and identify specific trail alignments where management actions are needed to protect sensitive marine resources. Repair, close, or relocate trails that deliver sediment to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.2 Prepare a habitat restoration plan for Lower Sea Lion Point to revegetate coastal bluff areas and cultural sites damaged by human-caused disturbance, protect steep bluffs from slope failure by restoring local hydrology, and to protect marine mammals that have re-occupied the site.
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.3 Revegetate unstable slopes adjacent to China Cove Beach. Protect underlying cultural features by revegetating the China Cove bluffs using native plants. Install a permanent and aesthetically pleasing barrier preventing visitors from walking down the natural bluff to China Cove Beach. Prevent

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
		visitors from accessing China Cove Beach to protect harbor seals and their pups during birthing and rearing season.  CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.  CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.6 Prohibit development of flood control structures within the public land of the natural preserve that cause significant adverse environmental effects and are designed to benefit private parties.  LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2 Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.	
BIO-3: Interfere with movement of resident or migratory species. While plan implementation could result in interference with movement of resident or migratory species, goals and guidelines within the General Plan would preserve movement corridors and avoid potential impacts to species movement. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.7 Identify, maintain, and protect wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages with federal, state, and local agencies to permit movement of wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information to monitor the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the effectiveness of linkages.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.8 Cooperate with federal, state, local agencies, and open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional wildlife resource management and planning, including coordinating efforts to identify and preserve habitat linkages.  CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central	

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.  POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including, maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.  SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline2.1 Monitor water quality through ongoing research and documentation, and identify adaptive management strategies to implement when monitoring results show poor water quality. Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to observe sensitive riparian habitat, identify human-caused impacts to riparian and instream habitat, and develop conservation measures that benefit water quality and critical habitat for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.  SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2 Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.  SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4 Establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing riparian habitat.
Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources		
CULTURE-I: Disturb unique archaeological resources Plan implementation would include excavation and other ground-disturbing activities, which could result in adverse physical effects to known and unknown archaeological resources. However, implementation of General Plan guidelines would avoid disturbance, disruption, or destruction of archaeological resources	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.1 For areas not already inventoried, conduct inventories for cultural resources where and when development or other landscape disturbance is planned. Document and map resources identified or areas with high potential to contain resources.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.2 Identify, document, catalogue, and curate
in compliance with the Public Resources Code and other relevant laws and regulations. This impact would be less than significant.		artifacts and collections that have been recovered from cultural sites, according to the Office of Historic Preservation guidelines.

Table ES-I	Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
	Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
			Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.3 Prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans, as necessary, to further define a framework to identify, acknowledge, assess, and create effective management procedures for cultural sites and cultural preserves.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.4 In coordination with local tribal representatives, monitor sensitive cultural resources to identify specific areas of degradation, inform a culturally sensitive adaptive management strategy, and
			determine the need for potential visitor access limitations or exclusions.
			In consultation with local tribal representatives, stabilize cultural sites and recover data, where feasible, at sites at risk from erosion, damage, or sea level rise. Prevent degradation and looting of cultural resources by limiting visitor access, and increasing law enforcement to specific sensitive areas.
			Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.5 Collaborate with the local tribal representatives to expand Native American interpretation themes, features, and programs related to park resources.
			OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Monitor important cultural features and, as needed, restrict visitor access to prevent resource degradation.
			OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.
			OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3 Update the existing Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures used to guide management. Identify and evaluate all cultural resources within the preserve. Implement procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources.
			TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline I.I In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, develop a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources. Record, describe, and map existing cultural resources. Inventory and evaluate cultural resources for inclusion on the National and California registers.
			TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, prepare a Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide cultural resource management. This includes a plan for identification and evaluation of all cultural resources within the area and procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources through a review process and the application of standards.

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1 In collaboration with appropriate local tribal representatives, develop a joint-use agreement to facilitate Native American traditional use, ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the cultural preserve classification. Allow guided visitor access when the area is not being used for traditional purposes.  TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3 Monitor and document important cultural features and, if necessary, limit or discontinue non-triba visitor access to prevent resource degradation.
CULTURE-2: Disturb, damage, or degrade significant historic resources Construction and excavation activities associated with plan implementation could result in landscape disturbance, which can adversely affect historic resources. Implementation of General Plan guidelines would protect historic resources, because these measures would avoid disturbance, disruption, or destruction of historic structures and historic archaeological resources, in compliance with pertinent laws and regulations. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.1 Complete an inventory and assessment of significant cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historic Resources to gain a better understanding of resources and to inform management decisions.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.2 Complete Historic Structure Reports (HSRs) for those existing historic buildings that do not have them, and update existing HSRs as needed. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Provide documentation including graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing conditions, recommend appropriate treatments, management actions and goals for preservation or rehabilitation and appropriate adaptive use of the property, and outline the scope of recommended work for current and future resource managers.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.3 Prepare treatment plans for historic resources. Development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for those historic buildings, structures, and features that have been identified as significant, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance; the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.4 Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.5 Identify and evaluate the historic significance of potential cultural landscapes.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.6 Consult with local tribal representatives who have traditional ties to resources within CASP to ensure productive and collaborative working relationships during the planning and implementation of specific development projects, and especially when considering management practices of interest and concern to them.
		<b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.7</b> Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting historic resources.
		<b>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 1.4</b> Evaluate the need to implement a day use reservation system in other areas of the parks where visitor overuse is resulting in natural and/or cultural resource degradation.
		<b>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline I.1</b> Develop a preservation plan to protect the historic buildings and landscapes of the Odello Farm complex. The plan should focus on stabilizing existing structures and protecting and preserving the historic character of the Odello Farm.
		<b>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.2</b> Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming and ranching activities and architecture.
		ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.3 Record the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources. Submit evaluations to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.
		ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.4 Evaluate the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed for inclusion in the National and California historic registers. Prepare HSRs for the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed if determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR to provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of historic buildings and structures.
		<b>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.5</b> Update condition assessments for the Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed. The condition assessments should provide information to help determine protection measures for rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation.
		<b>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.6</b> Stabilize the Barn and treat for weathering, water infiltration, and pest infestation. Reconstruct the Barn's north bay and south elevation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
		ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.7 Stabilize the Blacksmith Shed to prevent it from collapsing further and treat the structure for the extensive weathering, dry rot and pest infestation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.  A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.6 Protect the historic viewshed. Locate parking areas and other facilities to minimize adverse effects to significant historic structures and contributing features of the cultural landscape.  A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.1 Create primary visitor entry, day use parking, and visitor orientation facilities in locations that do not adversely affect natural and cultural resources.	
CULTURE-3: Disturbance of human remains It is possible that previously unknown human remains could be discovered when soils are disturbed during construction associated with development of new facilities in the Reserve and New State Park. Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097 would maintain this impact at a less-than-significant level.	LTS	No guidelines are required.	
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity			
GEO-I: Adverse effects from earthquake faults, seismic ground shaking, seismic ground failure, or landslides  While plan implementation could result in the exposure of people or structures to potential risks strong seismic ground shaking; seismic ground failure, including liquefaction; or landslides, the degree of risk would not change substantially and General Plan guidelines would maintain adverse effects at a less-than-significant level.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.1 Monitor, document, and study the geologic features and processes, including geologic events such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation. Identify the cause and effect relationships and implement corrective measures as needed to protect these features.  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.2 Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate	
GEO-2: Soil erosion or loss of topsoil  The General Plan proposes resource management actions to control existing and future soil erosion. It would also include new trails, associated user facilities, parking areas, and other associated infrastructure that would result in ground disturbance. General Plan guidelines would reduce erosion from existing	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.1 Monitor, document, and study the geologic features and processes, including geologic events such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation. Identify the cause and effect relationships and implement corrective measures as needed to protect these features.	

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facilities, reduce specific sources of soil erosion, such as parking on unpaved ground, and control future erosion risks. CSP Standard Project Requirements would also prevent construction-related erosion. For these reason, implementation of the General Plan would have a less-than-significant impact related to the potential for increased soil erosion or loss of topsoil.	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact  Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.2 Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.1 Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.2 Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.
		Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.4 Identify locations where decommissioning and restoration of unauthorized trails are needed, including but not limited to, the North Shore Trail in the Reserve and non-designated trails in the coastal areas, to decrease erosion, soil compaction, and degradation of cultural and natural resources and wildlife habitats. Prioritize actions to address first the most degraded and sensitive resource locations.
		Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.6 Conduct erosion assessments of roads and trails and implement adaptive management strategies to minimize erosion. Document sedimentation conveyance pathways to the ASBS and implement sediment and erosion control BMP measures to reduce sediment delivery and erosion.
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.2 Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as the Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts, e.g. boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.
GEO-3: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geologic feature	LTS	<b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.1</b> Inventory, map, and monitor paleontological resources for their protection, preservation, and interpretation.
Paleontological resources have the potential to be located within the CASP units and discovered during existing and future uses or construction of future facilities. While the introduction of new facilities or recreation opportunities to the		<b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.2</b> Coordinate with paleobiology resource specialists on protection and preservation of paleontological resources that have both natural and cultural resource value.
Reserve or New State Park could result in the discovery and inadvertent damage or destruction of paleontological resources, implementation of parkwide MANAGE guidelines would maintain this potential impact at a less-than-significant level.		<b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.3</b> Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the formation, sensitivity, and importance of protecting paleontological resources.
		COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 2.1 Continue to implement best practices to protect, preserve, and interpret paleontological resources in the Carmelo, Chamisal, and Santa Margarita formations. This includes inventorying, mapping, and monitoring resources, coordinating with qualified paleontologists on specific actions for protection and preservation, and developing interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting paleontological resources.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change		
GHG-I: Direct and indirect short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emissions of GHGs Short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emissions of GHGs associated with the plan implementation would not be substantial such that implementation of the General Plan would result in a considerable contribution to the cumulative effect of global climate change. Additionally, implementation of specific guidelines contained in the General Plan would further reduce emissions. As such, direct and indirect short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emission of GHGs would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guidelines 7.1 Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.
		Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2 Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
GHG- 2: Impacts of climate change risks on the CASP units Climate change is expected to result in a variety of hazards and other risks that would influence conditions on the CASP units. These effects include increased temperatures and wildfire risk, changes to the timing and intensity of precipitation patterns, increased stormwater and flood risk, and sea level rise. Implementation of guidelines contained in the General Plan and CSP Standard Project Requirements would serve to improve the CASP units' resilience to these potential climate change risks. Further, implementation of the General Plan would not exacerbate vulnerability of the CASP units to the impacts of climate change. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 7.1 Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents, prepared to address foreseeable climate change risks, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.  COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5 Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.  LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2 Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.  CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.1 Recognize the natural flood protection function of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of features that would substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow. Identify strategies that accommodate the potential for increased flood frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.	
Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Risk of Upset			
HAZ-I: Routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and plan implementation would be required to implement and comply with existing federal and state hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials; therefore, plan implementation would not create significant hazards to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials or from reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	No guidelines are required.	

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
HAZ-2: Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school  The use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and plan implementation would be required to implement and comply with existing federal, state, and local hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials. Therefore, plan implementation would result in a less-than-significant impact.	LTS	No guidelines are required.
HAZ-3: Interfere with implementation of an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan  Additional or renovated facilities would be required to meet minimum necessary fire protection and safety requirements identified in the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code as well as meet requirements for emergency access. For these reasons and with implementation of General Plan guidelines related to emergency response and evacuation, operations at the Reserve and New State Park would not interfere with emergency response plan or evacuation plan. This would be a less-than-significant impact.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2 Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.  Parkwide PLAN Guideline 1.5 Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.
HAZ-4: Expose people or structures to wildland fire hazards Plan implementation would not increase the total number of people and structures within the CASP units, with the exception of small structures such as restrooms, interpretive signs, transit shelters, and the transit center, which would be located adjacent to a developed area. Future projects would be subject to state regulations, General Plan guidelines, DOM policies, and Standard Project Requirements for the reduction of fire risk, which include fire- resistant building materials, fire resistant-landscaping, and adequate water supply and emergency access. Construction activities would be required to adhere to California Building Code standards for fire prevention. For these reasons, the exposure to very high fire hazards at the Reserve and New State Park would not be substantially increased. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.1 Coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and the county fire departments to prepare and update Wildfire Management Plans for these parks addressing all aspects of wildfire planning.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.2 Incorporate findings of ongoing fire management research in park maintenance and operations. This may include the use of new tools, concepts, or methods.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.3 Regularly update fuel management plans and collaborate with CAL FIRE to determine effective fuel reduction methods, avoiding and protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources (including historic buildings).

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
·	<b>C</b>	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.4 Reduce fuel and conduct forest thinning measures, as appropriate and where it is beneficial to or does not negatively affect natural or cultural resource values, to prevent the rapid spread of wildland fires.  POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including, maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.
Hydrology and Water Quality		
HYDRO-I: Potential for adverse impacts to water quality All projects implementing the General Plan would be subject to existing laws and regulations requiring erosion and sediment controls; implementation and maintenance of permanent and temporary best management practices (BMPs) to capture, detain, and infiltrate or otherwise control and properly manage stormwater runoff; and facility design and management to prevent water quality degradation. Projects would also comply with CSP Standard Project Requirements for protecting water quality. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.1 Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.
		<b>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.2</b> Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.3 Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to preserve sensitive stream and riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and critical fish and wildlife habitat. Effective stream and riparian habitat management actions are:
		<ul> <li>Avoid excessive ground disturbance, grading, vegetation removal or trampling, and sedimentation to streams during trail construction along or across streams and riparian habitats and other facilities encroaching into riparian corridors;</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Design and locate trails to reduce ongoing erosion potential by avoiding, if feasible, steep slopes that require trail grades exceeding 7 to 10 percent and alignments that run parallel to Carmel River, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek within 50 feet of riparian habitat;</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Install temporary or (if necessary) permanent sediment erosion control measures and/or BMPs to protect streams where monitoring has identified eroding soil;</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Where stream and riparian habitat conditions are known to be degraded along the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek, and their major tributaries, restore stream and riparian habitat, including natural hydrologic processes, aquatic ecosystem functions, and re-planting of native vegetation;</li> </ul>

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<ul> <li>Monitor and eradicate invasive aquatic and terrestrial weeds to protect and enhance stream aquatic ecosystems and native riparian vegetation and habitat; and</li> <li>Monitor stream embeddedness/pool/riffle sequencing to establish a baseline and monitor sedimentation at select monitoring sites to document trends over time in relation to habitat quality indices.</li> <li>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.5 Prevent water quality degradation to sensitive</li> </ul>
		water features, including Carmel River and Iagoon, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek and their tributaries, and Areas of Special Biological Significance.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.7 As part of visitor interpretation and education, illustrate the importance of land use and management adjustments to reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals harmful to wetlands and waterways.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 5.1 Restore vegetative buffers adjacent to trails and unpaved parking areas to reduce sediment transport into surface waters. Close or move facilities that contribute to runoff directly into the ocean or directly to the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek.
		Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 5.2 Use trail design features and natural and constructed barriers to discourage the creation of unauthorized trails that would degrade ocean or stream water quality. Decommission and restore existing unauthorized trails that contribute sediment and other pollutants to aquatic and marine environments. Restore ecologically damaged areas to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.
HYDRO-2: Potential for increase in stormwater runoff, impacts to existing drainage systems, or alteration of drainage patterns  Plan implementation would include redevelopment of park amenities leading to an increase in impervious surfaces. However, all future projects implementing the General Plan would be required to meet existing BMP standards and CSP Standard Project Requirements and drainage design standards. These requirements would prevent increased stormwater runoff, resolve existing drainage infrastructure problems, and protect functioning drainage systems, so that this impact would be less than significant.	LTS	COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 5.1 Improve the parking lot and boat launch ramp at Whalers Cove. Retain diver-support parking and implement design changes for drainage infrastructure that will improve water quality, prevent adverse water quality effects from storm water runoff discharge, and protect the ASBS. In coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, evaluate and develop parking lot design modifications and implement them as a high-priority marine water quality protection action. Improvements will be consistent with the State Water Quality Control Board mandate to eliminate adverse water quality effects of storm water runoff entering the ocean and ASBS.
		<b>COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.1</b> Remove visitor parking from unpaved areas on the coastal bluff. Restore these areas with local collected native vegetation to stabilize soils and reestablish coastal bluff habitat, improve water quality, and protect the ASBS.

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
HYDRO-3: Exposure to flood hazards The potential for future projects to expose people or property to 100-year flood risk would be minimized through implementation of parkwide goals and guidelines. With ongoing implementation of management intent to avoid impacts from existing floodplains, along with implementation of General Plan guidelines to avoid flooding impacts, this would be a less-than-significant impact.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.6 Avoid placement of incompatible structures or uses within the 100-year FEMA floodplain hazard areas, which are the FEMA-mapped floodplains in the Carmel River lagoon; along the Carmel River, including the northern portion of Odello West field; the mouth of San Jose Creek and upstream approximately 2,000 feet; and the southern portion of Hatton Canyon from approximately 700 feet north of Rio Road to the Carmel River.
Noise		
NOISE-I: Generation of short-term construction noise that could exceed noise standards While plan implementation would involve construction of trails, parking areas, restrooms or other small facilities, such activities would be inherently short-term and minor in magnitude. Further, CSP Standard Project Requirements and implementation of General Plan guidelines would maintain potential construction noise at a less-than-significant level.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8 Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.
NOISE-2: Generation of long-term noise levels related to project operations that could exceed local noise standards Plan implementation would not result in substantial additional daily motor vehicle trips, because of visitor use management strategies and multimodal transportation goals and guidelines. A redistribution of existing trips would occur from opening New State Park – Inland Area and development of new or relocated parking facilities, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. As such, long-term increases in traffic and associated noise levels would not result in audible increase in noise (i.e., 3 dBA) as compared to existing noise levels, which would be a less-than-significant impact.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8 Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.
Public Services and Utilities		1
WTIL-I: Increased demand for water supply or infrastructure  Additional water demand associated with plan implementation would be minimal, because the level of visitation would remain stable and sustainable and added facilities would include a minimal number of restrooms, the reuse of existing buildings as staff residences or other visitor serving uses. Potential structures in Lower Hatton Canyon would include parking spaces and minimal structures associated with a multimodal transportation center. Water supply in the region is constrained, so goals and guidelines emphasize water conservation and efficient	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.4 Minimize overall CASP water demand through conservation practices, water use reduction features in facilities, and visitor education.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1 Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2 Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.  UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1 Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements. Consider:

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
use. With implementation of General Plan guidelines, impacts related to water supply and infrastructure would be less than significant.  UTIL-2: Increased demand for wastewater treatment or infrastructure Additional wastewater generation associated with plan implementation would be minimal, because it would include a minimal number of restrooms, the reuse of existing buildings for use as staff residences or other visitor serving uses. Potential structures in Lower Hatton Canyon would include parking spaces and minimal structures associated with a multimodal transportation center. With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines, impacts related to wastewater treatment and infrastructure would be less than significant.	LTS	<ul> <li>restroom and utility infrastructure;</li> <li>new restroom at the entrance station;</li> <li>electricity to group gathering and other applicable areas in the Reserve (such as Piney Woods);</li> <li>phone lines where hard-wire phone service is needed;</li> <li>additional storage for rescue equipment and boats; and</li> <li>New Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) sewer pumping stations.</li> <li>COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5 Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.</li> <li>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1 Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.</li> <li>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2 Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.</li> <li>UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1 Identify and prioritize specific utility</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>and infrastructure improvements. Consider:</li> <li>restroom and utility infrastructure;</li> <li>new restroom at the entrance station;</li> <li>electricity to group gathering and other applicable areas in the Reserve (such as Piney Woods);</li> <li>phone lines where hard-wire phone service is needed;</li> <li>additional storage for rescue equipment and boats; and</li> <li>New Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) sewer pumping stations.</li> <li>COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5 Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.</li> </ul>	
UTIL-3: Increased demand for solid waste collection and disposal Plan implementation would result in an incremental increase in solid waste generation and would not result in an increase in solid waste that would cause a landfill to exceed its capacity. Therefore, it would have a less-than-significant impact on solid waste collection and disposal.	LTS	No guidelines are required.	

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
UTIL-4: Result in inefficient and wasteful consumption of energy Plan implementation could result in a small increase in electricity and natural gas consumption at the park units relative to existing conditions, because it would extend electricity to serve visitor uses in New State Park – Inland Area and would result in the renovation and use of one structure as a staff residence. Project-related buildings would be required to meet the California Code of Regulations Title 24 standards for building energy efficiency and General Plan goals and guidelines promote sustainable uses, including energy efficiency. Construction energy consumption would be temporary and would not require additional capacity or increased peak or base period demands for electricity or other forms of energy. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.7 Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1 Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2 Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.	
UTIL-5: Increased demand for emergency medical services General Plan implementation would not encourage an overall increase in visitation at the CASP units. All lands composing CASP units already receive fire risk reduction and fire response services. Plan implementation would not, therefore, result in a substantial increase in demand for fire protection and emergency services. Implementation of General Plan guidelines would result in a less-than-significant impact on fire protection and emergency services.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.  COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.1 Provide more visible warning signage with clear messaging at the beach.  COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.2 Provide public information online and in park interpretive displays to increase public awareness of the hazardous surf conditions at the beach.  COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.3 Improve lifeguard staffing levels to provide adequate coverage.	
UTIL-6: Increased demand for law enforcement services CSP rangers, serving as peace officers, provide law enforcement and public safety within the park units. Implementation of the proposed plan would not encourage an overall increase in visitation at the Reserve or New State Park, because of visitor use management strategies (e.g., reservation system). The demand for law enforcement services would increase with the opening of New State Park – Inland Area. With implementation of General Plan guidelines, law	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 2.4 Provide some staff housing in existing structures for security and surveillance of parklands.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.1 Identify and implement enhanced visitor safety communication methods, including use of social media, signage, public information, and site-specific solutions to reduce risks. If needed, implement area or facility closures when safety risks are unacceptable.	

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines			
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact	
enforcement services would be increased. For these reasons, the impact on law enforcement services would be less than significant.		<b>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2</b> Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.	
		<b>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.4</b> Coordinate with other public entities in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and utilizing the expertise of all personnel.	
		Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.5 Evaluate signage informing visitors of known hazards and install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 10.3 Provide increased levels of service to include the addition of two park rangers, up to four seasonal park aids, and one permanent full-time maintenance worker when the new park areas are open to the public.	
Recreation			
REC-1: Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment  Plan implementation would continue the ongoing management of recreational uses, as well as the introduction of new outdoor recreation facilities in the previously-inaccessible Inland Area. Facility development and management	LTS	Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.1 In collaboration with regional partners and stakeholders, provide information to encourage visitation to nearby state parks, regional parks and open space, and National Forest land. Methods to encourage this cross-connection include providing information describing regional resources, such as location maps with park and open space access and trail connection information, and working with partners to provide regional mass transit opportunities.	
strategies under the General Plan would provide similar recreation opportunities at a similar intensity of use as existing conditions, and in some situations reduced recreation activity where overuse has resulted in environmental degradation. Construction of new recreation facilities, such as trails, interpretive features, and day use areas, would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements, which are designed to avoid adverse environmental effects. Plan implementation would emphasize enhancement of the visitor's experience, and would include guidelines to create environmental benefits related to management of recreation use, such as guidelines to prevent future erosion of stream channels, trails, parking areas, and roads; guidelines to encourage efficient use of energy, water, and other resources;		Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.2 Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would cost-effectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.	
		Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.4 Manage visitor use in sensitive areas where resources are being negatively impacted by overuse. Limit public access to sensitive areas and provide access to less sensitive locations with outdoor recreation opportunities.	
and guidelines to manage the volume of visitors to the CASP units. This would be a less-than-significant impact.		<b>Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.5</b> Evaluate new recreational opportunities, trends, and activities that would bring diverse and underrepresented populations to the parks without impacting positive user experiences or degrading resources.	

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
Traffic and Transportation		
TRAFFIC-1: Impacts to roadway operation that conflicts with a plan, ordinance, policy, or program mplementation of the General Plan guidelines would not result in substantial additional daily motor vehicle trips, because of visitor use management strategies and multimodal transportation goals and guidelines. A redistribution of existing trips would occur, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. Additionally, mplementation of a reservation system would enable the effective management of visitor access and overall levels of all visitor use. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.1 Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that wou support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.  Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.2 Prioritize planned transportation improvements, so that the greatest mobility needs are addressed first, as funding is secured to improve accessibility, safety, and resource protection.  Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements servir or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.
TRAFFIC-2: Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses implementation of General Plan guidelines would ensure that any new roadway facilities, vehicular access points, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are designed and constructed according to accepted design standards and all applicable guidelines. Additionally, the General Plan ACCESS Guidelines would ensure that new facilities are designed to minimize potential conflict points between bicycles/pedestrians and vehicular traffic. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would not result in a substantial increase in hazards due to project design or incompatible uses. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements servin or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.  Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 4.1 Transportation improvements needed for highway access into the parks from SR I will take into account the continued presence of on-highway parking for pertinent design issues, such as intersection sign distance, signage, and turning lanes, if needed.  UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control,

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users. Design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and a transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors).  UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3 If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR I into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR I crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Inland Area, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.
TRAFFIC-3: Impacts to emergency access Implementation of the General Plan would ensure that adequate emergency access is provided to park areas, facilities, and recreational opportunities. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2 Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.  Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.  Parkwide PLAN Guideline 1.5 Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain
		emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.
<b>TRAFFIC-4:</b> Impacts to transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities Plan implementation would include coordination and partnership with local and regional transit agencies to provide adequate service when transit demand grows with implementation of multimodal transportation strategies. Ongoing management to accommodate transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians would be accomplished with implementation of the General Plan guidelines, which would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. This impact would be less than significant.	LTS	Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.1 Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.
		Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving

Table ES-I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines		
Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.
		UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control, along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users. Design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and a transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors).
		<b>UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3</b> If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR I into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR I crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Inland Area, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.





Chapter I
INTRODUCTION

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) consist of two classified units, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (Reserve) and Carmel River State Beach (State Beach), and two unclassified properties, Point Lobos Ranch Property (Point Lobos Ranch), and Hatton Canyon Property (Hatton Canyon). These classified units and properties have their own defining characteristics, are in close geographic proximity to each other, and will be functionally interconnected, so the CASP units are considered together in this General Plan. The General Plan presents the long-term management needs of the four places by defining the framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, operations, and visitor experiences in each. Unit-specific discussions and proposed goals and guidelines are provided to address site-specific issues, opportunities, and management strategies. Synergies, similarities, and common goals and guidelines that are generally applicable to all four units together are identified as "parkwide" and provided where appropriate in the plan.



The Coast

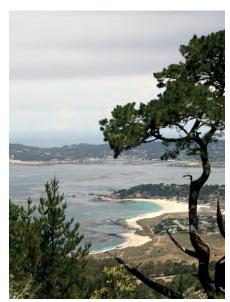
Fog will marry land and sea and cloak each one in mystery. Whilst sunlight parts the playful mist Wind blows each a farewell kiss. And hidden there, from you and me, The answers lie eternally.

- Fred Brown, courtesy of Point Lobos Foundation

# 1.1 Location and Regional Context

The CASP units are located on California's central coast, about 125 miles south of the San Francisco Bay Area and approximately I to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (Figure I-I). Access to CASP is provided primarily by regional highways, State Route (SR) I and SR 156 from U.S. Highway 101, which provides access from the north. SR 68 connects the area to the City of Salinas and other points east. SR I extends between the CASP units, providing immediate highway access and connecting them to Carmel-by-the Sea and Monterey on the north, as well as Big Sur down to San Simeon on the south. Monterey Regional Airport offers airline service to the region; the nearest international airport is the Mineta San Jose International Airport, about 75 miles north.

A major tourism destination, the region is well known for its distinctive coastal scenery and extensive open space. It also contains the urban communities of the cities of Monterey, Salinas, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Seaside, Marina, and Sand City. Large alluvial valley areas in the region are in active agriculture. The northern end of the Santa Lucia Mountains, one of the California coast ranges, forms a major part of the eastern geophysical border of the region.



Coastal views from Point Lobos Ranch



**Carmel Point** 

The extraordinary patience of things!
This beautiful place defaced with a crop of suburban houses—

How beautiful when we first beheld it, Unbroken field of poppy and lupin walled with clean cliffs;

No intrusion but two or three horses pasturing,

Or a few milk cows rubbing their flanks on the outcrop rockheads—

Now the spoiler has come: does it care? Not faintly. It has all time. It knows the people are a tide

That swells and in time will ebb, and all Their works dissolve. Meanwhile the image of the pristine beauty
Lives in the very grain of the granite,
Safe as the endless ocean that climbs our cliff. — As for us:

We must uncenter our minds from ourselves:

We must unhumanize our views a little, and become confident

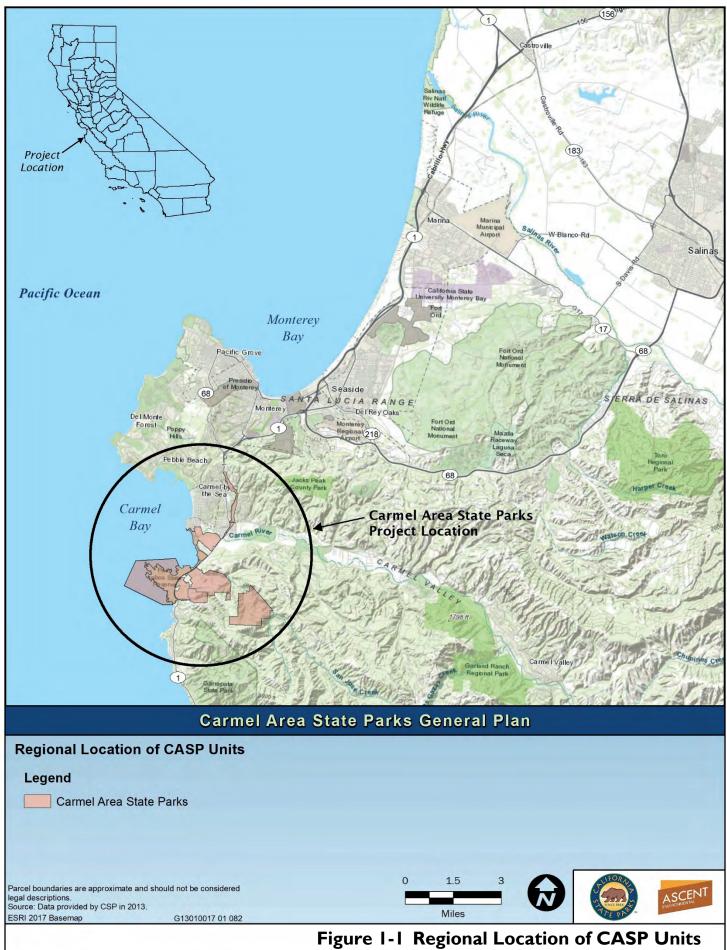
As the rock and ocean that we were made from.

- Robinson Jeffers, 1887-1962

The CASP units are in Monterey County along SR I, approximately I to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (Figure 1-2). The Reserve is located mostly west of SR I directly on the coast. An additional 150 acres of the Reserve are located east of SR I, contiguous to Point Lobos Ranch. The State Beach is located west of SR I encompassing beaches and coves from the Reserve north to the mouth of the Carmel River. It is made up of three beaches: Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach, as well as a lagoon at the foot of the Carmel River directly east of Carmel River Beach. Point Lobos Ranch is east of SR I and contains three parcels separated by regional open space and private property. The western portion of the property is approximately 686 acres and is accessible from San Jose Creek Canyon Road and Riley Ranch Road. The central and eastern portion of the property is approximately 626 acres and is accessible via Riley Ranch Road and Red Wolf Drive. The third parcel is the smallest at approximately 16 acres and is located between the other two parcels. Hatton Canyon is the northernmost property, east of Carmel-by-the-Sea and east of SR 1. The long, narrow property is approximately 130 acres and is made up of two parcels separated by Carmel Valley Road. The northern (upper) portion of the property is approximately 108 acres and the southern (lower) portion of the property encompasses approximately 22 acres.

#### 1.2 Site Characteristics

The four CASP units represent the diversity of open space land within the Carmel area from the ocean to the Santa Lucia Mountains ridgeline. Portions of the units are remote and wild and portions are more urban in character. With the topography ranging from sea to mountains, they support a wide variety of vegetation communities and wildlife habitat. The region surrounding the CASP units is dominated by open space lands; approximately 14 percent of Monterey is devoted to parks and recreation facilities owned by federal, state, and local agencies.



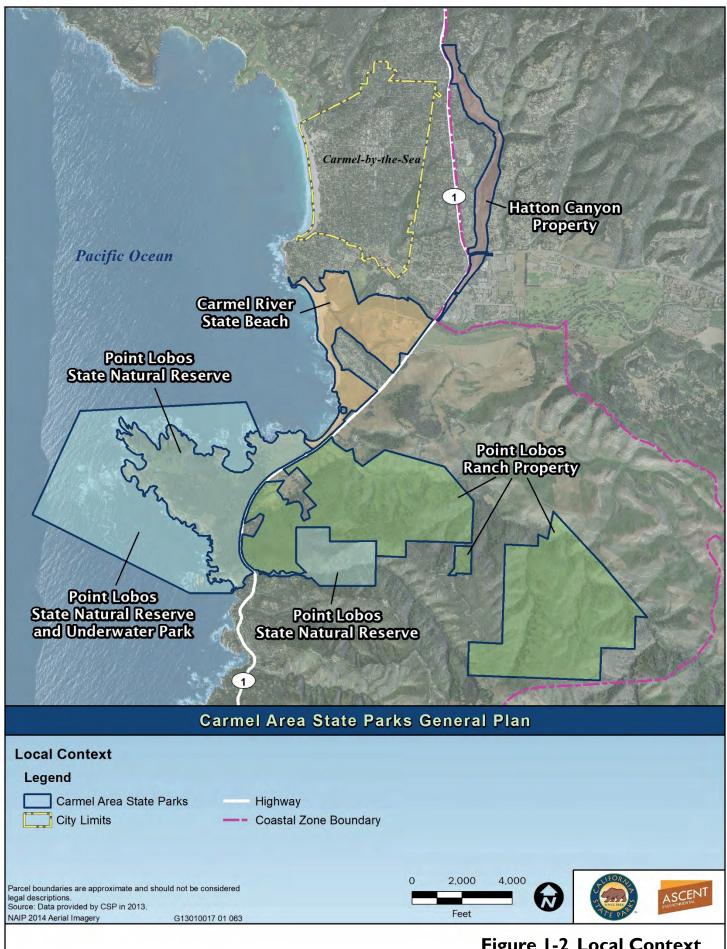


Figure I-2 Local Context

## 1.2.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Land uses within the Reserve include trails and day use recreation areas, interpretive and educational uses, residences for California State Parks (CSP) staff, park operations and maintenance facilities, historic structures, and cultural and biological resource protection areas. Unique natural resources exist within the Reserve, including Gowen cypress and marine habitat. Most of the recreation activities at the Reserve are for day use visitors seeking to view and appreciate natural or cultural resources. The Reserve hosts a minimum of 500,000 visitors every year. Visitors come to paint, dive, photograph, walk, or hike along the shoreline observing the land, water, and wildlife. The Reserve provides visitors with a place where they can appreciate the striking natural beauty of the California coast. Recreation uses within the Reserve are described in more detail in Section 2.2. Park Land Use and Facilities. The underwater portion of the Reserve is within a State Marine Reserve, which is a classification of state Marine Protected Area, and a National Marine Sanctuary. Therefore, fishing and collecting of plants or marine animals are not allowed within its boundaries.

The Reserve encompasses approximately 9 miles of coastline that includes a diversity of coastal habitats including coastal prairie, Monterey cypress and pine forest, pocket beaches, exposed or protected rocky areas, tidepools, and sheer cliffs. Steep cliffs drop as much as 200 feet to the water surface in some areas. Shoreline conditions are highly variable and include many geologic features, such as caves, islands, sea mounts, pinnacles, and low-lying rocks.

#### 1.2.2 Carmel River State Beach

The State Beach is a popular destination and frequently hosts events, including over 100 weddings every year. Most of the recreation activities at the State Beach are low-intensity, such as sightseeing, photography, painting, dog walking, nature study, kayaking, picnicking, walking, bird watching, water play in the Carmel River lagoon, and whale watching. The State Beach contains the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve and Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve. Portions of the State Beach are more heavily used by local residents and visitors who walk to the beach from adjacent neighborhoods. An exception is Monastery Beach. This area is heavily visited by highway travelers for day use activities because of the visibility and accessibility from the adjacent SR I. The State Beach is a well-known location for scuba divers because of a submarine canyon just northeast of



One of the joys at Point Lobos is that it changes from season to season.

- Chuck Bancroft, Retired State Parks Ranger



Interpretive panels at Carmel River Beach

Monastery Beach. Odello West field and the Odello Farm complex are also within the State Beach. The Odello Farm complex consists of several historic farm buildings. The former Odello artichoke fields are now Carmel River floodplain habitat for several species of special concern and sensitive habitat for migratory songbirds.

The State Beach has approximately 1.5 miles of shoreline that borders Carmel Bay, including Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach. Shoreline conditions along Carmel Bay are characterized by rocky cliffs and points, sandstone areas, and extensive granitic sand beaches.

## 1.2.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property

Point Lobos Ranch contains a rich and diverse assemblage of habitat types with sensitive cultural resources and scenic views of the coast. Habitat types include Monterey pine forest, the rare Gowen cypress forest, maritime chaparral, and riparian. Riparian habitat within the property supports south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frogs in San Jose Creek, and mountain lion habitat throughout. The San Jose Creek and the A.M. Allan Ranch areas also contain historic structures and cultural landscape features. Significant Native American archaeological and sacred sites are located near San Jose Creek. Current land uses include residences for CSP staff, an early 20th century complex of ranch buildings, and a staging area for trail crews from the California Conservation Corps, American Conservation Experience, and Youth Conservation Corps. Historic land uses within the property included dairy farming, ranching, grazing, and irrigated pasture land.



Hatton Canyon contains an unpaved utility access road available for walking or jogging in the northern portion and a paved multi-purpose trail within the southern portion of the property. Resources include Monterey pine trees, small wetlands, and riparian woodland. Recreation use in the northern portion of Hatton Canyon is informal, primarily by neighborhood residents. The southern portion of the property is also used for special events such as seasonal uses and the annual Big Sur International Marathon.

For more information on existing features and land uses within each of the park units see Chapter 2, Existing Conditions.



Historic ranch structure in Point Lobos Ranch

## 1.3 Purpose of Acquisition

## 1.3.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

In 1928, California voters approved a bond measure to create the California Division of Beaches and Parks. The State Park and Recreation Commission hired landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to conduct a survey and provide recommendations on which lands would be best for acquisition and development as a state park. Point Lobos was one area Olmsted promoted because he considered it to be one of the most significant scenic and scientific areas that should be acquired by the state.

The portion of the Reserve located west of SR I was acquired by CSP in 1933 and was originally designated as Point Lobos Reserve State Park. In 1962, land east of SR I that contains a rare stand of Gowen cypress trees was donated to the state by Herman Marks and became part of the unit. The State Park was renamed and reclassified a State Reserve in 1963, and reclassified as a State Natural Reserve through legislation in 2004. The Reserve consists of headlands, coves, meadows, forests, and an underwater park. The underwater park is within a designated State Marine Reserve and is an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

The Reserve was acquired primarily to preserve its rare scenic beauty and unusual natural landscape. Francis McComas, an Australian landscape artist based in the Monterey area, painted the coast at the time the Reserve was first acquired, and described the Reserve as "... the greatest meeting of land and water in the world." The declaration of purpose for the Reserve, as found in the 1979 General Plan, states:

The purpose of Point Lobos State Reserve is to perpetuate forever, for public enlightenment, inspiration and esthetic enjoyment, an area of unique natural beauty and ecological significance including the Monterey cypress-covered headlands, unique Gowen cypress pygmy forests, Monterey pine forests, meadows and prairies, rocky shorelines, sandy beaches, and ecologically unique underwater areas, together with the related natural, scenic, and cultural values and the aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna in an essentially pristine state.



Whalers Cabin Museum at Whalers Cove

Running in Point Lobos

Today I am the massive grey whale,
exploding great bursts of salt spray
plumes, as I glide through rolling seas.
Yesterday I was the fork-antlered,
y-headed buck prancing on the needled
floor of moss-drooped pine forests.

Tomorrow...tomorrow
I shall be the wind.
My bare feet will never touch ground.
- Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts, courtesy of

Point Lobos Foundation

California Departments of Parks and Recreation and Fish and Game are to manage the aquatic and terrestrial resources as a composite whole, preserving the primitive character of the reserve in accordance with sound ecological principles; to interpret these resources for the people, and to provide necessary services and compatible facilities consistent with the preservation of scenic and ecologic values for the enjoyment of the reserve by visitors.

#### 1.3.2 Carmel River State Beach

In 1947, the State Park and Recreation Commission proposed the acquisition of Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach on an equal cost sharing basis with Monterey County as a means for alleviating the heavy volume of park visitors at the Reserve.

The current extent of the State Beach was acquired by CSP over several years beginning in 1953, with the most recent acquisition in 1981. The last parcel was acquired because of its abundant natural and cultural resources and proximity to the Reserve. CSP leadership hoped that opening an adjacent park unit would help alleviate the heavy visitor use at the Reserve. The declaration of purpose for the State Beach, as found in the 1979 General Plan, states:

The purpose of Carmel River State Beach is to provide the people, forever, for their enlightenment, inspiration, esthetic enjoyment, and recreational pursuits a combination of beautiful sandy beaches and rocky bluffs, including the coastal strand, coastal bluff and coastal scrub communities, and the preservation of wetlands formed by the Carmel River, in an essentially natural condition together with the outstanding related scenic, natural and cultural values including the flora and fauna of Carmel Bay, Carmel River wetlands, and the coastline of Carmel Bay.

Proposition 117 funds are to be used for acquisition of deer and mountain lion habitat; rare and endangered species habitat; wetlands, riparian, and aquatic habitat; and open space.

#### 1.3.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property

Point Lobos Ranch was transferred from Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) to CSP over a 10-year period that was completed in 2003. The property was purchased with funds from Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, and with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Extensive development was proposed for the property, and it was purchased to protect significant habitat, wildlife corridors (especially for mountain lions), important architectural and archaeological resources, and to provide connectivity to other public lands (Saunders, pers. comm., 2017).

## 1.3.4 Hatton Canyon Property

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) originally acquired a highway right-of-way through Hatton Canyon in 1956 for planned use as a new bypass alignment of SR I. After community objections and lawsuits challenging the environmental analysis for the SR I bypass, the plan to build the bypass officially ended in 1999, when the Transportation Agency of Monterey County voted to transfer the state funds earmarked for the bypass to pay for improvements on U.S. Highway 101. In 2001, the State Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Bill 434 that rescinded the creation of the SR I realignment project and declared that the land was surplus property. Hatton Canyon was subsequently deeded by the state to CSP in 2001. Hatton Canyon is managed to provide open space and trail use in an urban environment It also contains a Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) sanitary sewer line and unpaved service road.



Multi-purpose trail in Lower Hatton Canyon

#### 1.4 Sense of Place

The CASP units are part of a beautiful stretch of central California coast. Bordered by the quaint City of Carmel-by-the-Sea and thousands of acres of preserved open space, these parks contribute to the scenic character of the Monterey/Big Sur coastline and Santa Lucia Mountains. The units are part of the regional open space network, connecting the Reserve, Point Lobos Ranch, Palo Corona Regional Park, BSLT properties, State Beach, Hatton Canyon, and others. The sense of place for the four units is described below.

#### 1.4.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve beckons visitors from around the world to experience the unique topography, plants, wildlife, and the vibrant colors where the ocean meets land. From the pathways among the Monterey cypress forest to Bird Island, visitors experience a range of dynamic natural forces. The wind-shaped trees combined with dramatic ocean forces have shaped the eroding coastline.

Harbor seals and their pups frequently haul out at China Cove giving visitors a unique opportunity to observe these marine mammals. The ocean influence is dominant throughout the Reserve; however, hiking through the forested uplands presents a quieter and more serene experience.



The timeless battering and grinding of the sea upon the shore is one of the most powerful, persistent, and dramatic of the natural resource processes characteristic of Point Lobos.

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

Visitors to Whalers Cove can step back into history at the Whalers Cabin Museum, a structure originally built by Chinese fishermen in the early 1850s. This historic weathered structure houses artifacts and stories of those who lived in the area in the past while next door, at the Whaling Station Museum, visitors can observe large whale bones. Beyond the museums, visitors can look out over Whalers Cove and view otters among the kelp or catch an occasional glimpse of a scuba diver.

The Reserve is a dramatic mixture of land and sea and a place of immense natural beauty. Crashing waves, tranquil beaches, tall, craggy granite cliffs, and quiet coves are scattered throughout the Reserve's coastline. This unique landscape, the marine birds, mammals, and fragile tidepool creatures, provide visitors with memorable experiences. The Reserve is a place of refuge and beauty for people from all over the world.

#### 1.4.2 Carmel River State Beach

On a misty morning, neighbors and their leashed dogs enjoy quiet walks along the beach. The clinging fog obscures the views on many days and one may walk without seeing another soul. Where the Carmel River flows into the ocean is a wealth of animal life. A visitor may see many bird species landing in the protected waters of the lagoon or calling to each other while passing above.

The Odello Farm complex reflects a bygone era when the land supported vast fields of artichokes. The weathered barn has been battered by many years of salt spray and wind. Native riparian vegetation has recaptured the land and now provides habitat for hundreds of species of migratory songbirds. The tranquility of the landscape, combined with the sounds of songbirds and an occasional deer passing by, can all be witnessed here with the distant sound of the ocean in the background.

## 1.4.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property

The inland-most areas of Point Lobos Ranch consist of undeveloped wildland. From the uplands near the Santa Lucia Mountains ridgeline, one can view expansive and panoramic portions of the Point Lobos and Carmel area coastline, coves, bay, and open ocean. Visitors are surrounded by Monterey pine forest, oak woodland, maritime chaparral, riparian, and chamise chaparral habitat. There are scattered residences, and few human sounds are heard, such as an occasional car or people working on their nearby private properties.



Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

In the area around Riley Ranch Road and Allen Road, one can experience what Point Lobos Ranch may have looked like decades ago when this area was a working dairy. Several buildings in this location were a part of the historic ranch.

The property includes Gibson Creek to the south and San Jose Creek to the north. They provide intact riparian corridors with restful sounds of running water in those portions of the unit closest to the creeks.

## 1.4.4 Hatton Canyon Property

Upper Hatton Canyon provides a feeling of seclusion in an urban setting, an open space corridor with residences along canyon ridgelines. The sounds of nature are interspersed with those of adjacent residents. Visitors can enjoy the Monterey pine forest on the canyon slopes and occasional moving water in the ephemeral creek along the canyon bottom. In Lower Hatton Canyon, the property is next to commercial uses and urban streets. The sounds of vehicles and urban activity dominate the Marathon Flats area in the lower property.

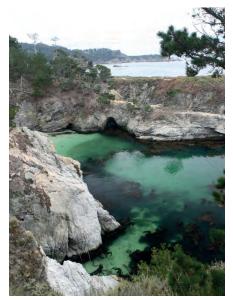
## 1.5 Purpose of the General Plan

The General Plan is the primary management document for a park within the State Park System, establishing its vision, purpose, and a management direction for the future. This General Plan provides goals and guidelines for fulfilling the purpose of the CASP units. This document does not attempt to prescribe detailed management or development proposals, but rather outlines direction and parameters for future management and development actions. Specific actions for implementation of the General Plan are intended to be developed in subsequent planning efforts as they are needed, including the preparation of management plans and specific project plans identified herein.

This document was prepared to satisfy the requirements the California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2. The PRC specifies that a General Plan will be prepared before development of any new facilities and shall evaluate and define the proposed management of resources, land uses, facilities, concessions, operation of the unit, and any environmental impacts. The CASP General Plan will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for consideration and final approval.



California sea lions at Lower Sea Lion Point



China Cove with its brilliant green water

A previous general plan was prepared that covered both the Reserve and the State Beach. This plan was approved in October 1979 and amendments to the 1979 General Plan were approved in June 1987 and March 1996. Since that time, CSP has acquired both Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon.

The Reserve continues to have very high visitation. Excessive visitation has degraded natural and cultural resources. Flooding, wildfire, and sea level rise are important current and future management concerns.

CSP is one of several agencies and organizations managing public open space land within the area. The acquisition of Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon, along with Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's ownership and management of Palo Corona Regional Park adjacent to Point Lobos Ranch, provide new opportunities for CSP to create a plan that encompasses all four park units, recognizes how conditions have changed, addresses ongoing resource management and visitation issues, and implements new adaptive management strategies.

The General Plan will coordinate the management needs of the four units and will explore ongoing partnership opportunities with other agencies and organizations. This General Plan will guide CSP management of these parks for the next generation.

# 1.5.1 Combined State Park General Plan and Program EIR

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that state agencies analyze and disclose the potential significant environmental effects of a proposed discretionary action. An environmental impact report (EIR) is usually prepared as a standalone document intended to meet the requirements of CEQA. However, CEQA also encourages combining planning processes and environmental review, with environmental impact analysis integrated into resource management planning decisions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15006).

This General Plan includes environmental analysis that serves as a program EIR, as defined in Section 15168 of the CEQA guidelines. The Environmental Analysis (Chapter 5 of this General Plan) comprehensively addresses environmental consequences of implementing the overall parkwide and management zone goals and guidelines for the designated uses within each management zone; however, it does not contain environmental impacts of project-specific facility construction or use, because project-

specific design has not yet been developed. The EIR serves as a reference for future environmental review of implementation actions, which will later address consideration of site-specific developments and projects.

By combining the General Plan and EIR in one document, CSP will streamline the planning process and provide the public with easily accessible information on both the plan and environmental review. When the lead agency combines a plan and an EIR, all CEQA requirements must be covered and the document must identify where these requirements are met. Please refer to the Table of Contents for the location of EIR-required elements within Chapter 5 of this document.

Future planned actions to implement this General Plan have been anticipated to the extent reasonable and feasible, and potential impacts resulting from these actions have been discussed. Environmental protection has been incorporated into the General Plan goals and guidelines, which has resulted in the successful avoidance of significant adverse environmental impacts or limiting environmental impacts to a less-than-significant level. CSP will use the CEQA analysis in this document to support consideration of environmental impacts of future implementing actions. If they are consistent with the plan and within the scope of the program EIR, no further environmental documentation would be necessary (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c][3]). If future actions deviate from the plan, those actions may require additional CEQA analysis and documentation. Information contained in this document would be used to determine how much additional CEQA documentation is necessary, if any, based on State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162-15164, and 15168.

# 1.6 Organization and Contents of the General Plan and EIR

This document is the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR and it is organized into the following sections:

**Executive Summary:** The executive summary provides an overview of the purpose of the General Plan, the planning process, and the most essential information related to the General Plan and environmental analysis.

**Chapter I, Introduction:** The introduction provides a brief overview of the parks. It describes the purpose of the General Plan and EIR and it summarizes the planning process and subsequent steps.



Source: © 2012 Charles M. Bancroft
Old Veteran Cypress in the Reserve

Old

Old Veteran

The old tree—there—with flattened crown, with twisted limbs and weathered roots, so long a prey to ocean storms; somehow still tethered to the ground.

Sea winds have shaped that cypress tree into gaunt forms that catch our eye, silhouettes against the sky that speak of patience, and tenacity.

- Quercus, courtesy of Point Lobos Foundation Chapter 2, Existing Conditions: Chapter 2 describes the existing land uses, facilities, resource values, visitor experiences, operations, and interpretation at CASP. It also describes the partnerships and planning influences that affect the General Plan. It serves as the baseline against which the General Plan will be evaluated for potential environmental effects.

Chapter 3, Issues and Analysis: Chapter 3 explains the planning assumptions that inform the General Plan. It also identifies the key issues, opportunities, and constraints that are addressed by the General Plan. This chapter also describes the alternatives to the General Plan which were considered while the General Plan was being developed.

Chapter 4, The Plan: Chapter 4 presents the purpose and vision for CASP. It includes the goals and guidelines that direct management of the park units which support the intent and provide management direction. Goals and guidelines are provided for the CASP units as a whole, as well as by management zone.

Chapter 5, Environmental Analysis: Chapter 5 contains the environmental analysis that evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing the goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan. This chapter describes alternatives to adopting the General Plan, pursuant to CEQA.

**Chapter 6, References:** Chapter 6 lists the written sources and individuals cited in the General Plan and EIR.

**Chapter 7, Report Preparers:** Chapter 7 lists the contributors to the General Plan and EIR.

# 1.7 Planning Process

This General Plan updates and replaces the 1979 General Plan for the Reserve and the State Beach and is a new General Plan for Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon. A comprehensive planning effort was initiated to ensure that the CASP units have a long-term and visionary plan that would be commensurate with the CASP units' significance within the region and State Park System. This General Plan was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team who conducted field investigations, research, interviews, and public meetings to compile a planning information data base and receive public input. This planning effort involved the four CASP units, as well as planning information regarding the surrounding region, and the relationship with nearby state parks, regional parks, and other public lands.

Throughout the planning process, emails, newsletters, and CSP's website kept the public, agencies, and stakeholders informed about the planning process, where to obtain planning and contact information, upcoming public meetings, and summaries of public comments.

This active participation by the public, organizations, local government, and other agencies in the development of the CASP units' concepts, goals, and proposals influenced the direction and content of the General Plan.

The following sections describe the various outreach methods used to obtain input and involve other agencies and stakeholders, including the general public, into the planning process.

### 1.7.1 Public Involvement

The planning process included comprehensive public involvement with the purpose of informing the public throughout the preparation of the General Plan and gathering public input about issues and ideas for the CASP units. Two goals of the planning process related to outreach were to I) facilitate an outreach process that informs and involves the public and stakeholders, including organizations, agencies, and Native American tribes; and 2) help develop goals and guidelines that address CSP, public agency, community, and stakeholder concerns.

The planning team used a variety of methods to update and involve the public, including a project website, an online visitor survey, email updates, newsletters, and public workshops.

## **Public Contact List**

Throughout the process, the planning team assembled information from interested parties into a contact list. At each meeting, attendees were asked to sign in and provide their contact information. Interested parties were also encouraged to communicate with the planning team and ask to be included in the contact list. As of 2018, the contact list contained over 950 entries.

## Website

Throughout the planning process, CSP hosted a project website at http://www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp. The website was updated frequently with meeting announcements, public meeting summaries, documents, newsletters, and meeting presentation materials. The website also contained contact information for the CSP planning team.

# Visitor Survey

The planning team conducted a focused online visitor survey in 2012-2013 to gather visitor experience and park activity preference information and to receive suggestions for improvements to the CASP units. The survey questions asked if participants had visited each of the units, how often they visited in the last year, what their favorite activities were at the parks, and the overall satisfaction of experience and facilities.

Survey results indicated that a majority of survey participants lived in the Monterey area and were over 35 years of age. Forty-five percent of survey participants had visited the Reserve often (more than ten times in the past year), especially for hiking, the scenic views, and rest and relaxation. Visits to the State Beach ranked second (respondents visited one to ten times in the past year), primarily for hiking, getting close to nature, and watching the ocean and sea life. About half of the survey respondents visited Hatton Canyon in the previous year, primarily for walking or hiking, and one quarter of survey respondents had visited Point Lobos Ranch on an educational program or guided tour. Survey respondents noted high satisfaction with experiences and facilities in the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch, and they were very to somewhat satisfied with facilities at the State Beach and Hatton Canyon. Common suggestions for park improvements related to trail facilities, including the need for increased trail maintenance, providing more trail connections, and offering trail guides.

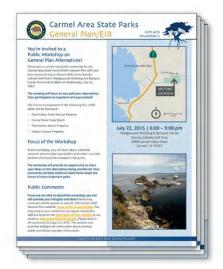
Other regional parks visited most frequently by survey participants were Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Asilomar State Beach, Garrapata State Park, and Monterey State Historic Park.

# **Email Updates and Newsletters**

Email updates and newsletters were used throughout the process to alert interested parties to upcoming meetings, provide a summary of the current progress, and provide contact information for the general planning process.

The planning team sent newsletters and meeting notices by email and postal delivery to those on the contact list before public workshops and provided links to newsletters, along with information on the public meetings. Newsletters were sent at the following times:

 April 2012 – Newsletter 1 introduced the General Plan concept, provided an overview of the process, and served as an invitation to the first public workshop.



Newsletters provided public information

- June 2015 Newsletter 2 invited recipients to the July 2015 planning alternatives workshop and provided information on proposed management zones and potential visitor uses.
- May 2016 Newsletter 3 invited the public to an open house to learn about the preferred alternative. The newsletter provided a general overview on the components of the preferred alternative.

# **Public Workshops**

The first public meeting in support of the planning process was held on April 18, 2012, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club in Carmel. The planning team provided an overview of the planning and environmental review process and tentative schedule. Attendees were invited to visit four information stations and provide input on four different topic areas, i.e., the planning and environmental process, park facilities, resources, and recreation. This initial input was used to guide the planning team in exploring and defining potential alternatives.

A public workshop to present alternative concepts was held on July 22, 2015, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club. This workshop introduced the General Plan alternatives under consideration and the range of potential resource conservation approaches, visitor uses, and facilities that could be included in the parks. The public comments, suggestions, and additional ideas related to features of the alternatives were received to help the planning team craft a draft preferred alternative.

An open house to provide information about the draft preferred alternative proposed for the General Plan was held on June I, 2016, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club. The open house included a presentation followed by a question and answer period and an opportunity to learn about the preferred alternative at a breakout station for each park unit. Written comments were submitted at the open house, as well as by postal mail and email after the meeting.

Summaries of the public workshops are available in Appendix A.



July 2015 public meeting about alternative planning concepts

# State Park and Recreation Commission Tour and Public Meeting

The State Park and Recreation Commission held a public tour and meeting on March 24, 2017. The morning tour visited state and regional parks in the Carmel area to look at their proximity, use, and ways to maximize their integrated value to the public. The afternoon public meeting, held at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club, continued the conversation on planning issues, regional perspectives, creative solutions, and partnerships.

# 1.7.2 Interagency and Stakeholder Involvement

The planning team used a combination of stakeholder workshops, questionnaires, and personal contacts to obtain input and comments during the General Plan process from involved tribal representatives; local, regional, state, and federal agencies; and non-governmental stakeholders.

The planning team facilitated meetings with stakeholders and agencies at several points in the process. In February 2012, the planning team held one meeting with agencies and one meeting with other stakeholders regarding a brief overview of the properties included in the General Plan, the planning process, and timeline and accepted early input on what should be addressed in the general plan and environmental impact report.

In January 2015, the planning team met with a combined agency/stakeholder group to discuss potential alternatives for the park units. In June 2016, the planning team met with the combined agency/stakeholder group on a preferred alternative. The planning team reviewed the agency/stakeholder and public comments received on the draft alternative concepts and used this input to inform and refine the draft preferred alternative.

In addition to the three agency/stakeholder meetings, the planning team met with neighborhood groups representing residents of Hatton Canyon, Red Wolf Drive, Ribera Road/Carmel Meadows, and Carmel Highlands. At these meetings, residents' input was invited and attendees were provided with information on the planning process and preferred alternative. The planning team also met with the Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) and BSLT, which have been involved in CASP property transactions and/or management support. A wide variety of issues were discussed, most commonly traffic congestion and transportation, excessive visitation,



E-mail notices were sent to interested parties

resource protection, public safety, CSP staffing levels, and the level of potential facility development in the parks.

#### Native California Indian Consultation

CSP recognizes its special responsibility as the steward of many sites of cultural and spiritual significance to living Native peoples of California. Therefore, it is the policy of CSP to engage in open, respectful, ongoing consultation with appropriate Native California Indian tribes, groups, or individuals in the proper management of areas, places, objects, or burials associated with their heritage, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties or cultural traditions in the State Park System.

In September 2011, the Department contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a Sacred Lands File search and Native American contact list for Monterey County. Individuals on the NAHC contact list, as well as other local Native California Indians with whom the Monterey District had previously consulted, were contacted by mail and telephone. During the development of this general plan other tribes and individuals also came forward and requested consultation.

On behalf of the District Superintendent, the Monterey District Archaeologist engaged in ongoing consultation with the following:

- Rumsen
- Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation
- Ka Koon Ta Ruk Band of Costanoan-Ohlone Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria
- Esselen Tribe of Monterey County
- Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council

Consultation took the form of phone calls, emails, in-person meetings, and site visits to the area of the proposed cultural preserve. Topics discussed included: interpreting Rumsen and Esselen culture; proposing a cultural preserve as a protection measure for archaeological and tribal cultural resources, as an interpretive opportunity, and as a venue for Native California Indian gatherings; naming the cultural preserve; and naming suggestions for the new state park unit.

# 1.8 Planning Hierarchy

The following is a description of the planning hierarchy that provides direction for the future of CASP. Several key elements of the CSP planning process provide a framework for establishing the parks and directing how they are managed. Key elements of the planning hierarchy are described below.

State park unit planning begins with CSP's mission statement. First and foremost, a state park unit serves statewide interests, best described in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The unit is studied to document its resources, classified based on the physical attributes of the unit and their potential to provide recreation, and managed according to direction provided in PRC Sections 5019.50-5019.80.

## 1.8.1 California State Parks Mission

The mission sets the fundamental parameters within which CSP acquires and manages its units and programs. CSP's mission is to:

Provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the State's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

# 1.8.2 Classification

In addition to CSP's mission, park management and development is further directed by park unit classification as specified by the PRC. The Reserve is classified as a State Natural Reserve. Carmel River State Beach is classified as a State Beach. Both Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon are unclassified properties and will be classified along with the General Plan approval.

# 1.8.3 Declaration of Purpose

This is a broad statement of direction that is unique to each of the park units. The Declaration of Purpose required by PRC Section 5019.50 is determined by the park's prime resources and recreation opportunities in terms of the larger context of the State Park System.

State Natural Reserves [PRC Section 5019.65 (a)] consist of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity.

State Beaches [PRC Section 5019.56 (c)] consist of areas with frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities.

# 1.8.4 Regional Planning Considerations

Regional planning considerations address existing issues and recreation trends and provide ongoing guidance to achieve the long-term vision for the CASP units in the context of regional resources, communities, local plans, and other public lands. The regional considerations provide broad guidance and serve as a guide for integrating the desired condition of these parks into the region as a whole.

### 1.8.5 Vision

The vision statements for the park units provide a view of the desired future conditions. The vision expresses what the park units should ultimately be and look like, as well as what kinds of visitor experiences should be available in the future. There is one Parkwide Vision, where "parkwide" refers to common qualities of the four units considered together, as well as individual visions for each of the four park units included in this general plan.

# 1.8.6 Carmel Area State Parks (Parkwide) Goals and Guidelines

Parkwide goals and guidelines provide topical guidance relevant for all of the park units. These goals and guidelines were developed in response to an evaluation of existing conditions and are intended to address existing issues, foreseeable trends/patterns, and provide ongoing guidance for the incremental actions that will be taken over time to realize the long-term vision for the CASP units.

# 1.8.7 Management Zone Intent, Goals, and Guidelines

Management zones define allowable facilities and activities within sub-areas of the CASP units and provide targeted, zone-specific goals and guidelines. The management zones characterize resource conditions, allowed uses, and visitor experience within certain specific geographic areas. Management zones are developed through consideration of a variety of factors, including topographic features, resource values, ecological parameters, management issues and goals, types and intensities of use, and visitor use and experience.

This General Plan recommends the preparation of the following management plans and follow-up reports:

- Cultural Landscape Report
- Cultural Resource Management Plans
- Forest Management Plan (Allan Memorial Cypress Grove)
- Historic Structure Reports
- Interpretation Master Plan
- Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan
- Natural Resource Management Plans
- Road and Trail Management Plan
- Treatment Plans for Historic Resources
- Wildfire Management Plans

# 1.9 Subsequent Planning

Additional planning efforts, such as management plans and specific projects, follow adoption of the General Plan. Subsequent, more specific planning would be required to be consistent with the adopted General Plan. Over time, if circumstances or management needs change sufficiently from the time of General Plan adoption, the General Plan may need to be amended to best serve the park and statewide interests.

Management plans define the specific objectives, methods, and/or designs for accomplishing management goals. Occurring on an asneeded basis, they typically focus on specific management topics, goals, or issues. This General Plan includes recommendations for certain specific management plans. Management plans can apply to all, or part, of a park unit. They usually include program-level decisions that describe how and when management actions are appropriate and necessary and they are often based on funding and staffing capabilities. Typical examples of management plans include resource management plans, operation plans, road and trail management plans, fire management plans, interpretive plans, concession plans, and facility development plans. Future planning efforts may include the preparation of specific resource management plans, e.g., Historic Structure Reports, to protect sensitive resources, or the development of site-specific plans for new facilities.

Specific project plans are detailed to support implementation. For example, specific project plans could include design concepts, site plans, construction drawings, details and specific actions for rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic structures, development of public visitor facilities, and accessibility improvements to existing or new facilities.

Future planning efforts will also include project-specific environmental review for implementation of later activities, such as management plans and site-specific projects. Environmental review of later activities consistent with the General Plan will be prepared in light of the analysis in the General Plan's program EIR. A later activity may be found "within the scope" of the program EIR, which would allow approval relying on the analysis contained herein, or may require additional environmental documentation, consistent with CEQA requirements. Securing any permits required for future implementation projects will also be part of subsequent planning actions.





Chapter 2
EXISTING CONDITIONS

# 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Existing Conditions chapter describes existing regional land uses and facilities, natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources, and existing planning influences and trends of the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) units. This information provides a foundation for developing goals and guidelines presented in Chapter 4, Park Plan, and conducting the environmental analysis.

# 2.1 Regional Land Use and Facilities

This section describes relevant regional land uses in Monterey County and local uses surrounding each of the CASP units. Regional access and local circulation pertinent to all of the CASP units are also presented. Regional recreation resources, including federal, state, and local public lands, are discussed to provide the context of recreational opportunities in the region.

# 2.1.1 Regional Land Use

Founded in 1850, Monterey County was one of the first counties established in California. Much of the current land use in the county is dictated by the natural landforms. Monterey County lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Gabilan Mountain Range, which is part of the California Coastal Ranges running in a northwest-to-southeast direction along the California coastline. The following are land use designations with respect to land coverage percentage in the county (Monterey County 2010):

Agriculture 60%
Public/quasi public (e.g., hospitals, recreation) 28%
Residential 0.7%
Commercial 0.3%
Industrial 0.3%
Other and federal lands remaining

The Reserve, State Beach, and Point Lobos Ranch are within the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and included in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan, which is part of the California Coastal Act's Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Reserve is designated as a coastal forest and upland habitat. To the south is Carmel Highlands, a low-density residential development. To the north is the boundary shared with the State Beach (Monterey County 1983).

Monterey County was one of the first counties established in California.

The State Beach is designated in the LCP as Wetlands and Coastal Strand and Scenic and Natural Resource Recreation. The State Beach is adjacent to Carmel Meadows, a medium-density residential area. Other adjacent land uses include the Bay School, which is owned by Carmel Unified School District, vacation rentals, residential developments, Carmel River Elementary School, Mission Ranch Hotel, Carmel Mission, and the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) wastewater treatment plant.

Point Lobos Ranch is referenced in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan as a "Special Treatment" overlay to facilitate a previously planned, comprehensive development by a former landowner. The "Special Treatment" overlay is intended to be used in conjunction with the underlying land use designation to facilitate development compatible with the unique natural and scenic resources and significant recreational/visitor-serving opportunities of the property.

# Regional Access and Circulation

State Route (SR) I is a state highway along the Pacific Coast in California that provides primary access to the CASP units. In the CASP area, SR I varies in width from as narrow as 20 feet (10-foot travel lanes with no paved shoulders) to 40 feet (12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders). SR I is a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)-designated scenic highway with a 55-mph speed limit near the CASP units. The Caltrans transportation concept for SR I in the CASP area is envisioned as two 12-foot lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders. Currently, SR I becomes heavily congested during peak use periods, including seasonal tourism to the Monterey-Carmel-Big Sur area, and vehicle parking on the shoulders within the Caltrans right-of-way of SR I outside the Reserve and State Beach contributes to existing traffic congestion and pedestrian safety issues (see Appendix J).

# 2.1.2 Regional Recreational Facilities

Many parks that offer outdoor recreation opportunities are available in the region (Figure 2-I, Public Parks and Open Space Areas). Approximately I4 percent of the county is devoted to parks and recreation facilities that are owned by various federal, state, and local agencies (Monterey County 2010). The U.S. Bureau of Land Management manages lands in the Monterey area, including Fort Ord National Monument, that provide a variety of recreation opportunities. In the Carmel and Carmel Valley areas, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD) operates Garland Ranch Regional Park, Thomas Open Space, Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Forest Preserve, Laguna Grande Regional Park, and Palo Corona Regional Park (California Protected Areas Database 2016) (Figure 2-I).

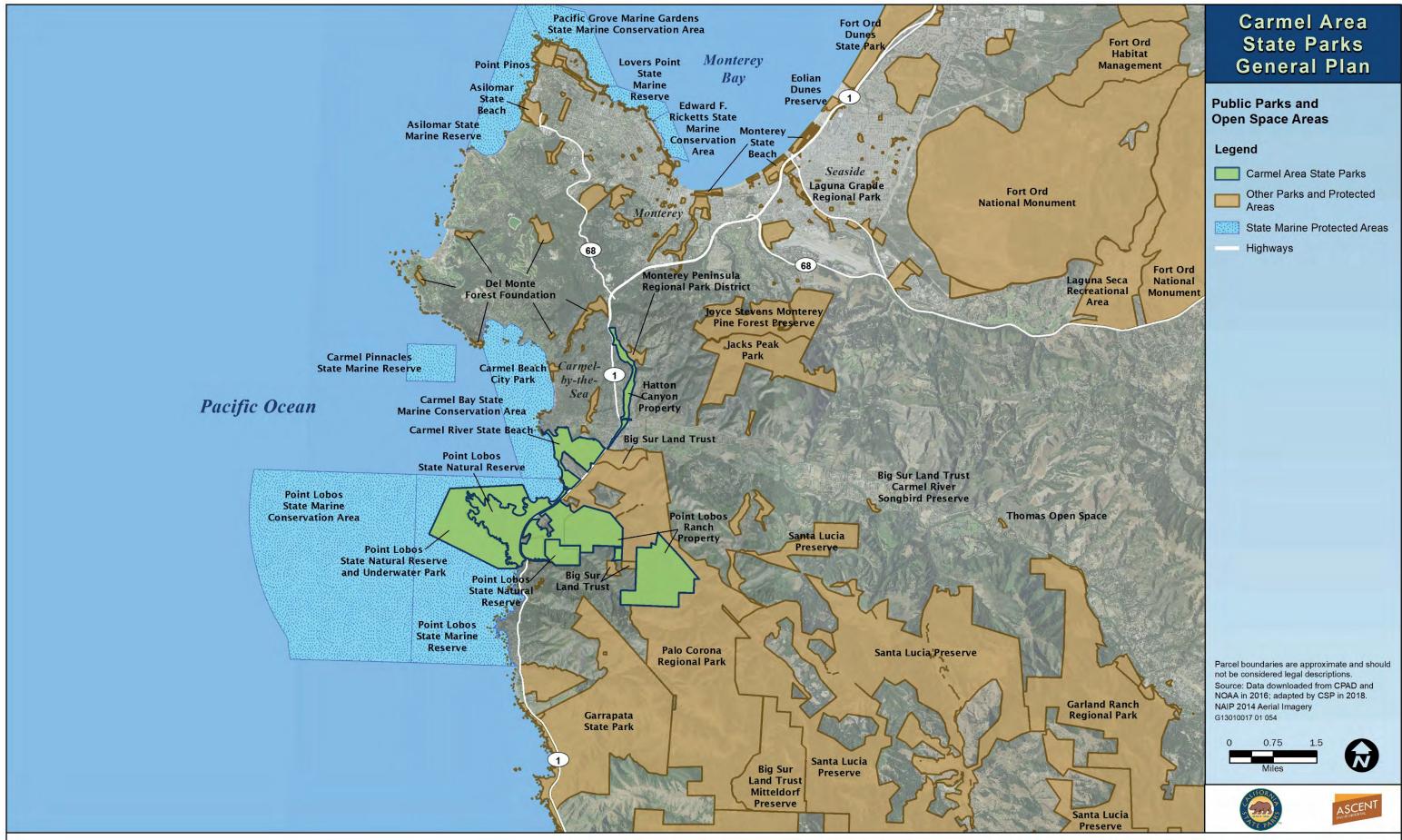


Figure 2-1 Public Parks and Open Space Areas

The Monterey County Parks Department owns several parks in the area including Jacks Peak County Park, Martin Canyon, and Laguna Seca Raceway and Campground. Mission Trails Regional Park, owned by the City of Carmel, is also a well-used corridor connecting the Carmel Mission to surrounding neighborhoods (Monterey County Parks 2018).

# 2.2 Park Land Use and Facilities

This section describes existing land uses and zoning, visitation and recreation demographics, and facilities within each of the CASP units.

# 2.2.1 Existing Land Uses

# Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Land uses within the Reserve include recreational uses, interpretive and educational uses, residences for California State Parks (CSP) staff, park operations and maintenance facilities, and cultural and biological resource protection. Day use recreational activities at the Reserve include painting, photography, wildlife and nature viewing, walking or hiking along the shoreline, and enjoying world-class views. The Reserve is a unique and important recreational resource for scuba diving. The underwater portion of the Reserve is an Underwater Park. The Underwater Park is also within a designated State Marine Reserve (SMR) and an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), and therefore no fishing and collecting of plants or marine animals is allowed within the underwater boundaries. The marine reserve is a place of continuing scientific research.

The Reserve is zoned as Resource Conservation District by Monterey County. The purpose of this zoning designation is to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore sensitive resource areas, and the zoning code states that development in areas with this zoning designation shall be achieved without adverse effect and will be subordinate to the resources.

Easements within the Reserve include a scenic easement along SR I, a right-of-way easement over the trail along Gibson Creek, and a right-of-way easement for pedestrian access to Gibson Beach.



View to State Marine Reserve



Wildlife viewing at Carmel River State Beach lagoon

Visitor safety and access from SR I are key issues for the CASP units.

#### Carmel River State Beach

Beach-oriented recreation is the primary land use at the State Beach. Carmel River Beach is the northernmost section of beach within the unit, with Middle Beach immediately south of Carmel River Beach, and Monastery Beach to the south of Middle Beach. Most of the recreational activities at this park unit are lowintensity such as sightseeing, photography, painting, walking/dog walking, nature study, picnicking, bird/wildlife watching, and whale watching. Monastery Beach is also heavily used for scuba diving. There are two preserves within the State Beach, the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve and the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. A portion (approximately 43 acres) of the State Beach has been restored by Caltrans to wetland and riparian habitat. Under agreement with Caltrans, this area provides mitigation for impacts to riparian and wetland habitats from regional transportation projects. Odello West field and the Odello Farm complex are also within the State Beach. In the 1996 General Plan Amendment, the designation of the Odello West field was changed from agriculture to riparian and wetland habitat. CSP has subsequently embarked on an extensive lagoon restoration project and has created additional lagoon/wetland habitat for species of special concern. The Odello Farm complex consists of several historic farm buildings and a native plant shade house.

Adjacent offshore areas include two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). MPAs are managed for protection and research of California's marine and coastal environment, including the condition of marine animals and plants where there is little or no human disturbance. A portion of the Point Lobos SMR, which is 8.8 square miles, is adjacent to Monastery Beach, and the 2.12-square mile Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) is adjacent to Carmel River Beach and Middle Beach (Figure 2-1). Carmel Pinnacles SMR is a 0.53-square mile area of submerged granitic pinnacles and spires located further offshore. This area is commonly used by scuba divers. There is no fishing allowed within the state marine reserves. Recreational take of finfish and limited commercial fishing is allowed within the marine conservation area (Clifton and Johnson 2010).

The State Beach is zoned as Coastal Agriculture Preserve, Resource Conservation, and Open Space Recreation by Monterey County. The purpose of the Coastal Agricultural Preserve designation is to preserve and enhance the use of the prime, productive, and unique farmlands in Monterey County while also providing an opportunity to establish necessary support facilities for those agricultural uses. The Resource Conservation designation is to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore sensitive resource areas in Monterey County. The Open Space Recreation designation is to provide the establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of outdoor recreation uses in Monterey County.

Utility easements run from east to west across the Odello West field. Electrical line easements are also located along the eastern edge of the property. A 10-foot sewer line easement runs from east to west from the CAWD wastewater treatment plant to the 100-foot sewer outfall easement located at Middle Beach. There is also a 40-foot roadway easement that runs east to west from the Bay School to SR I and a 20-foot roadway easement on the eastern edge of the property to accommodate the access road to the CAWD wastewater treatment plant. Caltrans has a right-of-way easement adjacent to SR I.

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

Point Lobos Ranch has not yet been opened to the general public; however, the property is informally used by adjacent property owners for hiking. Other land uses within the property include wildlife habitat, including south-central California coast steelhead and mountain lion habitat, significant Native American archaeological sites, CSP staff residences, a staging area for trail crews, and an early twentieth century complex of ranch buildings. The property was acquired with funds from Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, which authorized funds for the acquisition of deer and mountain lion habitat; rare and endangered species habitat; wetlands; riparian and aquatic habitat; and open space. The property contains a number of sensitive species and habitats, including California red-legged frog, southcentral California coast steelhead, Smith's blue butterfly, old growth Monterey pine forest, Gowen cypress, and one of the southernmost populations of native rhododendron. Freshwater seeps and springs in the slot canyons to San Jose Creek support redwood groves. Historic land uses within the property included dairy farming, cut flower production, grazing, and irrigated pasture land. Several private properties surround Point Lobos Ranch and many of these properties include developed structures and private residences. The Lobos Ridge Association helps maintain Red Wolf Drive, which serves as the primary access to the central and eastern portion of the property (CSP 2011).

The portion of Point Lobos Ranch adjacent to SR I is designated as Recreation and Visitor Serving Commercial and further inland is designated as Forest and Upland Habitat and Watershed and Scenic Conservation in the County General Plan.

Point Lobos Ranch is zoned by Monterey County as Resource Conservation, Open Space Recreation, Visitor Serving Commercial, Watershed and Scenic Conservation. The purpose of the Resource Conservation designation is to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore sensitive resource areas in the County of Monterey. The Open Space Recreation designation is to provide for establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of outdoor recreation uses in Monterey County. The Visitor Serving Commercial zone is to establish areas necessary to service the needs of visitors and the traveling public to Monterey County, and the Watershed and Scenic Conservation designation is to allow development in the more remote or mountainous areas in the coastal zone while protecting the significant and substantial resources of those areas.

Easements within Point Lobos Ranch include CSP easements to allow public use of the roads, a sewer line easement along SR I on CSP property, and a scenic easement on the approximately 30 acres located adjacent to SR I.

# **Hatton Canyon Property**

Hatton Canyon is an unclassified property. The property was transferred to CSP after plans for a SR I highway bypass through the property were terminated. Monterey pine forest, wetlands, and riparian forest occur within the property. Recreational use in the northern portion of Hatton Canyon is informal, primarily walking and jogging. There is an existing paved multi-purpose trail within the southern portion of Hatton Canyon. The southern portion of the property is also used for special events such as seasonal uses and as the staging area and terminus for the annual Big Sur International Marathon. The CAWD service road in the northern portion of the canyon is unpaved.

Land uses adjacent to the property include residential, commercial, and visitor-serving facilities such as Carmel Rancho Shopping Center, Carmel Mission Inn, and the Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers. Commercial, planned commercial, visitor accommodations, and professional offices are located to the east. Existing land use in the vicinity is designated as medium-density residential north of Carmel Valley Road and east of the SR I.



Hatton Canyon multi-purpose trail and undercrossing

Hatton Canyon is zoned as Public/Quasi-Public by Monterey County. The purpose of the Public/Quasi-Public designation is to allow in designated areas public/quasi-public uses such as schools, parks, regional parks, recreation areas, and uses which serve the public at large. Hatton Canyon is outside of the City of Carmelby-the-Sea city limits, but is within the City's sphere of influence, and is described as a right-of-way within the City's 2003 General Plan (City of Carmel-by-the-Sea 2003). Some encroachment on the CSP-owned property from surrounding land uses/residences occurs. Caltrans maintains a highway right-of-way south of Carmel Valley Road.

# 2.2.2 Visitation and Recreation Uses Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

#### Visitation

The pattern of visitation at the Reserve is seasonal with the peak

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visits (high season) occurring between Memorial Day and Labor
Day, although the Reserve can experience spikes in visitation on
holidays, weekends, and fair-weather days during the non-peak
(shoulder) season. Visitor attendance is collected at the entrance
station for the Reserve. Visitor attendance for the Reserve
between 2013 and 2016 is listed in Table 2-1. Visitation by vehicle
is limited by the 150-car capacity of the parking areas within the
Reserve. When the 150-car limit is reached, cars are turned away,
but walk-in and bike-in visitation continues. During an average
year an estimated 400,000 visitors walk into the Reserve and
avoid paying the vehicle entrance fee.
• • •



Visitor demand at the Reserve remains high all year, particularly on any goodweather day.

Table 2-1 Reserve Visitor Attendance Between 2013 and 2016				
Year	# Paid Day Use Visitors	# Free Day Use Visitors		
2013	326,549	217,064		
2014	344,052	205,560		
2015	363,465	191,215		
2016	297,508	176,277		

Note: The number of free day use visitors is an estimate.

Source: CSP 2013, 2014a, 2015b, 2016

Special events can be held by permit within the Reserve, including weddings, dinner parties, and corporate events. In addition, adherence to strict permit conditions is required to ensure that special events do not have a negative effect on sensitive resources. Approximately 220 events are held at the Reserve each year, including 75 tour-led events, 105 dive events, 30 artist/photography events, and 10 other events.

#### Access and Circulation

The vast majority of visitors to the Reserve use personal autos. All vehicle access to the Reserve is via SR I. Within the Reserve, Point Lobos Road provides visitor access from the park entrance to all of the parking areas within the park. There are two spur roads off of Point Lobos Road that provide access to the Whalers Cove parking area and the Piney Woods picnic area. The road leading to Rat Hill is authorized for staff only, with the exception of visitor boat trailer parking at Rat Hill.

#### Recreation Activities

Within the Reserve, some of the most popular areas include tidepools at Weston Beach during low tides, the trail to Bird Island, Whalers Cabin Museum, South Shore and North Shore trails, and Sea Lion Point/Allan Memorial Cypress Grove. Bird Island attracts birders during the Brandt's cormorant nesting season. Upper Sea Lion Point and the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove are popular destination points and the parking area that accommodates access to these areas is often the first to fill to capacity. This area provides access to the Sand Hill/Sea Lion Point Trail, Allan Memorial Cypress Grove Trail, and the Information Station. These areas are particularly popular between December and May for whale watching. The Reserve is also a popular destination for scuba diving.

### Carmel River State Beach

#### Visitation

The State Beach is accessible from multiple access points; therefore, accurate visitation data is unknown for this unit.

Special events held within the State Beach include weddings, photo shoots, and dive/kayak special events at Monastery Beach. In 2016, 80 weddings were held at Monastery Beach, 30 at Carmel River Beach, and 25 each at Wedding Rock and Stewart's Cove.

#### Access and Circulation

The State Beach is used primarily by local visitors who walk to the beach from adjacent neighborhoods. The exception is the area known as Monastery Beach. This area is heavily used for beach-oriented day use activities because of the visibility and accessibility from SR I. There are several access points to the State Beach including Scenic Road and parking lot, Bay School, Carmel Meadows subdivision, and SR I. Roads within the State Beach include an unpaved service road that also functions as a coastal bluff trail and an unpaved road that leads to the Odello Farm complex. Vehicle access on these roadways is limited to authorized vehicles. There is a paved road that runs from SR I to the CAWD treatment plant and provides access to the Odello West field.

#### Recreation Activities

Activities at the State Beach are focused on opportunities for beach-oriented recreation in a high-quality environment. The most popular recreation activities include sightseeing, walking/running on the beach and trails, sunbathing, photography, painting, sunset viewing, bird watching, picnicking, kayaking, and swimming. Monastery Beach is the most heavily used scuba diving beach in Northern California and is used by various diving schools because of the proximity of the Carmel submarine canyon. Many visitors also use Monastery, Middle, and Carmel River Beaches for walking their dogs on leash and local cross-country teams use the beaches for training. During the summer months children often play in the Carmel River backwater lagoon. The main beach parking lot on Scenic Road is often filled to capacity and provides visitors access to the beach.

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

#### **Visitation**

Point Lobos Ranch has not been open to the public; therefore, recreational use data is not collected for the property. The property is used by the Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) for special events.

#### Access and Circulation

Access to Point Lobos Ranch is provided from SR I. Roads within Point Lobos Ranch include Red Wolf Drive, Riley Ranch Road, Allen Road, and San Jose Creek Canyon Road. San Jose Creek Canyon Road is a gated unpaved road that provides access to the open space northeast of Point Lobos Ranch and CSP staff housing. Allen Road, Red Wolf Drive and Riley Ranch Road are paved roads that provide access to private residences adjacent to the CSP property. These roads are maintained by homeowners and CSP has easements to allow use of the roads.

#### **Recreation Activities**

Point Lobos Ranch has not been open to the public and recreation has been limited to guided hikes led by MPRPD and the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT).

# Hatton Canyon Property

#### **Visitation**

Recreational use data is not collected for Hatton Canyon; however, in 2016 there were six to eight special events held in the Marathon Flats portion of the property, and at least five of those events lasted more than 14 days each. The number of people using the Hatton Canyon multi-purpose trail is not known, but it is used every day due to its urban location.

#### Access and Circulation

Access to southern Hatton Canyon is provided via Rio Road, and access to northern Hatton Canyon is provided via Carmel Valley Road and Canyon Drive, all of which are accessible from SR I. Hatton Canyon does not contain any public roadways. CAWD vehicles use the unpaved service road to access the sewer line and for maintenance purposes.

#### **Recreation Activities**

The northern portion of Hatton Canyon is used for informal recreation by nearby residents including walking, running, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The canyon does not connect to other recreational facilities (e.g., local or regional parks). The southern portion of the property with its paved, multi-purpose trail is used for walking, running, and bicycling. This portion of the property is also used for special events, including annual pumpkin and Christmas tree sales, and as a staging area for community events, including the Big Sur International Marathon.

# 2.2.3 Existing Facilities

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### Visitor and Operational Facilities

Visitors stop at the Reserve entrance station to get information, pay the day use fee, and then proceed to their destination within the Reserve. They park in one of the nine parking areas. When all of the parking areas are full, signs are posted in both directions on SR I indicating that the Reserve parking is closed. Additional vehicles are allowed into the Reserve as parking spaces become available.

The Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum include cultural history exhibits on the whaling era and the early history of the Reserve. Recreational facilities available in the Reserve are summarized below. Additional detail and a map of the recreational facilities are provided on Figure 2-2.

- Approximately 12 miles of trails
- Three picnic areas Whalers Cove, Piney Woods, and Bird Island
- Stairs or trails that enable beach access at Moss Cove, south
  of Granite Point, Hidden Beach, and Gibson Beach, and
  tidepool access along the south shore of the Reserve including
  Weston Beach
- Diving, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding access is available at Whalers Cove for an additional day use fee



Piney Woods picnic area within the Reserve

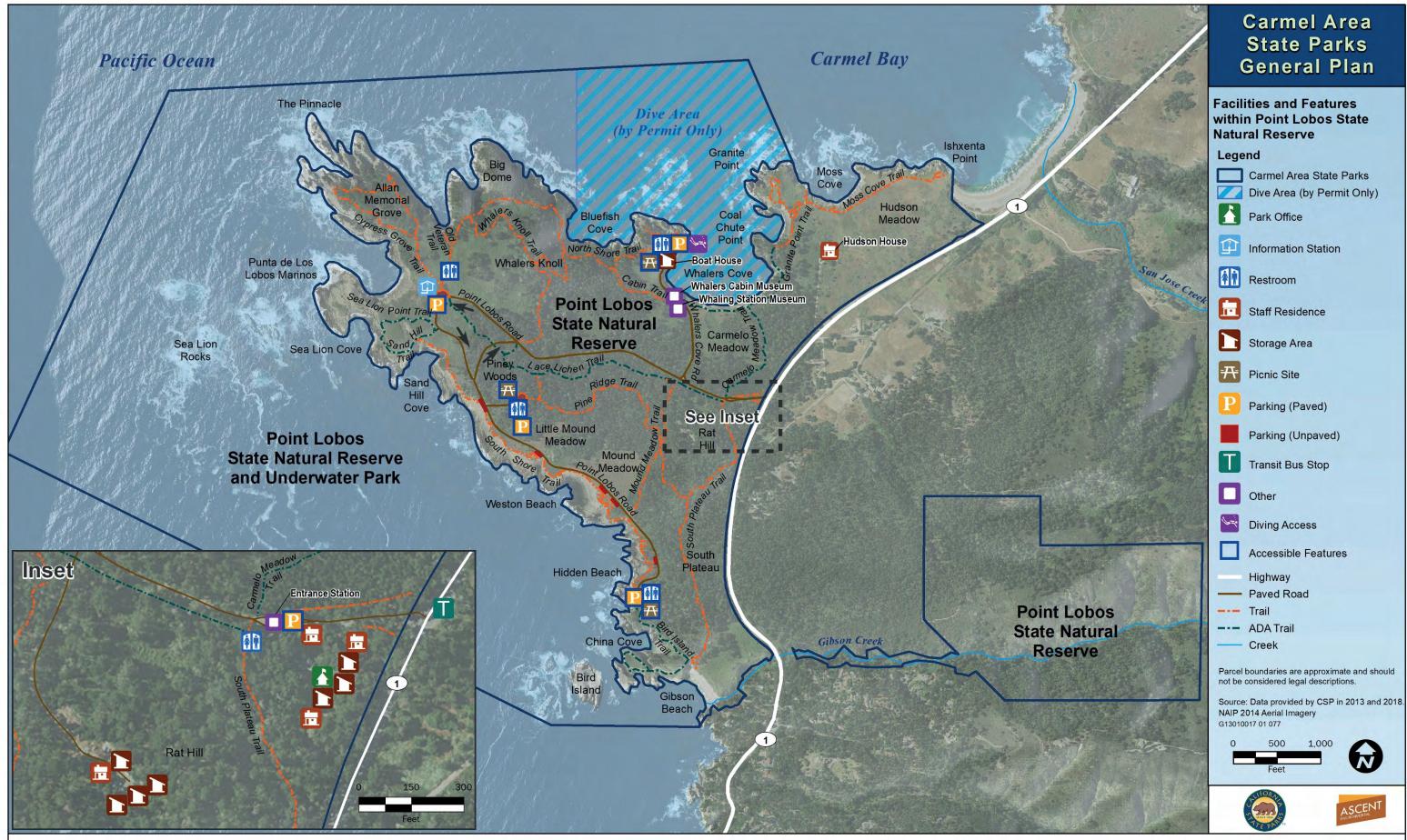


Figure 2-2 Facilities and Features within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Within the Reserve, there are six accessible trails, including Bird Island, Sand Hill, Lace Lichen, Sea Lion Point, Granite Point, and Carmelo Meadow trails. As described above, there are also the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible picnic areas and restrooms at Whalers Cove, Piney Woods, and Bird Island. The Whalers Cove picnic area has four accessible picnic tables and a restroom with two ADA accessible stalls. The path to the picnic area at Whalers Cove is accessible. The Piney Woods picnic area has a restroom with two ADA accessible stalls. The restroom at Bird Island has two ADA accessible stalls. All three of these picnic areas, in addition to the Reserve entrance and Sea Lion Point parking area, have at least one ADA accessible parking space each. There are ADA accessible benches along the accessible trails for relaxation and wildlife viewing (CSP 1979, 1988; PLF 2012).

Administration and maintenance facilities within the Reserve are primarily located adjacent to the Reserve entrance and at an area known as Rat Hill located in the interior of the Reserve (Figure 2-2). The area adjacent to the Reserve entrance serves as the park headquarters, and facilities at this location include offices, a docent center/library, and three staff residences. Rat Hill is the primary maintenance and storage location for equipment used for operation of the Reserve and contains a maintenance shop, storage yard, and one staff residence. The Rat Hill area is not open to the public except for boat trailer parking for visitors. There are two boat sheds at the Whalers Cove parking area where boats for emergency rescues are stored. Staff parking is located at the Reserve entrance area and at Rat Hill.

There are five staff residences within the Reserve: three near the entrance, one at Rat Hill, and the Hudson House.

#### Utilities

For water supply, the Reserve is within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD). California American Water (CalAm) is a privately-owned and operated company that is responsible for collecting, storing, and distributing approximately 80 percent of the water within the MPWMD's boundaries. Monterey County residents rely on the Carmel River watershed for their primary water supply. Water is a limiting factor for new development. Surface and groundwater within the Carmel area are generally of good mineral and bacteriological quality. However, based on data from the California Department of Water Resources, levels of iron and manganese exceed maximum contaminant levels for California secondary drinking water standards (Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, and MPWMD 2016).



Staff residence at Rat Hill maintenance and operations area in the Reserve

CAWD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, and Carmel Highlands.

There are five restroom facilities within the Reserve located at Whalers Cove, Sea Lion Point, Piney Woods, Bird Island, and the park entrance. All restrooms and residences are connected to a wastewater collection system except the Rat Hill residence and Bird Island restroom, which are on septic tanks. The Hudson House residence connects to the highway sewer force main. All of this collected sewage continues from Ribera Road in CAWD-owned facilities to the CAWD treatment plant near the Carmel River State Beach lagoon where it is treated. There are approximately 15 storm drains that flow under the roadways within the Reserve and discharge to the ocean at Whalers Cove, the Slot, Weston Beach, and Bird Island parking lot.

Pacific Gas & Electric provides electrical service to the Carmel area. Electrical service to this area is via a 12-kV overhead electrical line adjacent to SR I. There are also seven propane tanks within the Reserve, including two that are underground.

Solid waste in the Monterey area is transported to the Monterey Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility in the City of Marina, which is operated by the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD). The Monterey Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility has a remaining capacity of approximately 48 million tons or 71 million cubic yards. Assuming MRWMD continues to achieve the state-mandated 50 percent recycling goal, the landfill will continue to serve the present service area through the year 2161 (MRWMD 2014). Solid waste is collected throughout the CASP units by CSP staff.

Phone lines adjacent to SR I provide connections for phone service within the CASP units. Facilities within the Reserve with phone service include the entrance station, office areas, Whalers Cabin Museum, employee residences, and most of the restrooms. There are also wireless internet capabilities at the entrance station, office areas, and employee residences; however, wireless internet is not available to visitors.

## Carmel River State Beach

## Visitor and Operational Facilities

Visitor facilities within the State Beach are limited to low-intensity day use facilities. The Odello West portion of the unit is used informally for bird watching; however, there is currently no formal public access or trail system within this portion of the unit.

Existing facilities within the State Beach are listed below. Additional detail and a map of the recreational facilities are provided on Figure 2-3.

- Trails, including the 2-mile round-trip Carmel River Beach Service Road and Trail, access roads to the Odello Farm complex and the CAWD treatment plant
- Restrooms at the southern end of Monastery Beach and at Carmel River Beach off Scenic Road
- Beach access to Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach

There are no administration, maintenance, or staff residence facilities located at the State Beach.

#### **Utilities**

There are two restroom facilities at the State Beach, one two-stall restroom at Carmel River Beach near the lagoon and the other two-stall restroom at the southern end of Monastery Beach (CSP 1979). There is a main sewer line adjacent to the State Beach that serves the Carmel Meadows neighborhood. The sewage from Monastery Beach and the Reserve go to the CAWD treatment plant.

Water facilities at the State Beach include a pump and two wells. One well was installed by Caltrans for the mitigation bank. A second well was the water source for the Odello West field. This well is used to augment lagoon water levels and lower temperatures during periods when the lagoon water levels are low.

SR I will be relocated as part of the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (Carmel River FREE) project which is being sponsored by the BSLT. The project will reconnect the Odello East and West fields, thereby reconnecting the former Carmel River floodplain. The existing Odello well will be relocated adjacent to the CAWD access road as part of the Carmel River FREE project.

The existing 12 kV electrical line serves several facilities within the unit including the Odello Farm complex in the southeast corner of the property. An additional overhead power line runs along the southern portion of the property along the access road to the CAWD treatment plant (MPRPD, California State Coastal Conservancy, and CSP 1999).



Monastery Beach is the most heavily used scuba diving beach in Northern California.



Restrooms and information kiosk at Carmel River Beach



Former hay barn within Point Lobos Ranch

Solid waste disposal is the same for the State Beach as described above for the Reserve.

There are no phone lines within the State Beach.

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

#### Visitor and Operational Facilities

The property has not been opened to the public so there are no visitor facilities. Additional details and a map of facilities are provided in Figure 2-4.

Several historic ranch structures within Point Lobos Ranch near Riley Ranch Road/Allen Road and in the San Jose Creek Canyon area serve as maintenance or storage facilities and staff housing. This area is also used as a staging area for regional trail crews. In the San Jose Creek Canyon area, there are two maintenance facilities.

Five staff residences are located near Riley Ranch Road and Allen Road, and three are in the San Jose Creek Canyon area.

#### Utilities

Three CalAm water meters along SR I serve the existing staff houses (Monterey County Planning Department 1985). Existing staff residences within the property have water and wastewater facilities, and are served by groundwater wells that are supplied by the alluvial aquifer of San Jose Creek. There are currently two active wells on Point Lobos Ranch, one that provides water for two staff houses at San Jose Creek, and one that provides water for a private residence. Groundwater is typically used in late summer and fall to supplement surface water supply. The San Jose Creek aquifer is susceptible to seawater intrusion because of the proximity of the aquifer to the Pacific Ocean and its coarsegrained sediments that allow infiltration of salt water into the aquifer (MPWMD 1987).

Staff residences are served by the existing electrical and phone lines adjacent to SR I. Solid waste disposal is the same for Point Lobos Ranch as described above for the Reserve.

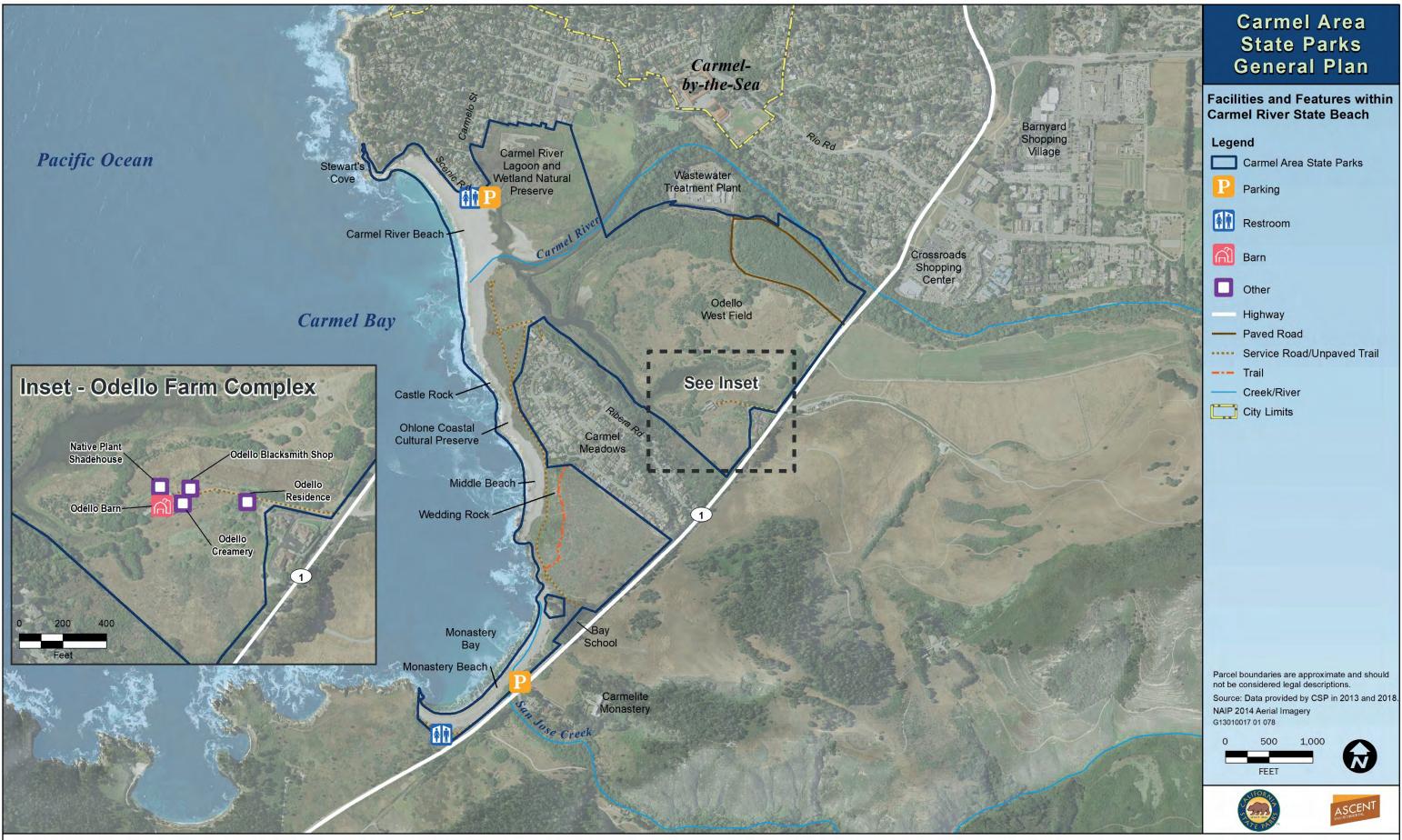


Figure 2-3 Facilities and Features within Carmel River State Beach

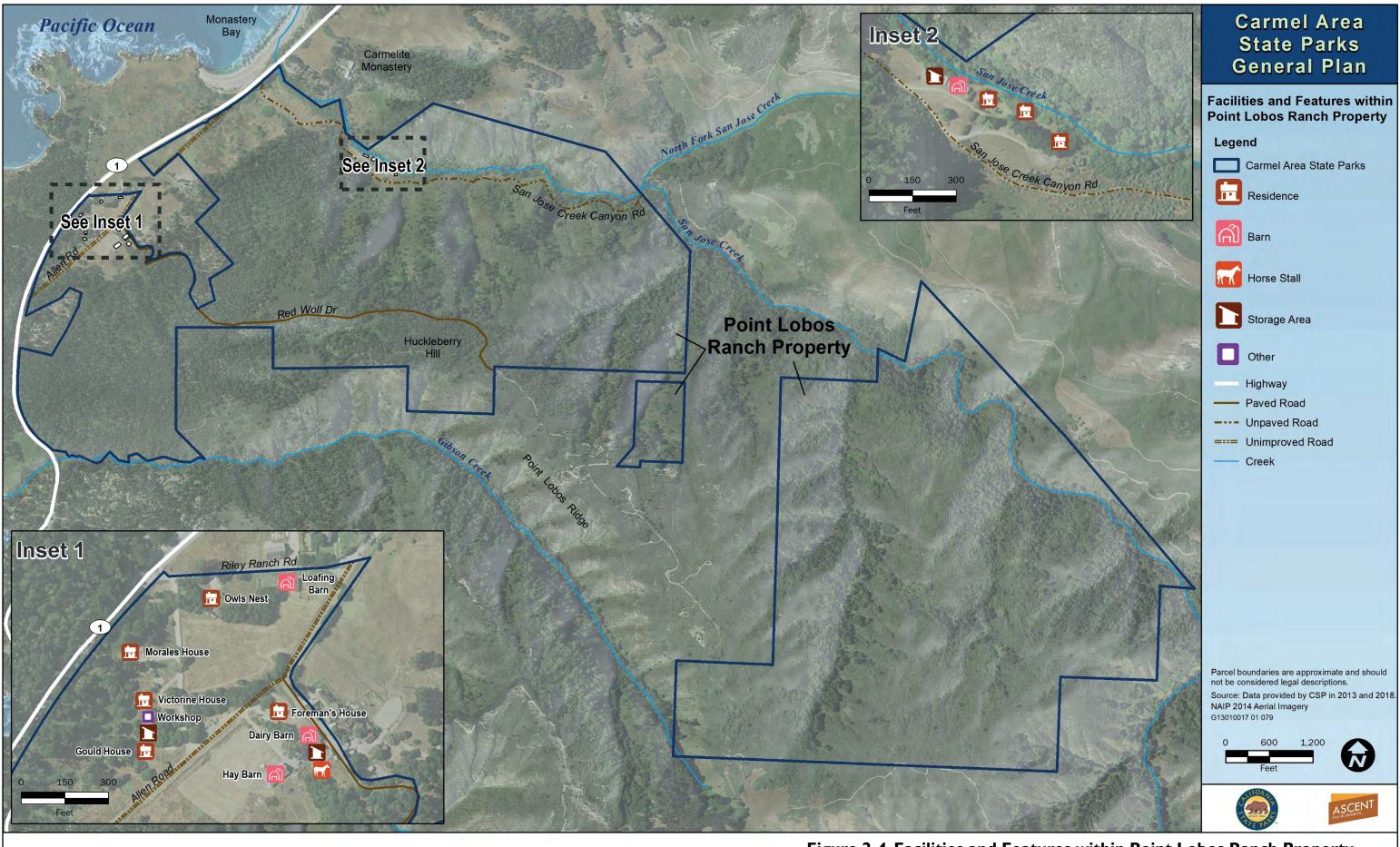


Figure 2-4 Facilities and Features within Point Lobos Ranch Property

# Hatton Canyon Property

### Visitor and Operational Facilities

There are no CSP-developed recreational facilities within the northern portion of the property; however, an unpaved service road for a CAWD sewer line is used informally as a trail (Figure 2-5). Recreational facilities within the southern portion of the property include a paved ADA accessible multi-purpose trail.

There are no administration facilities within Hatton Canyon, and the only maintenance facility is an unpaved service road used by CAWD for maintenance of the sewer line. No staff housing is located at Hatton Canyon.

#### **Utilities**

Hatton Canyon does not have any water use or connections. CalAm waterlines are located along SR I and Rio Road adjacent to the southern portion of Hatton Canyon (TAMC 2009).

Existing sewer lines are located within northern Hatton Canyon, and CAWD conducts weekly routine inspections of these sewer lines.

In southern Hatton Canyon, there are electrical lines along the east side of SR I and crossing SR I at Rio Road that serve the area. Electrical service is located at the intersection of Rio Road and SR I.

Solid waste disposal is the same for Hatton Canyon as described above for the Reserve.

There are currently no phone connections within Hatton Canyon.

# 2.3 Important Resource Values

This section describes the important physical, natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources within the CASP units. The information in this section was compiled from existing documents and field research. For more detailed information on the CASP's natural and cultural resources, please refer to the references section of the General Plan and associated appendices.

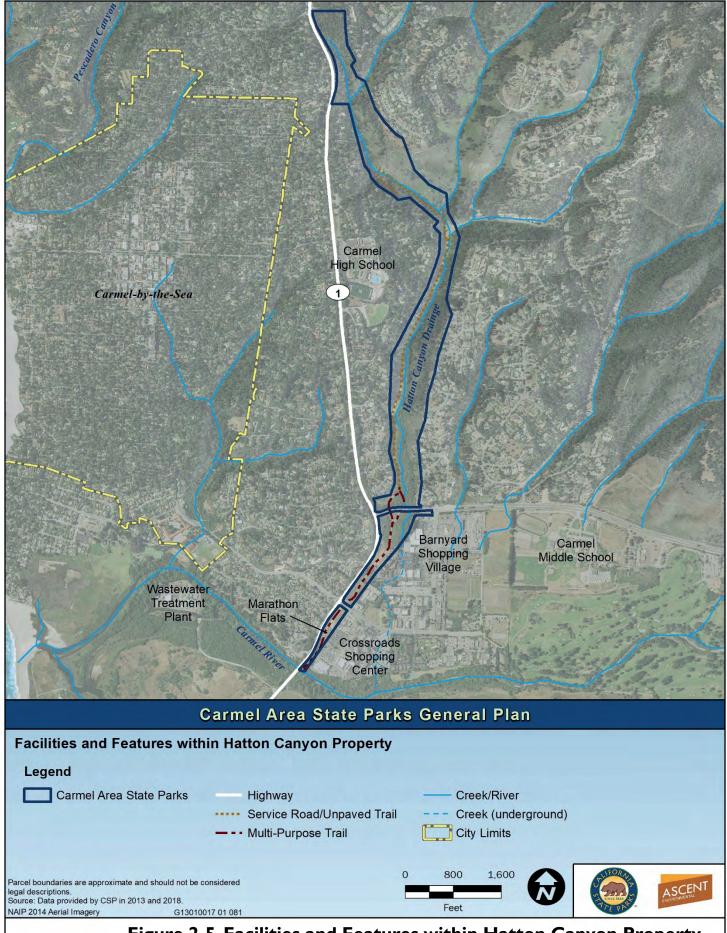


Figure 2-5 Facilities and Features within Hatton Canyon Property

# 2.3.1 Physical Resources

Topics include topography; geology and seismicity; paleontology; soils; hydrology, water quality, and floodplains; and shoreline conditions. Because climate, climate change, and air quality conditions are similar across all CASP units, they are described in a parkwide context.

# Regional Climate

The climate in the Carmel area is a maritime Mediterranean climate characterized by warm, rainy winters and cool, foggy summers (Thomson 1997). The year-round climate is mild and not subject to severe seasonal change, primarily because of the immediate influence of the Pacific Ocean. On average, fog occurs 135 days per year, primarily during July, August, and September, although inland areas experience less fog than the coastal areas. Rainfall averages 19 inches per year and falls primarily between October and May (Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System 2012, Caltrans 2004). During El Niño events, coastal erosion accelerates, resulting in loss of beach sand and coastal bluff failures.

# Climate Change Predictions

It is anticipated that coastal areas in California will experience several effects related to climate change, which will require choices regarding critical infrastructure and assets that need to be protected, relocated, replaced, or abandoned. Climate change impacts will also necessitate adaptation of resources management, visitor management, and park operations. Some of the anticipated climate impacts are increased temperature, precipitation changes, sea level rise, reduced agricultural activity, biodiversity threats, public health threats, and increased wildfire risks.

Projected effects of climate change on the central California coastal region, including the CASP units, as described in the Draft California Climate Change Adaptation Policy Guide are summarized in Table 2-2 (California Emergency Management Agency and CNRA 2012). These predictions have been carried forward into the 2014 Safeguarding California report and its update in 2018 (CNRA 2018).

Sea level rise predictions are based on the National Research Council (2012) study of the west coast and have broad confidence limits, so variability is recognized; however, they provide a valid general parameter for long-range planning. Cal-Adapt, the state's internet resource for climate change predictions, reports the sea level rise prediction listed in Table 2-2 as of mid-2017 (1.4 meters; see below).

Table 2-2 Projected Effects of Climate Change on the Central California Coastal Region				
Effect	Ranges			
Temperature Change (1990-2100)	January: 4.1°F to 5.2°F increase in average temperatures. July: 5.1°F to 6°F increase in average temperatures. (Modeled high temperatures – average of all models; high carbon emissions scenario)			
Precipitation	Precipitation varies by location with a general decrease throughout the century. Big Sur's rainfall is projected to decrease by nearly 8 inches in the same timeframe, with 5- to 7-inch decreases in cities like Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. Projected decreases in areas of the region that are farther inland are about 4 to 5 inches. (Community Climate System Model Version 3.0 climate model; high carbon emissions scenario)			
Sea Level Rise	By 2100, sea levels may rise up to 55 inches, posing threats to many areas in the region, particularly the Monterey Bay Area, Morro Bay, Avila Beach, and Santa Barbara. Overall, the estimated increased acreage in each county vulnerable to flooding will be 36 percent in Santa Barbara County, 15 percent in San Luis Obispo County, 12 percent in Santa Cruz County, and 11 percent in Monterey County.			
Wildfire Risk	There is low to moderate change in projected fire risk in this region except for southwestern Monterey County, near the Big Sur, Carmel Valley, and Greenfield areas, where rates are expected to increase by 70 percent to 100 percent by 2085 (Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory climate model; high carbon emissions scenario)			

Source: Cal EMA and CNRA 2012

CSP has also prepared guidance for sea level rise and extreme coastal events in its 2017 report, Sea Level Rise and Extreme Event Guidance (CSP 2017). This guidance report presents sea level rise predictions in ranges that include the planning level noted in Table 2-2, and also recognizes that sea level could be higher by the end of the century than this elevation. CSP will continue to track the evolution of climate change predictions as they occur over the life of the General Plan.

See Section 3.2.2, Resource Protection, for more information on what is being done at the state and local level regarding climate change effects and sea level rise.

Sea level rise is one of the primary effects of climate change that is already affecting California. It is anticipated that sea level rise along the California coast will increase coastal flooding and permanent inundation, deteriorate coastal wetland habitat, increase coastal erosion, cause saltwater intrusion within inland freshwater systems, and change acidity levels of the oceans. Sea level rise will also have economic impacts, threatening private and public properties and reducing tourism potential of CSP and other agencies that provide coastal amenities to the public through reduction in or damages to beaches, access ways, parks, scenic vistas, and trails.

The California Energy Commission, in partnership with the University of California at Berkeley Geospatial Innovation Facility, has developed the Cal-Adapt tool, which can be used to predict various climate change-related effects, including sea level rise, based on a variety of climate models under two emissions scenarios used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: the representative concentration pathway (RCP) 8.5, which assumes emissions will continue to rise strongly through 2050 and 2100 (High-Emission Scenario) and RCP 4.5, which assumes emissions will peak around 2040 and then decline throughout the remainder of the century (Low-Emission Scenario) (California Energy Commission 2017).

Using data provided by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Pacific Institute, Cal-Adapt maps the vulnerability of the California coastline under a 1.4-meter (m) rise in sea level coupled with a 100-year flood event for 2100 (see Figures 2-8, 2-10, 2-12, and 2-14). Consistent with the findings of the Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) most recent report, Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science, a 1.4-m rise represents a comprehensive average of anticipated sea level rise by 2100 based off projections which utilize varying models (e.g., Kopp et al. [2014] which projects a 1.2-m rise by 2100 as compared to Jevrejeva et al. [2014, 2016] which projects a 1.8-m rise by 2100 off the California coast) (OPC 2017:20).

# Air Quality

Concentrations of ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less  $(PM_{2.5})$ , and lead are criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and are used as indicators of ambient air quality conditions. CAPs are air pollutants for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Counties in California must comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by EPA as well as California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) set by CARB. Monterey County is unclassified or attainment with all NAAQS. For CAAQS, Monterey County is in nonattainment-transitional for ozone and nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>.

Concentrations of CAPs are measured at several monitoring stations near the CASP units. Data collected by the Carmel Valley-Ford Road monitoring station at 35 Ford Road in Carmel Valley are generally representative of ambient air quality in the vicinity of the CASP units with respect to ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The closest station that measures PM<sub>10</sub> is located at 415 Pearl Street in King City, which is also within Monterey County. Notably, the King City station is located approximately 50 miles inland of Point Lobos Ranch and, as such, may demonstrate higher concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>. Concentrations of CAPs measured at these stations are summarized in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3 Summary of Annual Air Quality Data (2014–2016)				
Ozone 1	2014	2015	2016	
Highest Concentration (I-hour/8-hour, ppm)	0.078/0.070	0.071/0.066	0.078/0.061	
Second Highest Concentration (I-hour/8-hour, ppm)	0.075/0.070	0.0690.062	0.072/0.060	
Number of days state standard exceeded (I-hour/8-hour)	0/0	0/0	0/0	
Number of days national standard exceeded (I-hour/8-hour)	0/0	0/0	0/0	
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) <sup>2</sup>	2014	2015	2016	
Highest Concentration (µg/m <sup>c</sup> ) (California)	99.2	72.6	71.4	
Second Highest Concentration (µg/m <sup>c</sup> ) (California)	66.0	68.5	70.9	
Annual Average (µg/m <sup>c</sup> ) (California)	*	*	*	
Number of days national standard exceeded (measured <sup>3</sup> )	0	0	0	
Fine Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) <sup>1</sup>	2014	2015	2016	
Highest Concentration (µg/m²) (California)	16.3	43.2	104.7	
Second Highest Concentration (µg/m <sup>c</sup> ) (California)	14.7	23.0	77.0	
Annual Average (µg/m <sup>c</sup> ) (California)	6.5	6.3	6.9	
Number of days national standard exceeded (measured <sup>3</sup> )	0	I	П	

Notes: µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter; ppm = parts per million; \* = Insufficient data to determine the value

Source: CARB 2017b, 2017c, 2017d, 2017e

Motor vehicles are the predominant source of CAPs and precursor emissions in and near the CASP units, including trips made using on-road vehicles to and from the CASP units. Vehicles traveling along SR I, which runs north to south adjacent to the parks, represent the predominant non-stationary source of toxic air contaminants (TACs) in the CASP units. Other sources of TACs in the CASP area include any diesel-powered equipment, which emit diesel PM, such as off-road maintenance and construction equipment.

Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements are taken from the monitoring station on 35 Ford Road in Carmel Valley.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> PM<sub>10</sub> measurements are taken from the station on 415 Pearl Street in King City.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Measured days are those days that an actual measurement was greater than the level of the daily standard. The number of days above the standard is not necessarily the number of violations of the standard for the year.

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### Topography

Slopes within the Reserve are generally gentle except for sea bluffs and the steep-sided canyon of Gibson Creek. Sea bluffs rise up to 200 feet above sea level in some areas. Elevations within the Reserve range from 940 feet in the northeast corner of the area east of SR I to sea level at the beaches.

Submarine topography is highly variable, with sheer granite walls, flat plateaus, stone pinnacles, and caves found off Sand Hill Cove and Bird Island (CSP 1979, Thomson 1997). The south shore submarine topography is shallow and the north shore topography is extremely rugged (Barry et al. 1977).

### Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

The Reserve includes Porophyritic Granodiorite, Carmelo Formation, Pleistocene marine terrace deposits, and Temblor Formation. Porophyritic Granodiorite is deep-seated igneous rock that is resistant to erosion and weathering. This formation is exposed at several locations throughout the Reserve including Bird Island, Big Dome, Whalers Knoll, and Granite Point. The Carmelo Formation includes four distinct rock types: sandstone, siltstone, conglomerate, and shale. The Carmelo Formation is softer than the granodiorite and more susceptible to erosion (Thomson 1997).

In the northern submarine portion of the Reserve lies the Carmel Submarine Canyon. This canyon is a branch of the larger Monterey Submarine Canyon, a major geomorphic feature off the California coast.

Monterey County is located within the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province. Faults in the Monterey area occur primarily in two northwest-trending zones, the Palo Colorado-San Gregorio fault zone and the Monterey Bay fault zone. There are several active or potentially active faults within these zones including: San Andreas, San Gregorio-Palo Colorado, Chupines, Navy, and Cypress Point, with the San Andreas and San Gregorio being the most dominant faults that are considered active and have evidence of historic or recent movement. In addition, the potentially active Hatton Canyon Fault consists of a group of northwest-striking faults that extend from Carmel Valley Road northwest for approximately 7 miles (TAMC 2009). Small to moderate earthquakes (i.e., magnitude 5.0 and below) are common in Monterey County.

Several active or potentially active faults are within the Monterey area, including San Andreas, San Gregorio-Palo Colorado, Chupines, Navy, and Cypress Point.

Although there are several fault zones in this area, none of them are officially designated as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault zone (CSP 1979, 1988; TAMC 2009). The Monterey County General Plan EIR identifies the entire Reserve as having a low potential for landslides and liquefaction (Monterey County 2008).

Fifteen soil series have been mapped within the Reserve, with three of those soil types covering most of the Reserve west of SR I. These soil types include Xerorthents, Santa Ynez fine sandy loam, and Sheridan coarse sandy loam. The portion of the Reserve east of the highway is dominated by Junipero-sur complex and Cieneba fine gravelly sandy loam (NRCS 2017).

Xerorthents typically occur on steep to extremely steep terrain and consist primarily of unconsolidated or weakly consolidated stony alluvium. Runoff is rapid and erosion hazards vary considerably over short distances. The Sheridan coarse sandy loam is well drained with medium to very rapid runoff and moderately rapid permeability.

### Paleontology

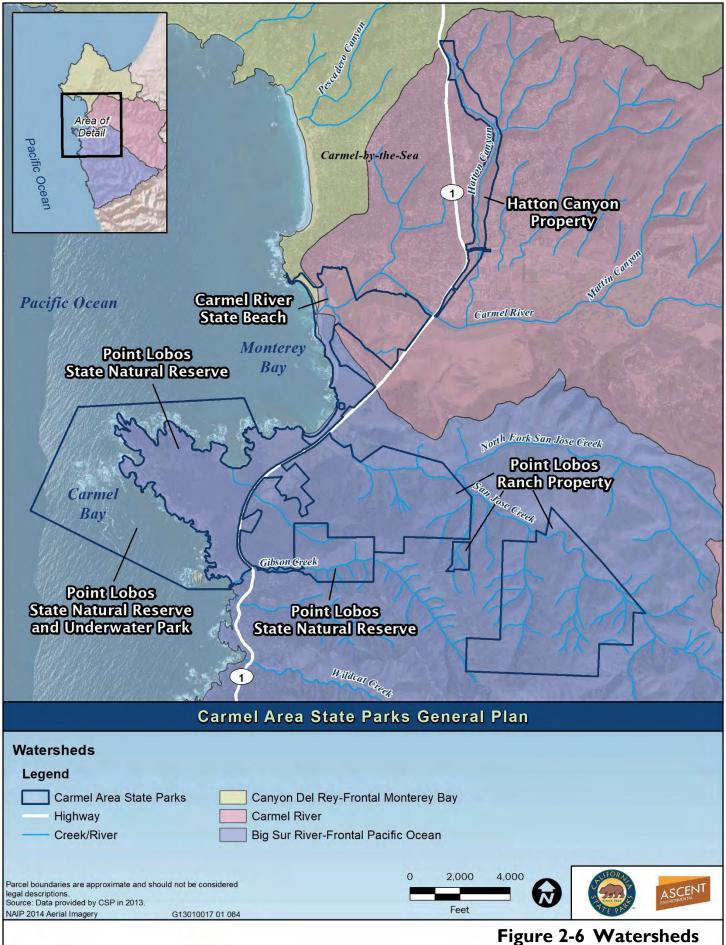
The Carmelo Formation within the Reserve contains plant and animal fossils, largely consisting of leaf fragments, pieces of carbonized wood, and seaweed. Fossils associated with this formation have been found in various locations, including numerous fossils near Gibson Beach. Trace fossils of many kinds are also a prominent feature along the southwestern shore of the Reserve between Weston Beach and Sea Lion Point (Bromley et al. 2002).

Hydrology, Water Quality, and Floodplains Watersheds in the region include the Canyon Del Rey-Frontal Monterey Bay, Carmel River, and Big Sur River-Frontal Pacific Ocean watersheds (NRCS 2014) (Figure 2-6).

The Reserve is completely within the Big Sur River-Frontal Pacific Ocean watershed. The entire Big Sur River-Frontal Pacific Ocean watershed is more than 20,000 acres, and the Reserve comprises approximately 3 percent of that area. Only the immediate coastline of the Reserve and areas offshore are within the 100-year floodplain or 100-year floodplain for coastal areas (Figure 2-7). The surface waterways within the Reserve are Gibson Creek and its floodplain and two freshwater seeps in the northern portion of the Reserve. Surface water quality for the portions of Gibson Creek within the Reserve was fair-to-good during the 2003 monitoring of this creek (Swolgaard 2003).



Source: (c) 2012 Charles M. Bancroft
Trace fossil near Weston Beach in the Reserve



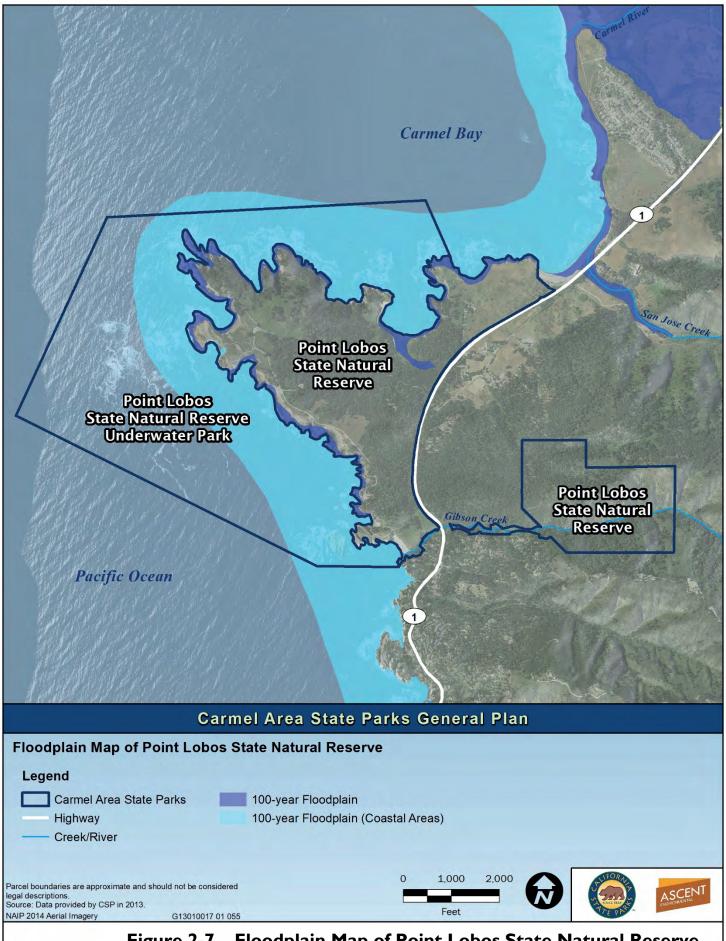


Figure 2-7 Floodplain Map of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Groundwater in the area primarily occurs in unconfined deposits in alluvial material. The groundwater basin slopes toward the Pacific Ocean.

Runoff from SR I is collected via double culverts that discharge runoff through the forested and coastal meadow upland zones into Whalers Cove. This runoff has caused erosion and silt flows into Whalers Cove impacting ocean water clarity.

## **Shoreline Conditions**

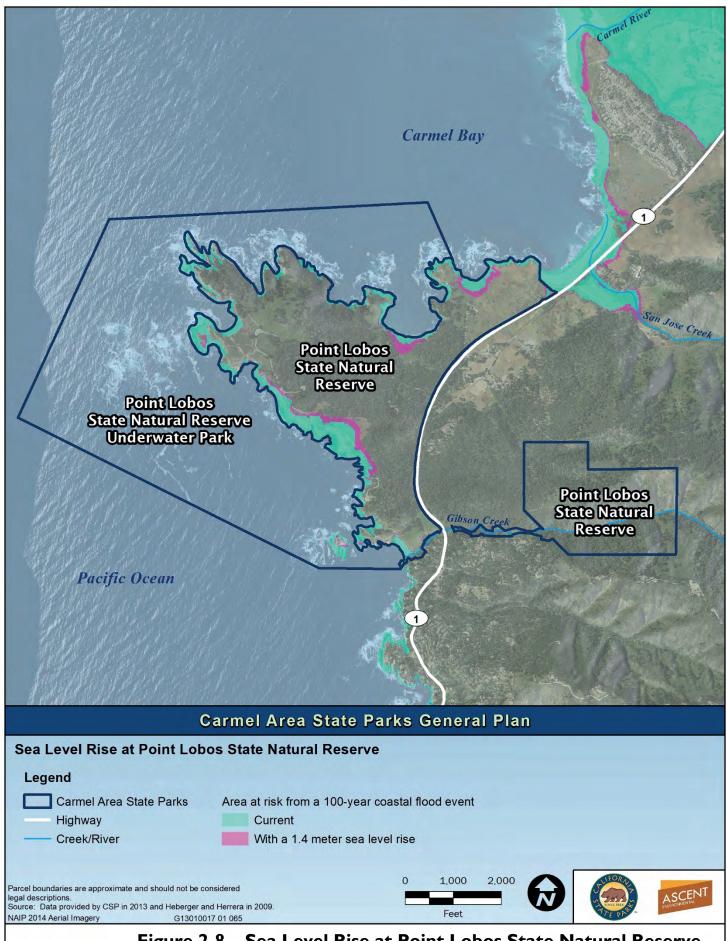
The Reserve's coastline includes exposed or protected rocky areas, pocket beaches, tidepools, and sheer cliffs. Many geologic features such as caves, islands, pinnacles, and low-lying rocks make up the Reserve's highly variable shoreline conditions (Caltrans 2004). Surface currents off the Reserve vary with the season. The predominant current is a southerly movement of cold water from the Gulf of Alaska. From August through November the current is close to the coasts of northern and central California. There is a significant area of upwelling off the coast at Sea Lion Point. This area is an extremely rich and highly productive marine ecosystem of statewide importance.

The Reserve underwater park is within a larger MPA managed by CDFW called Point Lobos SMR, which is 5.36 square miles. In addition, the Point Lobos SMCA extends seaward from the Point Lobos SMR and is 8.8 square miles (Clifton and Johnson 2010).

### Sea Level Rise

It is anticipated that sea level rise caused by climate change will affect the Reserve in the future. The coastal edges along the Reserve are at risk of inundation, coastal erosion, and saltwater intrusion related to sea level rise and intensification of coastal storms (Figure 2-8).

Erosion of coastal bluffs may also result in deterioration or loss of upland bluff habitat, beach access, and the trails near the shoreline at the Reserve. Portions of the following trails could be affected by sea level rise: Moss Cove Trail, South Shore Trail, Sea Lion Point Trail, Granite Point Trail, and Bird Island Trail. In addition, sea level rise has the potential to affect Whalers Cove Road, Point Lobos Road, the Bird Island parking area, Whalers Cabin Museum and the storage area, restroom, and parking area at Whalers Cove, as well as parking areas along Point Lobos Road.



Sea Level Rise at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Figure 2-8

## Carmel River State Beach

# Topography

The State Beach consists of north- to northwest-facing beach and lagoon backed by low coastal terraces. The elevation ranges from mean sea level to 100 feet (CSP 1988). The topography is relatively flat with slight undulations in the local dunes/beach.

# Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

The State Beach is in the Salinian block of the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province (CSP 1988). One major geologic feature, the Santa Luc+ia Granodiorite of Paleocene Age, dominates the State Beach. The Santa Lucia Granodiorite is approximately 93 million years old, comprises the bedrock basement at the Carmel River lagoon, and is a primary formation along the State Beach shoreline. Geologic hazards at the State Beach include landslides, rockfalls, seacliff retreat, liquefaction, tsunamis, and seismic shaking (CSP 1988).

The Cypress Point Fault extends from Carmel-by-the-Sea directly across the State Beach to Palo Corona Regional Park. Small to moderate earthquakes (i.e., magnitude 5.0 and below) are common in Monterey County. Although there are several fault zones in this area, none of them are designated as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (CSP 1979, 1988; TAMC 2009).

The State Beach is located within the Northern Coast Soil Region, which is characterized by coastal terraces and uplands. The three soil types with maximum coverage within the State Beach are Pico fine sandy loam, Narlon loamy fine sand, and coastal beaches (NRCS 2017). The Pico fine sandy loam soil type is typically well drained and has moderate rapid permeability with slow to medium runoff. "Coastal beaches" are mapped on narrow, sandy beaches. This soil type is partially or completely covered by water during high tides and storm surges. Permeability is high, and erosion hazard related to wind and wave action is high. Narlon soils consist of poorly drained soils that formed uplands in soft marine sediments.

The State Beach also has a dissected form of Xerorthents. This type of soil consists primarily of unconsolidated or weakly consolidated stony alluvium. Runoff is rapid and with erosion potential (CSP 1988).

# Paleontology

The Carmelo and Temblor Formations adjacent to the State Beach contain plant and animal fossils, largely consisting of leaf fragments, pieces of carbonized wood, and seaweed. However, no fossils have been found in the three outcrops around Carmel Bay (Simpson 1972).

# Hydrology, Water Quality, and Floodplains

The State Beach is within three watersheds: Canyon Del Rey-Frontal Monterey Bay, Carmel River, and Big Sur River-Frontal Pacific Ocean, and comprises a small percentage (i.e., I percent or less) of each of these watersheds (Figure 2-6). The headwaters of the Carmel River watershed are located within the northern portion of the Ventana Wilderness of Los Padres National Forest. Carmel River is the primary hydrologic feature within the State Beach. Flow in the Carmel River is partially regulated by the upstream Los Padres Dam. Ninety percent of the Carmel River annual discharge occurs from January to April; peak flow can reach 8,600 cubic feet per second during that period. The lower reach of San Jose Creek and its associated floodplain are also main hydrologic features within the State Beach (CSP 1988).

Carmel River's surface water comes from four sources: direct runoff from rainfall, releases from the dam, seeps and springs of upland groundwater, and return-flow from urban areas (The Watershed Institute 2004). During summer low flow periods, the lagoon is supplied almost entirely by groundwater, and groundwater from an onsite well is periodically used to increase water levels and regulate water temperature in the lagoon during summer months.

Most of the State Beach is within the 100-year floodplain or 100-year floodplain for coastal areas (Figure 2-9). This area has experienced extensive flooding, most notably in 1995, 1998, and 2008. Surface water flows from the Carmel River can flood most of the Odello West field (CSP 1979). The Carmel River Lagoon Restoration Project has added significant flood protection to residential neighborhoods north of the lagoon. Levees have been notched east and west of SR I to relieve floodplain constriction; however, SR I remains a constriction point within the floodplain (The Watershed Institute 2004).

The Monterey County Resource Management Agency has historically conducted sandbar management activities including mechanical breaching of the Carmel River mouth at the State Beach to mitigate flooding impacts to low lying residential structures along the northern edges of the lagoon and this activity continues to date. After the rainy season (April or May), sandbar management may include closure of the sandbar (if needed) to maintain adequate water levels in the lagoon over the summer months.

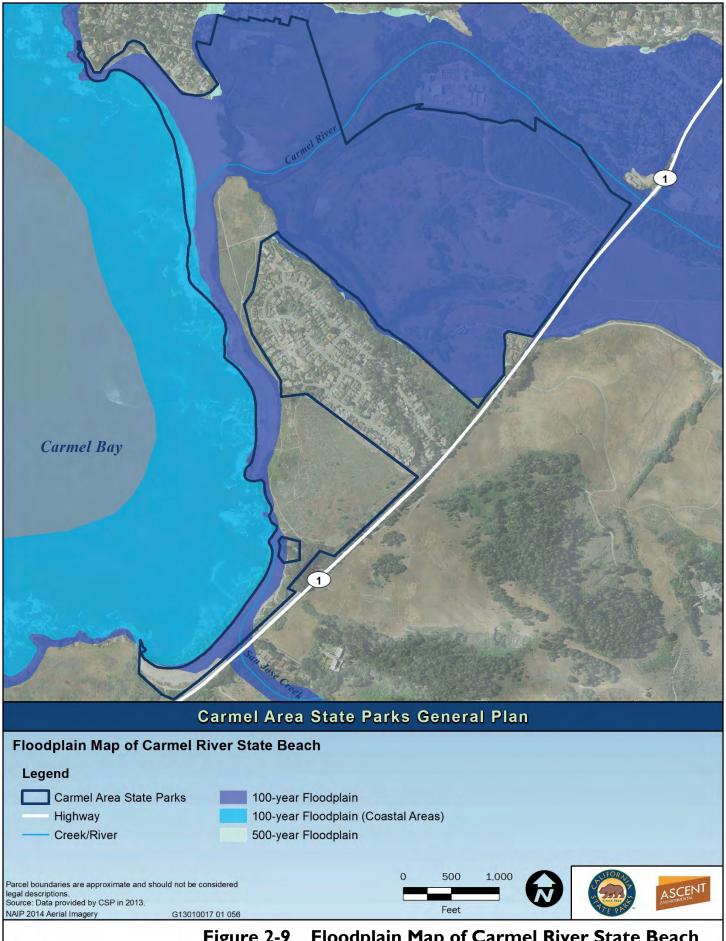


Figure 2-9 Floodplain Map of Carmel River State Beach

The Carmel River has experienced extensive erosion and sedimentation, while Carmel Bay has sustained a notable decline in water clarity.

Water quality in the Carmel River lagoon varies throughout the year and is driven by changes in local weather, lagoon volume, stream flow, wave and tidal conditions, and whether the sandbar separating the river from the ocean is open or closed. During critically dry months, temperature and dissolved oxygen are monitored and managed to maintain water quality for southcentral California coast steelhead.

Effluent from the CAWD treatment plant is recycled for use at local golf courses and is also discharged into the open ocean offshore of Carmel River Beach.

## **Shoreline Conditions**

The State Beach has approximately 1.5 miles of shoreline that borders Carmel Bay including Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach. Shoreline conditions along Carmel Bay are characterized by alternating rocky cliffs and points, sandstone areas, and extensive granitic sand beaches.

The submarine lands adjacent to the State Beach are in the Carmel Bay SMCA. Monastery Beach is also adjacent to the Point Lobos SMR. The Carmel Bay SMCA includes 6.7 miles of coastline and 2.12 square miles, from Granite Point north to Pescadero Point. Granite-walled Carmel Canyon, which dominates the submarine area of Carmel Bay, originates about 0.25-mile from shore near Monastery Beach (Caltrans 2004). Carmel Pinnacles SMR is also offshore from the State Beach and is a 0.53-square mile area of submerged granitic pinnacles and spires that is commonly visited by scuba divers. There is no fishing allowed within either of the state marine reserves, and recreational take of finfish and limited commercial fishing is allowed within the marine conservation area (Clifton and Johnson 2010). Carmel Bay is also an area of significant deep-water upwelling that makes the area nutrient rich and draws many species to the area (CSP 1979).

## Sea Level Rise

Because of the low-lying elevation of the State Beach, it is anticipated that sea level rise will greatly affect this area (Figure 2-10). Sea level rise is anticipated to impact water quality at the Carmel River lagoon, erode the barrier beach resulting in more frequent breaching of the Carmel River to the ocean and impacting salmonids, and could result in changes in groundwater quality via more saline groundwater. Sea level rise also has the potential to affect all facilities within the State Beach, as shown on Figure 2-10.

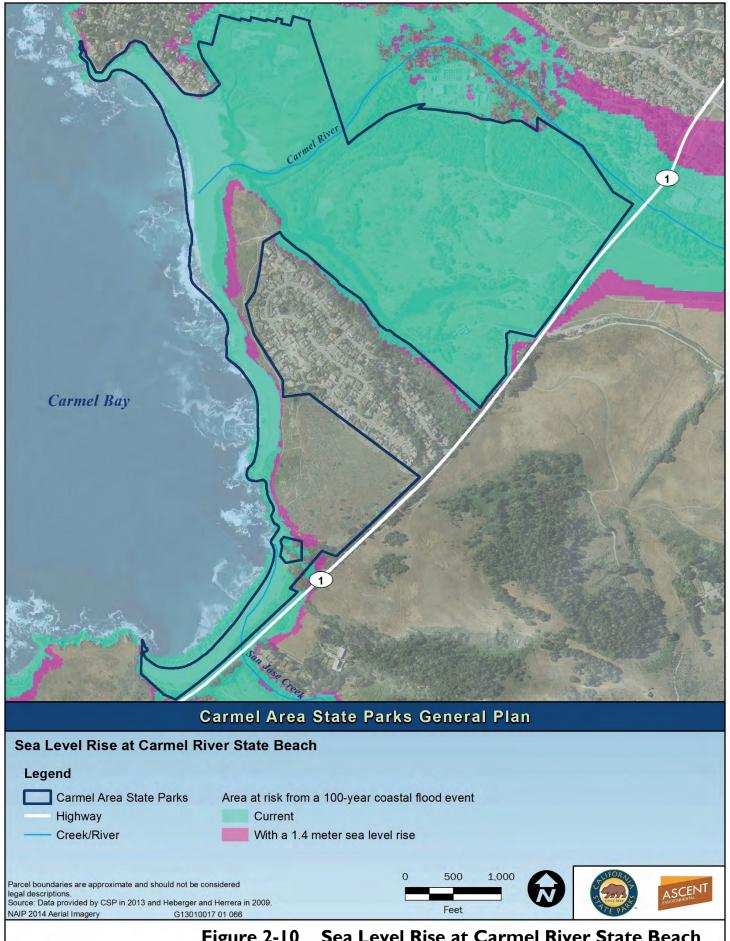


Figure 2-10 Sea Level Rise at Carmel River State Beach



View of San Jose Creek Canyon within Point Lobos Ranch

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

# Topography

Point Lobos Ranch is within the Santa Lucia Mountains, which are a north-west trending range. Elevations range from approximately 6 feet above mean sea level near San Jose Creek and SR I to over I,800 feet in the southeast corner of the property. The area's geologic history of uplift, erosion, and subsidence has resulted in the property's steep terrain.

# Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

Because of the steep nature of Point Lobos Ranch topography, the area is prone to landslides. There have been landslides within the northeast corner of Point Lobos Ranch. In addition, there was a major older landslide above the north fork of San Jose Creek that measured 3,500 feet by 1,400 feet. Other potential geologic hazards identified for Point Lobos Ranch include seismic settlement and ground shaking. The alluvial materials adjacent to San Jose Creek also have a high potential for liquefaction (Monterey County Planning Department 1985).

Hydrology, Water Quality, and Floodplains Point Lobos Ranch is completely within the Big Sur River-Frontal Pacific Ocean watershed and comprises just over 6 percent of the total watershed area (Figure 2-6). San Jose Creek is the largest waterway within the watershed and has several named perennial tributaries including the North Fork San Jose Creek, Seneca Creek, Van Winkley Creek, Williams Canyon Creek, and numerous intermittent and perennial unnamed tributaries. A small portion of Gibson Creek is also within Point Lobos Ranch. The 100-year floodplain for San Jose Creek includes the mouth of the creek and approximately 2,000 feet upstream from the mouth. This is the only area of Point Lobos Ranch that is within the 100year floodplain. Structures located within the San Jose Creek floodplain include a barn and two residences (Figure 2-11). The third residence and shed in the San Jose Creek area are adjacent to the 100-year floodplain. No structures are identified within the Gibson Creek floodplain.

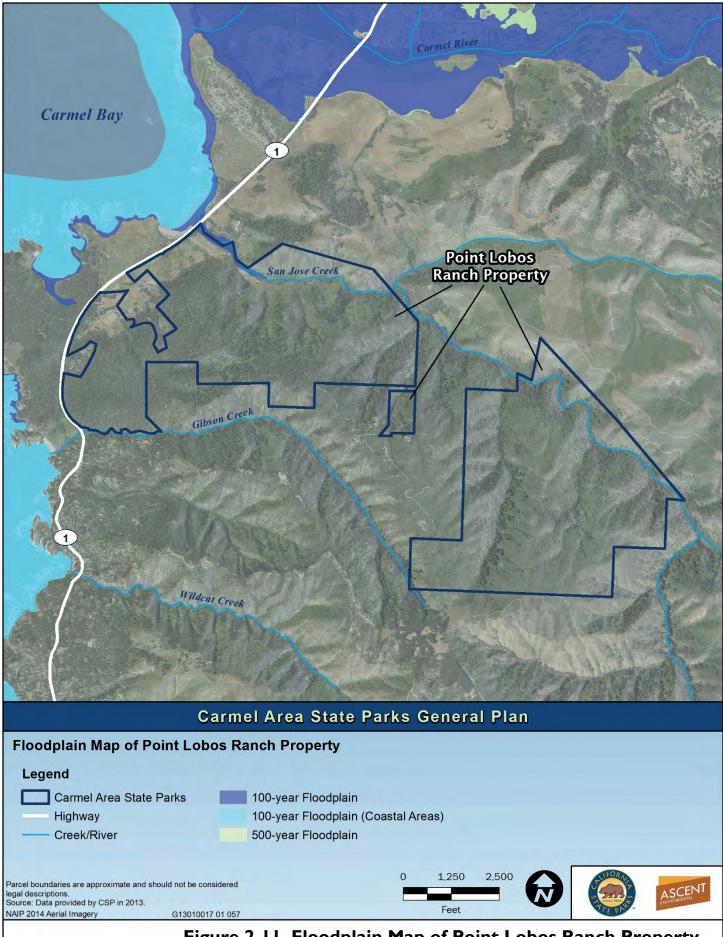


Figure 2-II Floodplain Map of Point Lobos Ranch Property



Source: U.S. Forest Service

Soberanes Fire map, September 2016 - this fire touched eastern Point Lobos Ranch

Moderate levels of sedimentation have been observed in San Jose Creek, mostly caused by a few bank erosion sites, roads, and road crossings. In addition, previous storm events that caused failure of earthen dams upstream are likely contributing to the large amount of sand that has been observed within the creek (DFG and CCC 2006). The area burned by the Soberanes fire in 2016 is also contributing sediment to San Jose Creek. Sedimentation and stream embeddedness is being studied by California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

Groundwater within Point Lobos Ranch is primarily within the San Jose Creek aquifer, which is comprised of mixed sand and gravel, clay streaks, and boulders in the stream bed. The aquifer is approximately 6,000 feet by 275 feet, and has an estimated capacity of 660 acre-feet per year. Saltwater intrusion is occasionally a problem for groundwater within Point Lobos Ranch (Monterey County Planning Department 1985).

### Sea Level Rise

The northwestern edge of Point Lobos Ranch near San Jose Creek along SR I is at a high risk of inundation from 100-year coastal storm events and estimated 1.4-meter future sea level rise (Figure 2-12). With sea level rise, a significant portion of the lower watershed from SR I to the staff housing at San Jose Creek has the potential to become inundated, making access difficult; however, the structures within Point Lobos Ranch are projected to be outside of the inundation area from a 100-year coastal storm and the 1.4-meter future sea level rise inundation area (Figure 2-12).

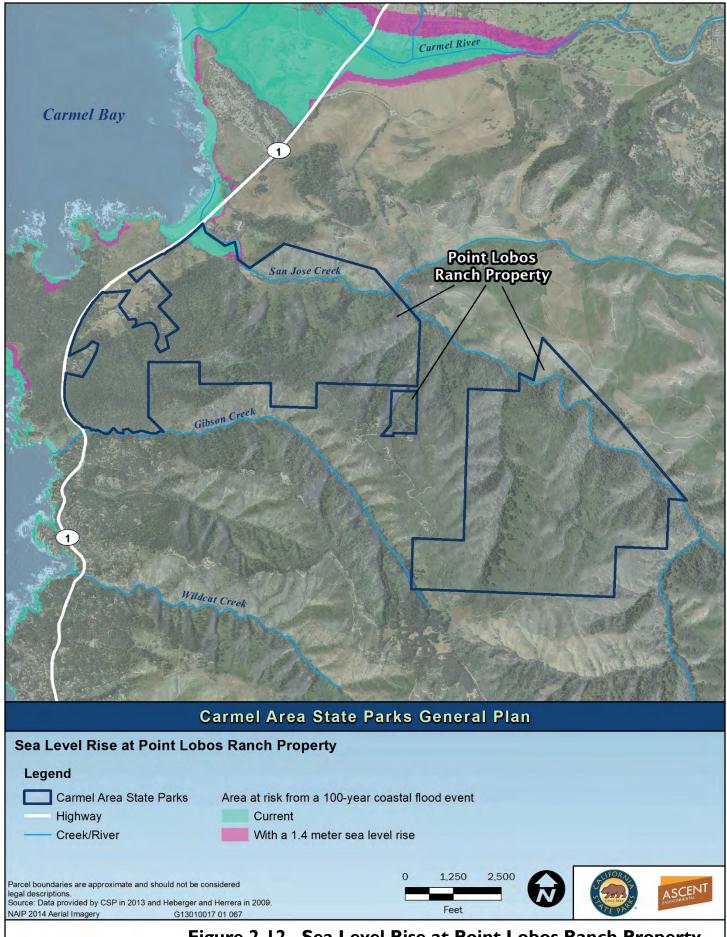


Figure 2-12 Sea Level Rise at Point Lobos Ranch Property



Topography, habitats, and adjacent residence at Upper Hatton Canyon

# **Hatton Canyon Property**

# Topography

The northern portion of Hatton Canyon encompasses a narrow canyon that is located at a lower elevation than the surrounding neighborhoods. The topography within Hatton Canyon is highly variable, ranging from the flat bottomlands near the mouth of the Carmel River in the southern portion to the steep hillsides of the Carmel Hills in the northern portion. Elevations within Hatton Canyon range from approximately 610 feet, at the northeastern edge to approximately 20 feet at the southern end of the property near the Carmel River.

# Geology and Seismicity

The seasonal drainage within Hatton Canyon eroded down through the Pleistocene marine terraces that lie along the coast of the Pacific Ocean into the underlying Monterey formation. Portions of the canyon are in areas designated as having a high susceptibility to landslide and erosion. These areas are primarily in the southern portion of Hatton Canyon (TAMC 2009). The potentially active Hatton Canyon Fault consists of a group of northwest-striking faults that extend from Carmel Valley Road northwest for approximately seven miles.

Hydrology, Water Quality, and Floodplains
Hatton Canyon is almost completely within the Carmel River
watershed, with only a very small portion (i.e., less than 0.5 acre)
within the Canyon Del Rey-Frontal Monterey Bay watershed
(Figure 2-6). Hatton Canyon comprises approximately 0.6 percent
of the Carmel River watershed.

The primary hydrologic feature within Hatton Canyon is a seasonal drainage that conveys water from upland runoff and sheetflow through a combination of confined channels, shallow wetlands, and culverts and empties directly into the Carmel River. Another small drainage joins the main seasonal drainage in the northern portion of Hatton Canyon from the north.

The southern portion of Hatton Canyon from just north of Rio Road to the Carmel River is designated as 100-year floodplain, and is subject to flooding during storms (Figure 2-13). Sedimentation is the primary water quality issue within Hatton Canyon and is attributed to high erosion soils and to the existing unpaved service road in the northern portion of the property.

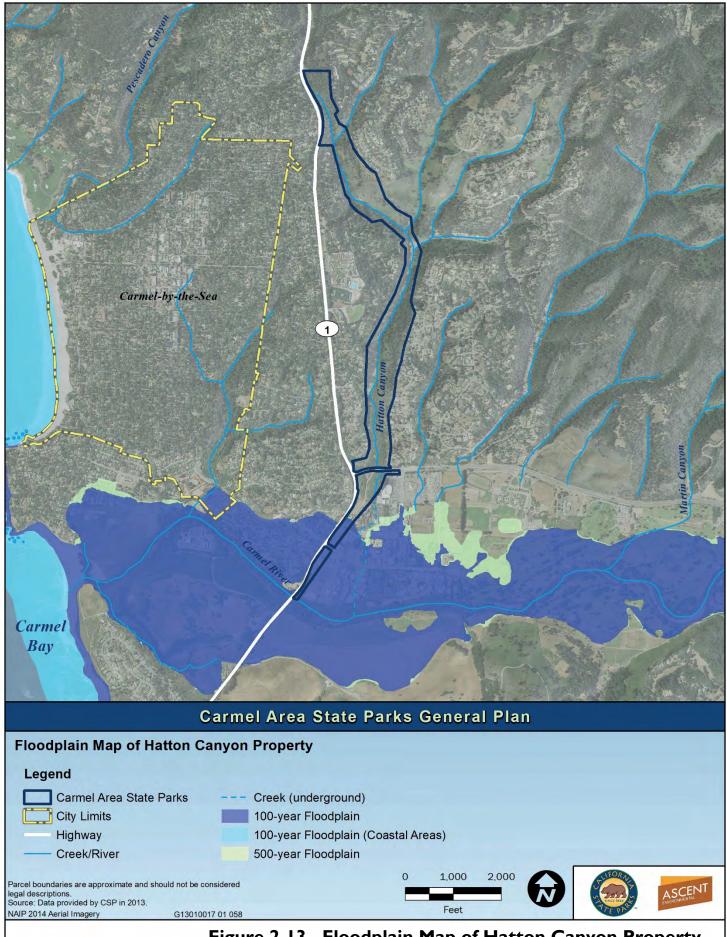


Figure 2-13 Floodplain Map of Hatton Canyon Property

## Sea Level Rise

The portion of Hatton Canyon south of Rio Road near the Carmel River is at a high risk of inundation from a 100-year coastal storm event and estimated 1.4-meter future sea level rise (Figure 2-14). As shown on Figure 2-14, much of the Marathon Flats area, including the multi-purpose trail within this area, are at risk of being inundated during a 100-year coastal storm event and with a 1.4-meter future rise in sea level.

# 2.3.2 Natural Resources

The Monterey Peninsula supports several different climatic, topographic, and soil conditions, resulting in a wide variety of habitats. This diversity of habitats supports many native plant and wildlife species. As an example, 146 plant species reach their most southern distributional limits and 156 plant species reach their most northern distributional limits in Monterey County, and at least 34 plant species are found only in Monterey County (City of Carmel-by-the-Sea 2003).

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

## Plant Life

The Reserve supports a variety of unique and important vegetation communities and landscapes, including several types of forest, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, wetlands, streams and associated riparian corridors, beaches, and rocky shoreline (Figure 2-15). Distinctive forest types within the Reserve include Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and Gowen cypress. The Monterey pine forest is found naturally in only three places in the world (Año Nuevo, Monterey, Cambria). The "core" population exists on the Monterey Peninsula (TMPFW 2011). The Monterey cypress and Gowen cypress forests naturally occur in only two locations each on the Monterey Peninsula (TMPFW 2011, Barbour 2007, USFWS 2004). Coastal prairie is quickly dwindling throughout the state, due to development and invasion by nonnative annual grasses and to natural successional processes such as the native forest and coastal scrub species that were historically kept at bay by grazing and fire (Ford and Hayes 2007). The Monterey Peninsula also contains maritime chaparral, an extremely sensitive and dwindling community (TMPFW 2011). Beaches and rocky shoreline also provide habitat for many sensitive species, as do wetlands and streams.

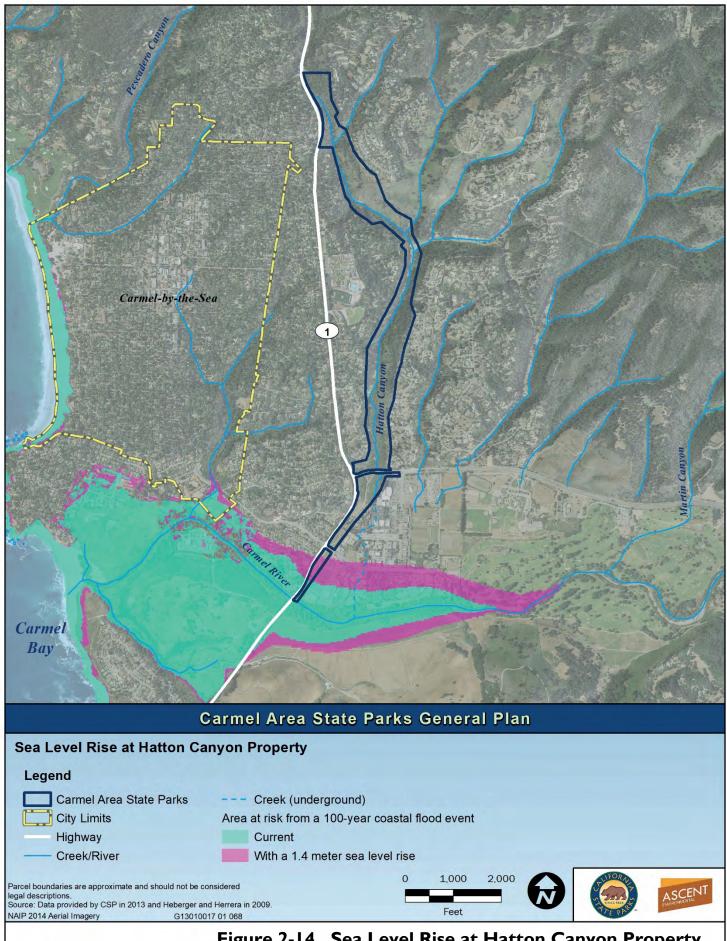


Figure 2-14 Sea Level Rise at Hatton Canyon Property

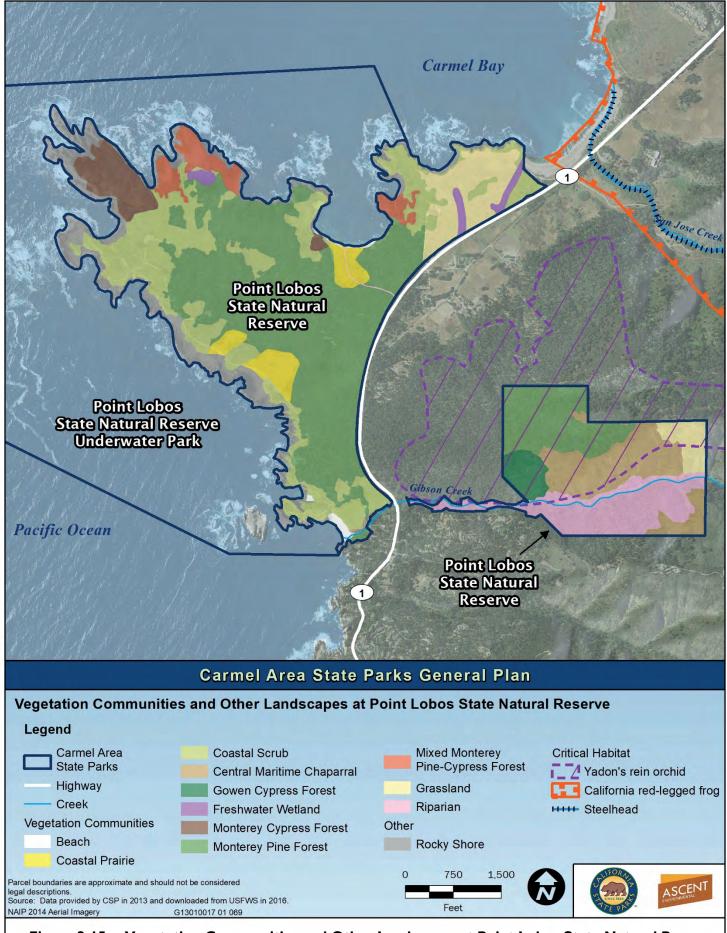


Figure 2-15 Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### **Monterey Pine Forest**

Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) stands are widely distributed across the Reserve and vary in age, degree of recruitment, understory density, species composition, and structure (Patterson 1995). The dominant trees are Monterey pine and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*). Lace lichen (*Ramalina menziesii*) is frequently found hanging from the limbs of the pine and oak trees where openings in the canopy provide some light. The understory consists of low-growing shrubs and openings of duff and grass.

#### Monterey Cypress Forest

Monterey cypress (Hesperocyparis macrocarpa) forest supports pure stands of Monterey cypress, which is endemic to the Monterey area. The only remaining natural stands of Monterey cypress occur in the Reserve and to the north along the coast (in the Pebble Beach vicinity) (USFWS 2004, CSP 1979, Barry et al. 1977). Mixed Monterey pine and cypress forest is found in three locations along the headlands as well. Monterey cypress stands show low recruitment and are moderately dense with trees up to 20 meters tall in sheltered locations and shorter, wind pruned trees in areas more exposed to constant onshore winds and salt spray (Patterson 1995). The understory consists of very low vegetative cover in denser areas and supports sparse dwarf shrubs and herbs in more open areas.

#### Gowen Cypress Forest

One of only two native populations in the world of Gowen cypress (Hesperocyparis goveniana) is present in the Reserve property east of SR I. A dwarf woodland of stunted Gowen cypress trees grows on poor soil with woollyleaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos tomentosa), an uncommon species of Monterey manzanita (Arctostaphylos montereyensis), and sandmat manzanita (Arctostaphylos pumila). Larger and taller Gowen cypress trees are present on the more fertile soils surrounding the dwarf woodland where they intergrade with the Monterey pine forest. These areas share many of the same shrub and herbaceous species.

#### Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub is a variable plant community that is widely dispersed throughout the Reserve on exposed, relatively steep slopes. Shrubs may be mat-like, prostrate, or upright, reaching up to 2 meters in height and may be dense or interspersed with grassy openings (Patterson 1995). Dominant species include coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), mock heather (Ericameria ericoides), blue blossom (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus), California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), sticky monkeyflower (Diplacus aurantiacus var. aurantiacus), California coffeeberry



Weathered cypress stump and dudleya

(Frangula californica), bush lupine (Lupinus arboreus), Douglas' silver lupine (L. albifrons var. douglasii), and seacliff (or wild) buckwheat (Eriogonum parvifolium).

## Central Maritime Chaparral

Central maritime chaparral is present in the Gowen cypress forest within the Reserve east of SR I, and is found on sandy, dry soils above Gibson Creek. Central maritime chaparral is found within the coastal fog belt from Monterey County to Santa Barbara County. Dominant species include woollyleaf manzanita, Monterey manzanita, golden chinquapin (*Chrysolepis chrysophylla*), scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*).

## Coastal Prairie

Coastal prairie is characterized by perennial grasses and forbs, with variable species composition reflecting local differences in soil moisture (Patterson 1995). At the Reserve, coastal prairie exists at Mound Meadow and Carmelo Meadow. The coastal prairie at the Reserve is one of the southernmost examples of north coastal prairie (Ford and Hayes 2007), containing unique species compositions and soil moisture relationships compared to the more northerly examples of this plant community (CSP 1979). Mound Meadow has been free from livestock grazing longer than any other prairie community in California (CSP 1979, Barry et al. 1977). Both meadows exhibit mima mound micro topography, with the mounds supporting bunchgrasses and prostrate shrubs that prefer drier conditions and the intermounds supporting grasses and herbs that tolerate more moist and saline conditions (Patterson 1995, DFG 1994, Barry et al. 1977). Sensitive species found in the coastal prairie habitat include pink johnny-nip (Castilleja ambigua ssp. insalutata) and fragrant fritillary (Fritillaria liliacea).

### Grasslands

Grasslands are present in Hudson Meadow and are dominated by non-native annual and perennial grasses. The grasslands are being colonized by native woody shrubs, such as coyote brush and Monterey pines (CSP 2010a). Dominant species include Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*), wild oats (*Avena sativa, A. barbata*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), fiddle dock (*R. crispus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), barley species (*Hordeum brachyantherum, H. jubatum ssp. jubatum, H. marinum ssp. gussoneanum, H. murinum ssp. leporinum*), and field mustard (*Brassica rapa*) in drier sites; and perennial ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), rabbits-foot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), and silver hair grass (*Aira caryophyllea*) in moister areas (CNPS 2012a, Barry et al. 1977).

### Beaches

Beaches support strand vegetation, which is made up of sparsely distributed plants which are usually prostrate and tolerant of wind, sand, and dry soil conditions (Barry et al. 1977). Dominant plant species include beach bur (Ambrosia chamissonis), sea fig (Carpobrotus chilensis), golden yarrow (Eriophyllum confertiflorum), and seaside daisy (Erigeron glaucus) (CNPS 2012a, Barry et al. 1977).

### Freshwater Wetlands

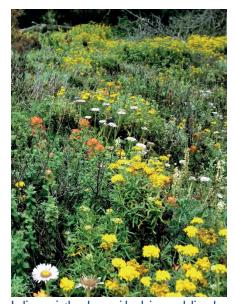
Three areas within the portion of the Reserve west of SR I support freshwater seeps – two north of the Hudson House and one near Whalers Knoll. Freshwater seeps are a type of wetland (Figure 2-16). Plants associated with the freshwater seeps at the Reserve include sedges (Carex sp.), rushes (Juncus mexicanus, J. hesperius, J. patens, J. xiphioides), Pacific silverweed (Potentilla anserina ssp. pacifica), fennel (Foeniculum vulgare), annual beardgrass (Polypogon monspeliensis), prickly ox-tongue (Helminthotheca echioides), dovefoot geranium (Geranium molle), poison hemlock, soft chess, shortpod mustard (Hirschfeldia incana), field mustard, and scarlet pimpernel (Anagallis arvensis) (CNPS 2012a, Patterson 1995). Freshwater wetlands are also present along many of the drainages within the Gowen cypress forest east of SR I.

## Riparian

Riparian vegetation is present along a small unnamed drainage bisecting Carmelo Meadow and along Gibson Creek. Shrubs, mainly marsh baccharis (*Baccharis glutinosa*), dominate the drainage in Carmelo Meadow. Herbs dominate the vegetation along Gibson Creek west of SR I, including common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*) and giant wildrye (*Elymus condensatus*). Riparian areas at the Reserve are considered sensitive natural communities and qualify as wetlands.

## **Rocky Shore**

The rocky shoreline is the transition zone between marine and terrestrial habitats. Many species of algae and marine animals can grow here (described under Aquatic Life, below), but vascular plants are typically absent. This landscape is considered part of the marine wetlands present along the shoreline. During low tides, this area can become crowded with park visitors exploring tidepools.



Indian paintbrush, seaside daisy, and lizard tail along the North Shore Trail in the Reserve

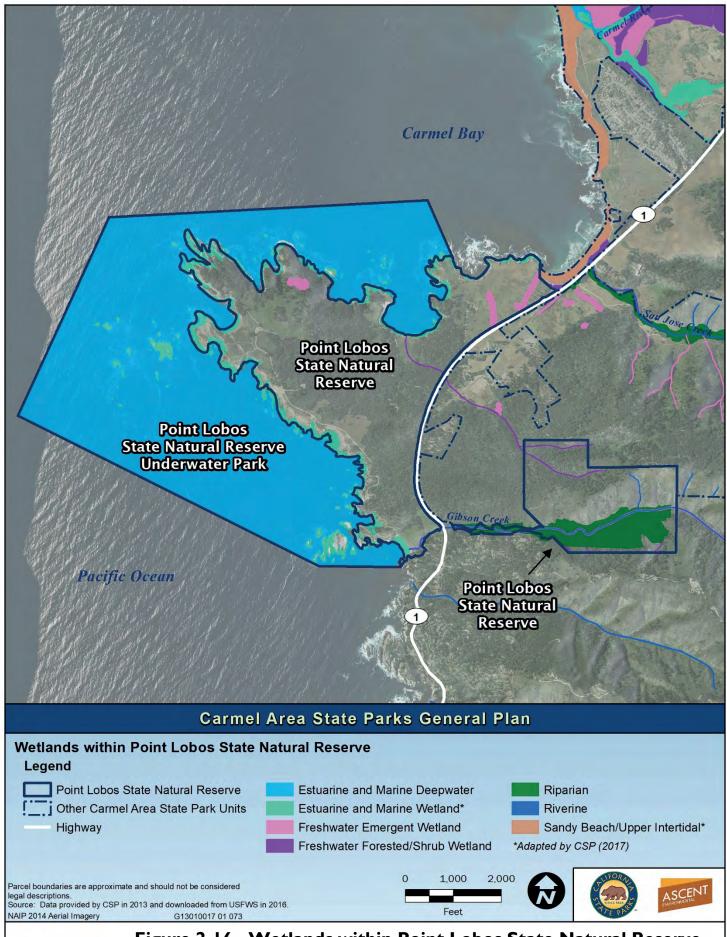


Figure 2-16 Wetlands within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

#### Sensitive Communities

Sensitive natural communities are those that are of special concern to CDFW or that are afforded specific consideration under CEQA, Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, the state's Porter-Cologne Act, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Sensitive communities within the Reserve include Gowen cypress forest, Monterey cypress forest, Monterey pine forest, central maritime chaparral, coastal prairie, riparian, freshwater seeps, the giant kelp submarine forest, and submarine canyon habitat.

### Special Status Plants

Special status plant species known to occur within the Reserve include Hooker's manzanita (Arctostaphylos hookeri), Monterey manzanita, sandmat manzanita, Monterey ceanothus (Ceanothus rigidus), pink johnny-nip, jolon clarkia (Clarkia jolonensis), Douglas' spineflower (Chorizanthe douglasii), marsh microseris (Microseris paludosa), Gowen cypress, Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, Yadon's rein orchid (Piperia yadonii), Hickman's cinquefoil (Potentilla hickmanii), small-leaved lomatium (Lomatium parvifolium), pine rose (Rosa pinetorum), and Pacific Grove clover (Trifolium polyodon) (California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDB] 2012; Palkovic, pers. comm., 2012; Patterson 1995; CSP 1979), and possibly Gairdner's yampah (Perideridia gairdneri) (Regents of the University of California 2018, Patterson 1995). Appendix B contains detailed information on all special status plants known to be present or with potential to occur within the Reserve. Critical habitat for Yadon's rein orchid has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) within the Gowen cypress forest east of SR 1.

Three of the special status plant species found in the Reserve are listed as federally threatened or endangered: Gowen cypress (threatened), Yadon's rein orchid (endangered), and Hickman's cinquefoil (endangered). Twelve of the special status plant species have a California Rare Plant Rank of IB, meaning they are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, and three of these have a threat rank of 0.1, meaning they are seriously threatened in California: Monterey pine, Hickman's cinquefoil, and Pacific Grove clover (CNPS 2012b). Threats to special status plants in the Reserve include loss of habitat and competition from invasive plants, as well as disturbance by illegal off-trail hiking by Reserve visitors; herbivory; and fire suppression, especially for the Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and Gowen cypress. Monterey pine is also specifically threatened by disease (pine pitch canker) and genetic contamination.

### **Invasive Plants**

Several invasive plants are known to occur at the Reserve. Current invasive plant management activities involve manual, chemical, and mechanical treatments. French broom (Genista monspessulana), cape ivy (Delairea odorata), and jubata grass (Cortaderia jubata) are targeted for removal within the Monterey pine forest. Monterey pines are also susceptible to the introduced pine pitch canker disease, which is caused by a fungus (Fusarium circinatum). Panic veldt grass (Ehrharta erecta) is an invasive species that grows in the understory of the Monterey cypress forest, which is also susceptible to cypress canker caused by a fungus (Seiridium cardinal). A variety of invasive species occur in the coastal scrub and grasslands, including black mustard (Brassica nigra), poison hemlock, fennel, sea fig, French broom, cape ivy, and jubata grass.

Additional invasive plant species of concern within the Reserve include kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) and periwinkle (*Vinca major*) (CSP 2006, 2010a).

### Animal Life

More than 176 species of vertebrate animals, including 10 amphibians and reptiles, 19 mammals, and 200 birds, have been identified at the Reserve. These include resident and migratory species. Even the developed areas provide habitat for some animals, such as raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Monterey dusky-footed wood rat (*Neotoma fuscipes luciana*), and bats. Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), although not a resident of the Reserve, will use the Reserve to hunt, as do bobcats (*Lynx rufus*).

#### Special Status Animals

Special status wildlife known to occur in the Reserve include black swift (*Cypseloides nigra*), Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*). Appendix C contains detailed information on all special status animals known to be present or with potential to occur within the Reserve.

Southern sea otter is federally listed as threatened and Smith's blue butterfly is federally listed as endangered. Sea otters are threatened by boat traffic in their ocean habitat. Smith's blue butterfly is threatened by loss of its coastal dune and scrub habitat from invasive plant species and trampling by park visitors. Black swift and Monterey dusky-footed woodrat are California Species of Special Concern, meaning they are vulnerable to extinction and the CDFW has called attention to their plight to reverse that

trend. Hoary bat and monarch butterfly have no state or federal listing status, but have international rarity rankings.

## **Invasive Animals**

No invasive animal species have been documented as causing problems in the Reserve. However, wild pigs (Sus srcofa) have been known to cause extensive damage in the adjacent State Beach and invasive American bullfrogs (Rana catesbeiana) are present in the Carmel River lagoon. Both species have potential to occur within the Reserve.

# Aquatic Life

The Reserve includes a 775-acre Underwater Park located just off-shore. The Underwater Park is within a 5.36-square mile MPA managed by CDFW called Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (Clifton and Johnson 2010).

Studies of the nearshore portions of the Reserve have demonstrated that there are significantly more and larger fish in the Reserve than in other areas in central California (Starr et al. 2015). Similarly, submersible surveys have shown that the deeper portions of the Reserve contain a greater abundance of fish than most areas in central California (Starr and Yoklavich 2008).

The giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) forest at the Reserve is widely recognized as a special community. Although the kelp's range is quite extensive, it only occurs as a community dominant from central Baja California to Bear Harbor in Mendocino County (CSP 1979, Monterey Bay Aquarium 1999). The kelp forest is highly productive, producing biomass at a rate that is higher than any plant community on earth. The northernmost recorded occurrences of the Gorgonian coral (Lophogorgia chilensis) are at the Reserve and Monterey Bay (Barry et al. 1977). The fish fauna is richer at the Reserve than at northern underwater parks, and includes many species of rockfish (Sebastes sp.), blacksmith (Chromis punctipinnis), kelp bass (Paralabrax clathratus), and sheephead (Pimelometopon pulchrum) (Barry et al. 1977). Whales, such as the Pacific gray whale (Eschrichtius robustus), humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae), blue whale (Balaenoptera musculus), and Minke whale (B. acutorostrata), as well as orcas (Orcinus orca), are commonly sighted from the Reserve (CSP 2006).

Fine sandy habitats, present in Whalers Cove and Bluefish Cove, are home to a diverse assemblage of species, including several polychaete worms, peanut worms, echiuroid worms, snails, and echinoderms (sea stars, brittle stars, sand dollars, and sea cucumbers). Rocky habitats, including tidepools, host assemblages of anemones, mussels, barnacles, algae, sponges, polychaete

worms, snails, small crustaceans, isopods, amphipods, chitons, limpets, hydroids, bryozoans, sea squirts, sea cucumbers, abalone, small crabs and shrimp, and sea urchins.

#### Natural Processes

### Fire Ecology

The upland vegetation communities on the Monterey Peninsula are largely shaped by fire. Cones of Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and Gowen cypress will slowly release seeds once mature, but open more rapidly with fire (TMPFW 2011, Barbour 2007, Patterson 2005). Optimum seedling recruitment for the pine and cypress species takes place following a fire (CSP 1979, Barbour 2007). Scrub communities are known to be well adapted to recurring fires; many species resprout from stumps and have long-lived seed banks which germinate following fires (CSP 1979). Since fire suppression began on the Monterey Peninsula, habitat quality of the coastal scrub has declined for special status plants and animals dependent on a frequently disturbed scrub community.

A map of the fire hazard ratings and previous fires in the region are shown on Figure 2-17. Fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of the Reserve are designated as high or very high by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). With the detection of pine pitch canker in the park, concerns about die off and inadvertent kill of Monterey pines through controlled burns led to a halt on controlled burns. More recently, smaller scale controlled burns have been conducted. Controlled burns were conducted in Mound Meadow and Little Mound Meadow within the Reserve in 2011.

#### Succession

Plant succession is a directional, cumulative change in the species that occupy a given area, through time (Barbour et al. 1987). The vegetation within the Reserve has undergone considerable changes over the last several hundred years, partially driven by past land uses such as logging, grazing, burning, industrial and commercial development, the film industry, and other factors. However, once these uses ceased, the vegetation in the Reserve reverted towards a more natural state. Pine forests have spread and grasslands/meadows have shrunk.

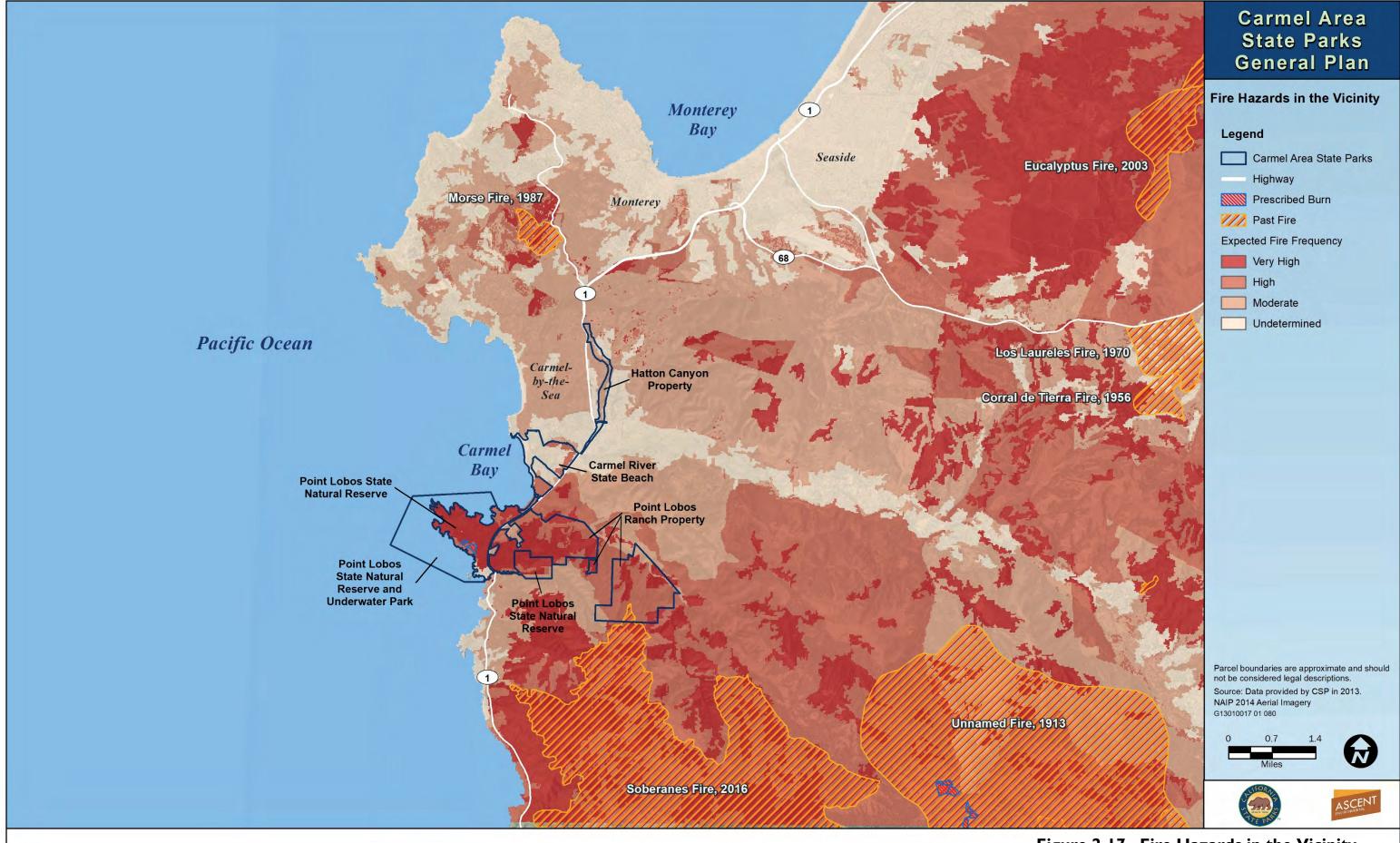


Figure 2-17 Fire Hazards in the Vicinity

#### **Erosion**

Erosion is the gradual process by which rock and soil are worn away by the forces of nature, such as wind and water. Ongoing erosion has implications for natural resource management, as it may result in loss of resources such as sensitive natural communities, common and special status species, suitable habitat for these species, loss of plants, and can negatively affect hydrology and drainage. Erosion may also have a negative effect on cultural resources. Ongoing erosion can also be exacerbated by visitor use off trails. Many of the visitors to the Reserve enjoy the scenic views and may step off trails to explore the headlands, pose for photographs or get a closer look at marine mammals in the coves below. Managing human-caused erosion within the Reserve is an ongoing challenge for resource managers. Many of the trails along the headlands such as North Shore Trail, Cypress Grove Trail, and South Shore Trail have visitor guide wires to keep visitors on trails for their own safety and to prevent resource damage caused by trampling and erosion. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has also identified several areas of erosion that are contributing sediment to the Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) at Whalers Cove and the unpaved parking areas along the south shore.



Erosion control best management practices at Weston Beach

## Carmel River State Beach

## Plant Life

Vegetation communities at the State Beach include coastal scrub, riparian/willow forest, wetlands, beaches, and eucalyptus groves. Other features include the Carmel River mouth and lagoon, San Jose Creek, rocky shore, and developed areas. The location and extent of these communities and features is shown in Figure 2-18.

#### Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub is present on the low bluffs just above the beach south of the mouth of the Carmel River and throughout the Odello West field. It is dominated by coyote brush, mock heather, golden yarrow, sticky monkeyflower, and seacliff buckwheat (CSP 1988). Dominant herbs include soft chess, quaking grass (*Briza maxima*, *B. minor*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), and foxtail fescue (*Festuca myuros*) (CSP 1988). A mixed coastal scrub/dune scrub community is present at the mouth of San Jose Creek. This community is dominated by California sagebrush, beach bur, golden yarrow, and bush lupine (CSP 1988).



Figure 2-18 Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Carmel River State Beach

#### Riparian/Willow Forest

Riparian vegetation is present along the Carmel River, along a small channel running through the Odello West field parallel to the south arm of the lagoon, along San Jose Creek, and at the southern end of Monastery Beach. Pacific willow (Salix lasiandra var. lasiandra), black cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa), white alder (Alnus rhombifolia), arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), and red willow (Salix laevigata) dominate the riparian forest (CSP 1987, 1996; CSP 2010a). The riparian vegetation at the State Beach is considered a freshwater forested/shrub wetland (USFWS 2012, The Watershed Institute 2006).

#### Freshwater Emergent Wetlands

Several freshwater emergent wetlands are present at the State Beach (USFWS 2012, The Watershed Institute 2006) (Figure 2-19). Seasonally inundated freshwater marsh is adjacent to the Carmel River lagoon (CSP 2010a). California tule (Schoenoplectus californicus) is dominant in the deeper portions of the freshwater marsh; pickleweed (Salicornia sp.), marsh jaumea (Jaumea carnosa), salt grass (Distichlis spicata), spikerush (Eleocharis macrostachya), and Olney's three-leaved bulrush (Schoenoplectus americanus) dominate the mid-elevation marsh; and Baltic rush (Juncus balticus) and Pacific silverweed are dominant in the upper marsh, with marsh jaumea as a common associate species (MPWMD 1995, CSP 1985, Barry et al. 1977). The marsh wetland and lagoon is considered an environmentally sensitive habitat in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan and is the only major coastal wetland in the region (Monterey County 1983).

A small freshwater marsh wetland dominated by California tule is present on the beach at the base of a coastal scrub slope at the northern end of the State Beach.

## <u>Carmel River and Lagoon</u>

The Carmel River, which drains an approximately 256-square mile watershed (CSU Pomona 2005), is the largest freshwater stream flowing into Carmel Bay. Vegetation in the channel is limited to the lower portion of the river and consists of willow saplings and non-native plants that are scoured out by high water flows each winter (The Watershed Institute 2006). Riparian vegetation is present along the banks of the river, and is described under "Riparian/Willow Forest," above. The river mouth typically remains closed for most of the year, forming a large lagoon. The south arm of the lagoon was expanded in the southeast (within the Odello West field) to provide additional habitat for southcentral California coast steelhead (CSP 2010a). This part of the lagoon supports beds of pondweed (Potamogeton sp.). The central portion of the lagoon lacks vegetation (The Watershed Institute 2006). When water levels are low, mudflats and sandflats are exposed in the shallower portions of the lagoon.



Carmel River lagoon in the State Beach

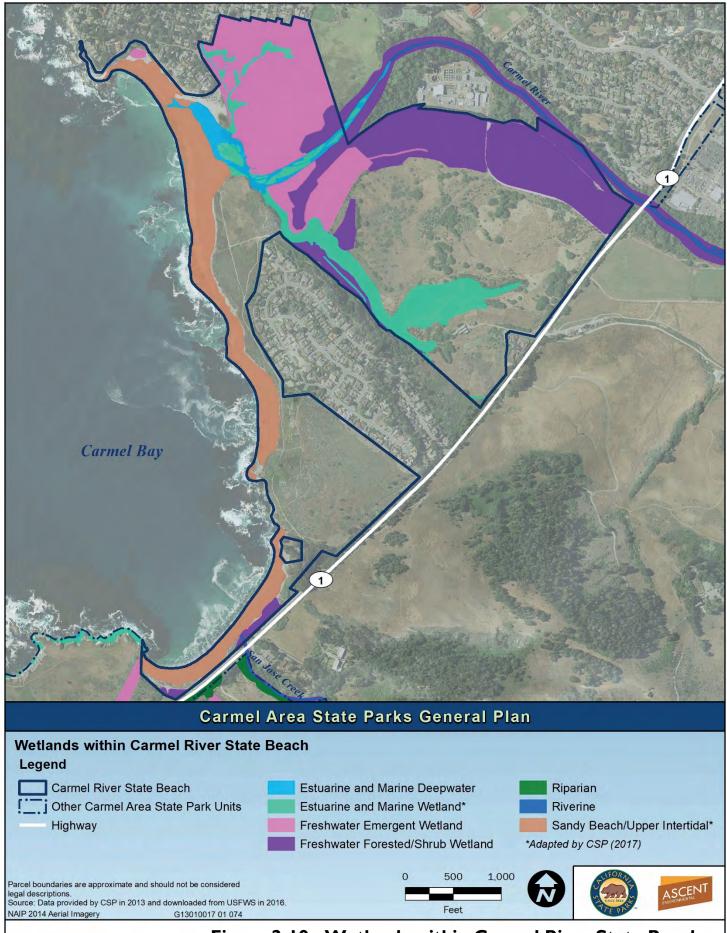


Figure 2-19 Wetlands within Carmel River State Beach

The marsh wetlands adjacent to the lagoon are described above under "Freshwater Emergent Wetlands." The Carmel River and lagoon are estuarine wetlands (USFWS 2012, The Watershed Institute 2006) (Figure 2-19).

The northwestern portion of the State Beach immediately east of Carmel River Beach is designated as the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. This area is approximately 53 acres and was designated as a natural preserve in 1985.

Current issues within the natural preserve include sandbar management for flood protection and management for special status species including California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.

## San Jose Creek

San Jose Creek enters the Pacific Ocean just south of the Bay School, and a small backwater lagoon develops in this area. The creek mouth is closed during the summer, and a small lagoon and wetland form here (Hagar Environmental Science 2002). The wetland is dominated by beardless wild rye (*Elymus triticoides*) with rushes and salt grass (CSP 1988).

#### Beaches

Beaches support strand vegetation, which is made up of a sparse distribution of plants which are usually prostrate and tolerant of wind, sand, and dry soil conditions (Barry et al. 1977). Dominant plant species include beach bur, yellow sand verbena (Abronia latifolia), bush lupine, California poppy (Eschscholzia californica), seaside saltbush (Atriplex californica), and the non-natives New Zealand spinach (Tetragonia tetragonioides), European sea-rocket (Cakile maritima), sea fig, and Hottentot fig (Carpobrotus edulis) (CSP 1989, Barry et al. 1977). The beach is part of the marine wetlands present along the shoreline (USFWS 2012, The Watershed Institute 2006).

## **Eucalyptus Groves**

Non-native blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) has been planted very densely with Monterey pine near the southern end of the State Beach around a private inholding. Trees are over 50 feet high and litter from downed wood and bark is deep. Understory species are present primarily along the periphery of the grove and include poison oak and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) (CSP 1988, CSP 2010a).

#### Rocky Shore

The rocky shoreline is the transition between marine and terrestrial habitats. It is subject to ocean waves, strong winds, and salt spray. Tidepools are a common feature along the rocky shore.

This landscape is part of the marine wetlands present along the shoreline (USFWS 2012, The Watershed Institute 2006).

#### Sensitive Communities

Sensitive communities at the State Beach include riparian areas along the Carmel River and San Jose Creek, wetlands, and marine communities (Monterey County 1983).

### Special Status Plants

Special status plant species known to occur within the State Beach include Monterey Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja latifolia*), branching beach aster (*Corethrogyne leucophylla*), and Hutchinson's larkspur (CNDDB 2012; CSP 1988, 1979). Monterey pine likely historically occurred in the area now covered by coastal scrub (CNDDB 2012, CSP 1988). Appendix B contains detailed information on all special status plants known to be present or with potential to occur within the State Beach.

## **Invasive Plant Species**

Invasive plant species of most concern in the State Beach include blue gum, sea fig, Hottentot fig, cape ivy, black mustard, jubata grass, fennel, French broom, and poison hemlock, all found in the coastal scrub. The restoration area in the Odello West field is heavily infested with several species of invasive plants. Select invasive species are controlled through manual, mechanical, and chemical treatments.

## Animal Life

The varied plant communities and landscapes of the State Beach provide habitat for diverse and abundant wildlife. The Carmel River and San Jose Creek channels are important wildlife corridors, and several special status animal species are known to occur, including more than 325 species of migratory songbirds.

## Special Status Animals

Special status wildlife species known to occur within the State Beach include south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), southern sea otter, and black legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra nigra*). Appendix C contains detailed information on all special status animals known to be present or with potential to occur within the State Beach.

South-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, and Southern sea otter are federally listed as threatened. In Carmel River lagoon, specifically, south-central California coast steelhead are threatened by sedimentation, lack of freshwater inflows in the summer due to groundwater extractions

and other upstream diversions along the Carmel River, and breaching the sandbar in the winter which can displace south-central California coast steelhead and subject them to increased predation and salinity-related stress (MPWMD 1995; MPRPD, CCC, and CSP 1999). California red-legged frog populations are threatened by groundwater extractions and other upstream diversions along Carmel River which dewaters portions of the river, predation by and competition from bullfrogs, road maintenance and traffic at San Jose Creek, and invasive plants altering upland habitat (CNDDB 2012). Western snowy plovers are threatened by human activity along the beaches where the birds nest and predation of eggs by crows, ravens, and other predators (CNDDB 2012). Sea otters are threatened by boat traffic and have experienced increased disturbance from kayakers (CNDDB 2012).

### **Invasive Animal Species**

The non-native American bullfrog has been observed throughout the Carmel River lagoon and has the potential to occur in San Jose Creek. Wild pigs are present in the Odello West field and surrounding wetlands. Their foraging habits cause extensive ground disturbance and damage to vegetation.

# Aquatic Life

Aquatic habitats within the State Beach include the Carmel River and lagoon and the mouth of San Jose Creek. The Carmel River lagoon forms at the mouth of the Carmel River. The entire lagoon area consists of diverse seasonal and perennial wetland habitats that serve as critical wildlife habitat for a wide range of species including several federally-listed species. Ecologically, the lagoon serves as keystone habitat for multiple threatened and protected species, including a distinct population segment of south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog (CCC et al. 2007).

The marine aquatic areas of the State Beach contain rocky tidepools, giant kelp forests, and rocky and sandy bottoms, which provide habitat for a diverse and abundant assemblage of species.

Kelp beds are found on rocky bottoms and at the head of Carmel Canyon and are dominated by giant kelp, southern sea palm (Eisenia arborea), and woody-stemmed kelp (Pterygophera californica). Sea otters use the kelp beds for pupping and rafting, and the canopy serves as an important energy supply.

### Natural Processes

## Fire Ecology

A map of the fire hazard ratings and previous fires in the region are shown on Figure 2-17. Fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of the State Beach are designated as moderate or undetermined by CAL FIRE. Controlled burns have not been conducted at the State Beach.

## **Flooding**

The Carmel River forms a lagoon at its mouth when ocean waves and sediment transported by the river build a sand bar on the beach, which blocks the river from flowing into the ocean. Fresh water from the river floods the lagoon, providing important habitat for many species, including south-central California coast steelhead which use the lagoon during their migration. The level and duration of this flooding varies from year to year, and the sand bar naturally breaches at an elevation of approximately 11.8 to 13.1 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum. This level of flooding threatens surrounding homes and infrastructure, so Monterey County has regularly artificially breached the sandbar at the mouth of the Carmel River during the winter rainy season. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Monterey County and CSP has been drafted and outlines flood-related activities.

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

## Plant Life

Vegetation communities within Point Lobos Ranch include Monterey pine forest, Gowen cypress forest, coastal scrub, central maritime chaparral, riparian forest, grasslands, and wetlands. The location and extent of these communities and landscapes is shown in Figure 2-20.

#### Monterey Pine Forest

Monterey pine forest occupies most of the west facing slopes within the property. The forest is characterized by a continuum of age and size classes and is relatively open. Many of the older pine trees are infected with western gall rust (Endocronartium harknessii) and mistletoe (Arceuthobium sp.), and numerous snags (dead standing trees) are present. Coast live oak is a common associate in the lower canopy, with poison oak, manzanita, toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), salal, California coffeeberry, silk tassel (Garrya elliptica), California huckleberry, sticky monkeyflower, and Monterey pine seedlings in the understory.



Expansive backcountry habitat on Point Lobos Ranch

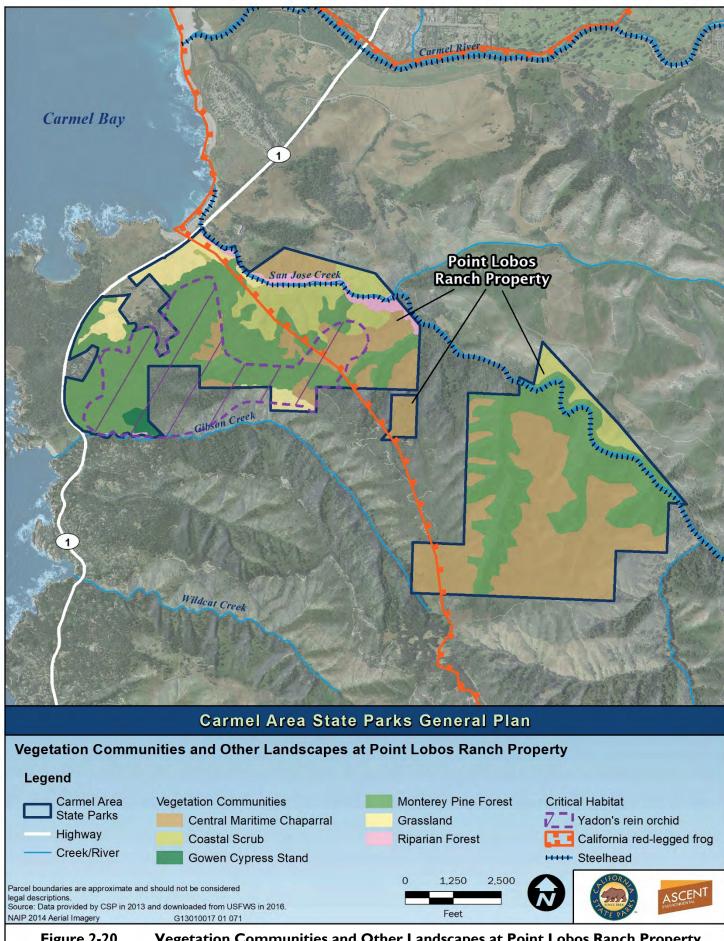


Figure 2-20 Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Point Lobos Ranch Property



One of the two native populations of Gowen cypress is within Point Lobos Ranch.

#### **Gowen Cypress Forest**

One of the two native populations of Gowen cypress in the world is present at Point Lobos Ranch.

#### Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub is widespread on the steep middle to lower slopes of San Jose and Gibson canyons, especially north- and south-facing slopes with shallow, rocky soils. Coastal scrub within Point Lobos Ranch is dominated by a diverse mix of native perennial shrubs and herbs. Monterey pine is invading coastal scrub in some areas.

#### Central Maritime Chaparral

Central maritime chaparral is widespread within Point Lobos Ranch, found on sandy, dry soils on the crest of upper slopes on the ridge between San Jose and Gibson creeks. Central maritime chaparral is found within the coastal fog belt from Monterey County to Santa Barbara County, and the type or phase at Point Lobos Ranch is unique to the Monterey Peninsula (Griffin 1978 in Gibson 1989).

#### Riparian Forest

Riparian vegetation is present along San Jose and Gibson creeks. The San Jose Creek riparian forest is dominated by black cottonwood, white alder, red willow, California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*). Hutchinson's delphinium, a rare species that is endemic to Monterey County, is found within the riparian forest along San Jose Creek (Barry et al. 1977, CNPS 2012).

The riparian community along Gibson Creek is dominated by coast redwood, California bay laurel, bigleaf maple, madrone, and white alder in the overstory and swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), California huckleberry, thimbleberry (*Ribes parviflorus*), redflowering currant (*R. sanguineum var. glutinosum*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina var. cyclosorum*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*), and the non-native and invasive panic grass and French broom in the understory.

#### Wetlands

Wetlands are present along many of the drainages throughout Point Lobos Ranch; these include wetlands dominated by herbs and those dominated by trees and shrubs.

Swales and ditches are present in the grassland south of Allen Road. These features are dominated by common rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Baltic rush, and the non-native ryegrass, cut-leaved plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), English plantain (*P. lanceolata*), and other wetland plants.

These wetlands are classified as freshwater emergent wetlands (herbaceous wetlands) and forested/shrub wetlands (tree and shrub wetlands) (USFWS 2012) (Figure 2-21).

#### Grasslands

Grasslands are dominated by non-native annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf herbaceous species, and are being colonized by native woody shrubs and Monterey pines in some areas (CSP 2010). Dominant species are similar to those described above for the Reserve.

#### Sensitive Communities

Sensitive communities within Point Lobos Ranch include central maritime chaparral, Monterey pine forest, Monterey pygmy cypress forest (Gowen cypress dwarf woodland), wetlands, and riparian habitat along San Jose and Gibson creeks. One of the southernmost native populations of rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*) is also found in the eastern parcel of Point Lobos Ranch.

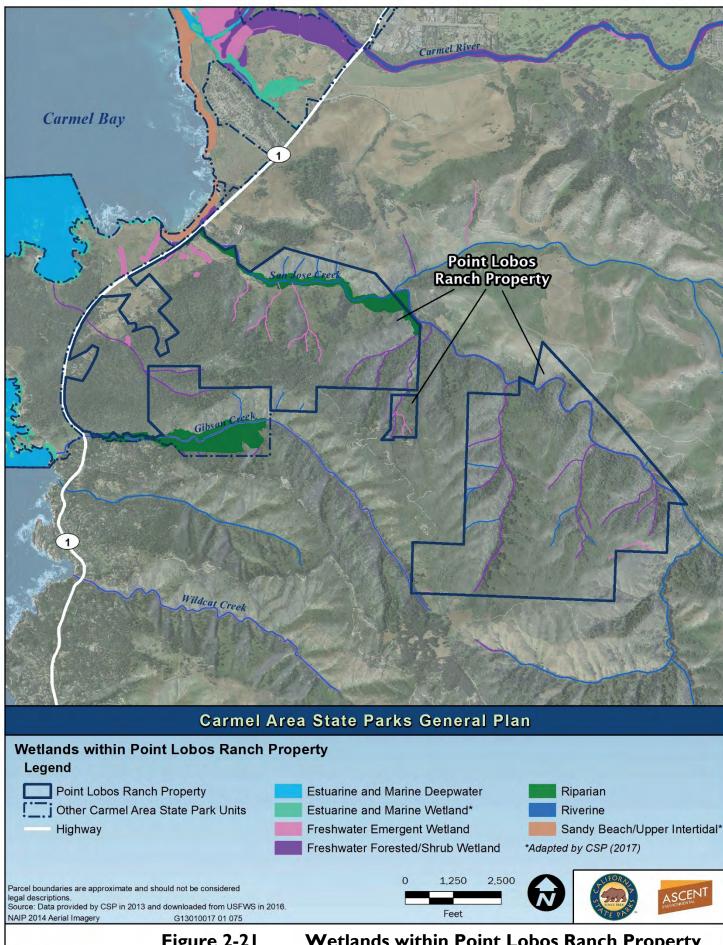
#### Special Status Plants

Special status plant species that are known to occur within Point Lobos Ranch are Hutchinson's larkspur, Gowen cypress, Monterey pine, Yadon's rein orchid, pine rose, and Pacific Grove clover. Appendix B contains detailed information on all special status plants known to be present or with potential to occur within Point Lobos Ranch.

Two of the special status plant species found within Point Lobos Ranch are federally listed as threatened or endangered: Gowen cypress (threatened) and Yadon's rein orchid (endangered). All six of the special status plant species known to occur within the property have a California Rare Plant Rank of IB, designated as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, and three of these have a threat rank of 0.1 (Monterey pine, Yadon's rein orchid, and Pacific Grove clover) (CNPS 2012). Threats to special status plants within Point Lobos Ranch include loss of habitat and competition from invasive plants, as well as disturbance and damage during invasive plant removal efforts; herbivory; and improper fire regime, especially for the Monterey pine and Gowen cypress. Monterey pine is also specifically threatened by disease (pine pitch canker) and genetic contamination.

#### **Invasive Plants**

More than 10 acres of French broom have been mapped within Point Lobos Ranch. French broom, cape ivy, and jubata grass are targeted for removal within the Monterey pine forest. French broom is managed through both mechanical and chemical treatment.



**Wetlands within Point Lobos Ranch Property** Figure 2-21

A variety of invasive species are treated in the coastal scrub and grasslands, including black mustard, poison hemlock, fennel, iceplant, cape ivy, kikuyu grass, and jubata grass. Periwinkle is found along San Jose Creek and, in the riparian forest, French broom, cape ivy, and sticky eupatorium (Ageratina adenophora) are managed through both mechanical and chemical treatment. English ivy (Hedera helix), foxglove (Digitalis purpurea), and calla lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica) also occur within Point Lobos Ranch. Monterey pines are also susceptible to the introduced pine pitch canker disease. Gowen cypress is susceptible to cypress canker.

#### Animal Life

Point Lobos Ranch supports a diverse assemblage of wildlife. The relatively large number of species documented likely results from the extent and diversity of vegetation communities within the property and the low density of adjacent development. The San Jose Creek and Gibson Creek channels serve as important wildlife corridors.

#### Special Status Animals

Special status wildlife species known to occur within Point Lobos Ranch include south-central California coast steelhead, Smith's blue butterfly, California red-legged frog, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, and hoary bat. Monarch butterfly occurred previously but has not been observed recently. A large portion of Point Lobos Ranch is considered critical habitat for California red-legged frog, and San Jose Creek is critical habitat for south-central California coast steelhead. Appendix C contains detailed information on all special status animals known to be present or with potential to occur within Point Lobos Ranch.

#### **Invasive Animals**

No invasive animal species have been documented within Point Lobos Ranch; however, bullfrogs have the potential to occur in San Jose Creek.

#### Natural Processes

#### Fire Ecology

A map of the fire hazard ratings and previous fires in the region are shown on Figure 2-17. Fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of Point Lobos Ranch are designated as high or very high by CAL FIRE. Current vegetation management activities include mowing and limited vegetation clearing to reduce fuel load. Fire fuel management is focused along the SR I corridor and is carried out in coordination with CAL FIRE.



Vegetation within Upper Hatton Canyon

# **Hatton Canyon Property**

#### Plant Life

Vegetation communities within Hatton Canyon include Monterey pine forest, coastal scrub, riparian forest, grasslands, and wetlands. Other landscape features represented within the unit include ruderal and developed areas. The location and extent of these communities and features is shown in Figure 2-22.

#### **Monterey Pine Forest**

Monterey pine forest occupies the slopes above the canyon bottom. As described above, it is dominated by Monterey pine and coast live oak. The understory is dominated by Carmel ceanothus (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. griseus), California coffeeberry, oso berry (Oemleria cerasiformis), hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula), poison oak, and spreading snowberry (Symphoricarpos mollis).

#### Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub occurs on the slopes above the canyon bottom. Coastal scrub at Hatton Canyon is similar to the coastal scrub described above, and is dominated by coyote brush, California sagebrush, and California coffeeberry.

#### <u>Riparian Forest</u>

Riparian vegetation is associated with the drainage that flows through Hatton Canyon. Similar to the riparian forest described above, it is dominated by arroyo willow, black cottonwood, and western dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. occidentalis).

The riparian vegetation in Hatton Canyon is likely considered a freshwater forested/shrub wetland (U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Caltrans 1973).

#### Wetlands

Portions of the drainage that flows through the bottom of Hatton Canyon are considered a riverine, freshwater emergent, and freshwater forested/shrub wetland (USFWS 2012), depending on the vegetation present (Figure 2-23). The riverine portions flow through areas dominated by riparian forest, which is described above. The freshwater emergent wetland portions are dominated by tall cyperus (*Cyperus eragrostis*), giant horsetail (*Equisetum spp.*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius* var. *bufonius*), common rush, spreading rush (*J. patens*), Mexican rush (*J. mexicanus*), grass poly (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), and panicled bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*). The freshwater forested/shrub wetland flows through Monterey pine forest, described above.

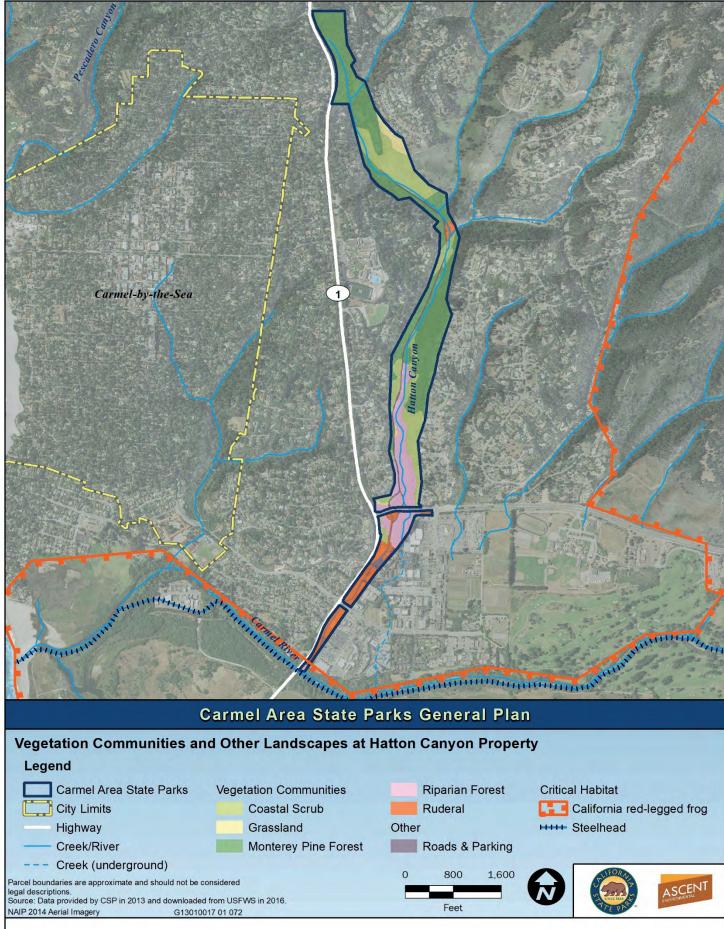


Figure 2-22 Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Hatton Canyon Property

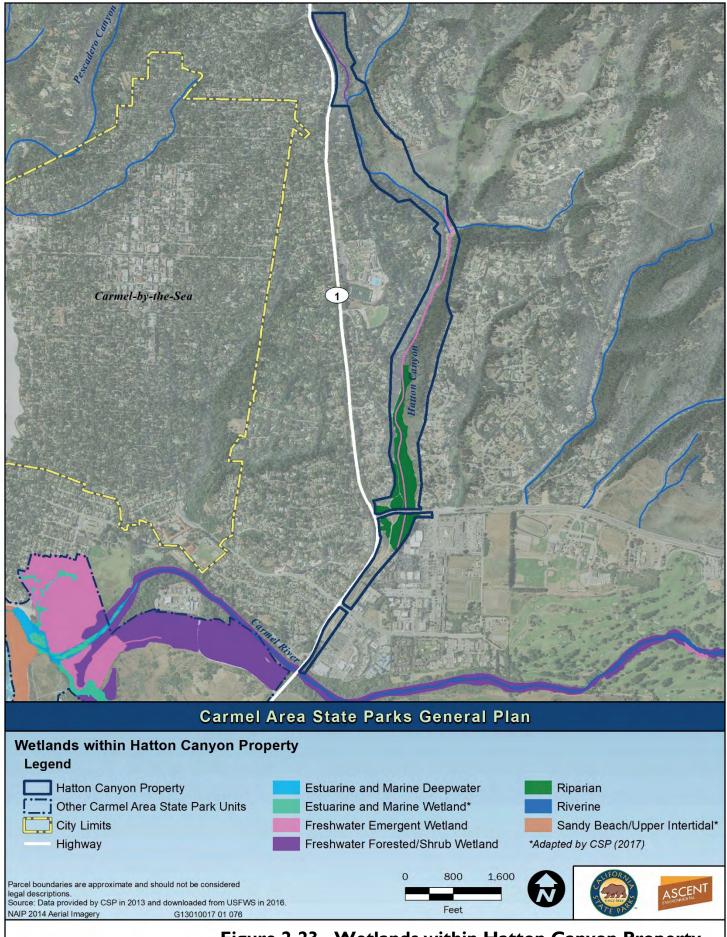


Figure 2-23 Wetlands within Hatton Canyon Property

#### Grasslands

The grassland is described as remnant coastal prairie with significant influence from the surrounding urban areas. Native species found in the grassland include California oat grass (Danthonia californica), purple needle grass (Stipa pulchra), blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum), checkerbloom (Sidalcea malviflora), gamble weed (Sanicula crassicaulis), fescue (Festuca sp.), and marsh microseris (U.S. Department of Transportation, FHWA, and Caltrans 1973).

#### Sensitive Communities

Sensitive communities present include Monterey pine forest, riparian forests, and wetlands.

#### Special Status Plants

Monterey pine, marsh microseris, and Hickman's onion (*Allium hickmanii*) have been documented within Hatton Canyon. Several other special status species may have occurred in the canyon historically: Hooker's manzanita, sandmat manzanita, Santa Lucia bush mallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri*), Eastwood's goldenbush (*Ericameria fasciculata*), Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. sericea), and Jolon clarkia. Appendix B contains detailed information on all special status plants known to be present or with potential to occur within Hatton Canyon.

The four special status plants present in Hatton Canyon have a California Rare Plant Rank of IB, designated as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. Threats to special status plants in Hatton Canyon include loss of habitat and competition from invasive plants; disturbance associated with surrounding residential neighborhoods; herbivory; and improper fire regime, especially for the Monterey pine and Monterey cypress.

#### **Invasive Plants**

English ivy, fennel, Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), French broom, and poison hemlock have all been documented within Hatton Canyon. In addition, many ornamental plants have spread from adjacent private properties and are encroaching into Hatton Canyon, including German ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and periwinkle.

#### Animal Life

A variety of wildlife occurs within Hatton Canyon including animal species associated with Monterey pine forest, coastal scrub and grassland, riparian forest, and ruderal habitats. The drainage connecting Hatton Canyon to the Carmel River is an important wildlife corridor.



The CASP units provide habitat for special status species, including California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, and south-central California coast steelhead.

#### Special Status Animals

Special status wildlife species known to occur within Hatton Canyon include California red-legged frog and Monterey dusky-footed woodrat. The southern portion of Hatton Canyon is included within federally designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is a California Species of Special Concern, meaning the CDFW has determined the species is vulnerable to extinction because of population declines, limited ranges, and/or other continuing threats.

Appendix C contains detailed information on all special status animals known to be present or with potential to occur within Hatton Canyon.

#### **Invasive Animals**

No invasive animal species have been documented within Hatton Canyon.

#### Natural Processes

#### Fire Ecology

A map of the fire hazard ratings and previous fires in the region are shown on Figure 2-17. Fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of Hatton Canyon are designated as moderate or undetermined by CAL FIRE. Although there are no structures within Hatton Canyon, CSP staff are working with CAL FIRE to reduce fuel loads and will continue working with CAL FIRE in the future. Current vegetation management activities include mowing and limited vegetation clearing to reduce fuel load in cooperation with CAL FIRE.

# Wildlife Corridors

The CASP units provide important habitat linkages for wildlife. Together with other protected public lands in the area, such as Palo Corona Regional Park, the Santa Lucia Preserve, Garrapata State Park, and Odello East field located on the east side of SR I directly across from the Odello West field, the CASP units form an important regional network of wildland habitats (Figure 2-I). Palo Corona Regional Park provides a critical link for a wildlife corridor that now extends from the Carmel River to San Luis Obispo County. San Jose and Gibson creeks are also wildlife corridors for California red-legged frog, as well as other reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds.

# 2.3.3 Cultural Resources

A summary of important prehistoric and historic cultural resources within the Carmel area and the CASP units is presented below, as well as traditional cultural places and resources; sacred sites; and historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and sites.

# **Prehistory**

People have lived in the Monterey area for at least 9,000 years, and probably longer. From the earliest times, each group of people has left distinctive and irreplaceable marks on the landscape. To interpret the archaeological record, archaeologists construct cultural chronologies for different cultural areas based on perceived significant changes in the archaeological record, and particularly on transitions in artifact styles through time.

The chronological sequence for the central coast of California used in the following discussion is adapted from Jones et al. (2007). It recognizes five general time periods – Paleoindian, Millingstone, Early, Middle, Middle/Late Transition, and Late. No evidence of the Paleoindian Period (before 10,000 years ago) has been found in the Monterey area.

# Millingstone/Early Archaic Period

The Millingstone or Early Archaic Period is typically characterized by abundant milling slabs, hand stones, and other ground and battered stone implements relative to the number of flaked stone tools and bifaces (knives and projectile points), as well as crude core and cobble tools and shell debris, suggesting a diet focused on seeds and shellfish. Seven sites in the Monterey area date to, or have components dating to, this period. There are no sites in the Carmel state parks that date to this period.

# Early Period

The Early Period (5,600–2,700 years ago) is better represented in this area. In the Monterey-Carmel area, residential sites tend to occur on the coast at the mouth of major streams, on major points of land, such as Carmel Point and Pescadero Point, and along the southwest shore of Monterey Bay. Artifacts reflect an emphasis on hunting (both terrestrial and marine species) and fishing. The abundance of fish remains at one Early site, a large summer occupation village, has led some researchers to speculate that fish were being harvested for trade (Breschini and Haversat 1993). Shellfish collecting occurred during the Early Period, but does not appear to have been as important as hunting and fishing. Obsidian makes its first appearance in Early Period sites in

Monterey. Mortars and pestles also first appear in Early Period archaeological sites and some believe this is indicative of intensified acorn processing (Jones and Waugh 1997, Mikkelsen et al. 2000). One archaeological site within the State Beach dates to the Early Period (Garlinghouse et al. 2009).

#### Middle Period

The Early Period is followed by the Middle Period which lasted from 2,700 to 1,100 years ago (Jones et al. 2007, Mikkelsen and Jones 2010). Hunting and fishing continued to be important and circular shell fishhooks were introduced during this period. An abundance of obsidian from east of the Sierra Nevada in Middle Period sites indicates strong trade networks. The use of mortars and pestles seems to have increased indicating a greater reliance on acorns. Middle Period residential sites tend to be larger, suggesting significant population growth. One large seasonal residential site with a Middle Period component is located near San Jose Creek within what is now Point Lobos Ranch. The site is known to locals as the Hudson Mound (which also includes the adjacent area known as the polo field) and contains a large and diverse artifact assemblage and evidence of a broad diet including mussels and other shellfish, fish, large mammals (deer, sea otters and pinnipeds), and birds (Howard and Cook 1971, Schwaderer 2004).

At least three sites within the Reserve have components dating to the Middle Period (Schwaderer 2005, 2007; Mikkelsen and Jones 2010). One appears to be a seasonal residential site with a variety of shellfish and animal bone present. Another is a coastal fishing, hunting, and gathering site, and the third may also be a fishing, hunting, and gathering site. Fragments of mussel shell fishhooks were found at these sites.

# Middle/Late Transition Period

The Middle/Late Transition (1,000–750 years ago) is a short period of time during which there appears to be a rapid disruption in settlement and subsistence patterns. Large coastal villages were abandoned and settlements were relocated to interior valleys, although visits were still made to the coast for collecting and processing shellfish.

Coinciding with the Middle/Late Transition, California underwent a dramatic warming trend and series of drought cycles known as the "Medieval Climatic Anomaly" (Graumlich 1993, Jones et al. 1999), resulting in population decline, a less diverse diet, and the collapse of trade networks. Fish, marine mammal, and obsidian essentially disappear from coastal sites by the end of this period (Jones 1995).

There is at least one site at Point Lobos dating to the Middle/Late Transition Period and two sites at Point Lobos with components dating to that period. These sites appear to be collecting and processing sites with a variety of shellfish and animal bone, including abundant fish and sea mammals. A site on what is currently Point Lobos Ranch also contains a component dating to the Middle/Late Transition.

#### Late Period

During the Late Period (750 years ago to European contact) populations lived in inland villages (i.e., the Carmel Valley for the Monterey area), concentrating on acorns and other terrestrial resources. Bedrock mortars were common and hopper mortars – shallow stone mortars used in conjunction with a bottomless basket or hopper – made their first appearance. These inland populations continued to make frequent visits to the coast to gather and process shellfish.

Most of the coastal sites in the Monterey area (including Point Lobos) dating to this period represent specialized shellfish processing stations. These sites are found along the coastline from Point Lobos to Point Pinos and the southwest shore of Monterey Bay. The vast majority of these processing sites indicate a focus on abalone collecting and processing with few tools or other dietary remains. This intense focus on abalone has resulted in massive layers of abalone shells, sometimes up to a foot or more thick. Known as "abalone pavements," this phenomenon is unique to the Monterey area during the Late Period.

The site near San Jose Creek in Point Lobos Ranch known as the Hudson Mound has a large component dating to the Late Period. This site is unique in being a coastal residence that appears to have been occupied seasonally but continuously from the Middle Period up to the Contact Period (Schwaderer 2004). It is here that the Portolá expedition first encountered the native people of Monterey, who were on a seasonal visit to the coast from their village in Carmel Valley (Brown 2001).

This site near San Jose Creek has been long associated with the village of *Ishxenta* (also spelled *Ichxenta*), although some scholars disagree as to the location, and alternate locations have been suggested (Culleton 1950:249; Milliken 1981:27, 62; Harrington 1934:67–208, 273). The best evidence for *Ishxenta* being located at San Jose Creek comes from Isabel Meadows, a woman of Rumsen and Esselen ancestry, who served as the primary consultant to linguist/ethnographer John P. Harrington in the 1930s. She reported that *Ishxenta* was the area where the Allans (the A.M. Allan family) were, below San Jose Canyon (Harrington 1934:68–261). That area is the current Reserve, most of the northern portion of Point Lobos Ranch, and much of what is now the State Beach.

## Ethnographic Background

The Carmel area lies within the traditional territory of the Costanoan or Ohlone people. "Costanoan" is derived from the Spanish costaños, meaning "coast dweller." Ohlone (or Alchone, Olchone, Oljon, or Olhon) was the name of a tribe between San Francisco and Santa Cruz who spoke one of the Costanoan languages, and it has come to replace the Spanish-derived term Costanoan for both the language family and the speakers of those languages (Bean 1994, Heizer 1967, Levy 1978).

The Ohlone lived in approximately 50 politically autonomous villages called tribelets (Kroeber 1925). Tribelets usually included one large, centralized, permanent village and one or more, smaller satellite villages that were occupied for several months of the year depending on what resources were available during the season. Families came together during winter months both to share food and to participate in annual ceremonies (Broadbent 1972, Margolin 1978, Milliken 1995).

The Ohlone may have come into the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Area relatively late in time, perhaps as late as 1,500 years ago, from the San Joaquin-Sacramento River system (Levy 1978). The migration to the Bay Area may have come much earlier according to some researchers, who propose Penutian speakers may have entered the Bay Area approximately 5,000 years ago (Whistler 1977).

Some linguists and archaeologists believe that the Esselen ancestors lived in the Monterey-Carmel area prior to the arrival of the Ohlone when they were displaced to the upper Carmel Valley and rugged Santa Lucia Mountains (Breschini 1983, Moratto 2984). Their language is believed to be a member of the hypothesized Hokan language stock, an isolate within the Hokan Phylum, or even the sole remnant of a language family that has long since vanished (Kroeber 1925:544, Goddard 1996:319, Shipley 1978:81).

When contact was first made with Spanish explorers, the Rumsen (also spelled Rumsien), speakers of the Rumsen Ohlone language, held Point Lobos and the lower Carmel River Valley. A study of Spanish mission registers shows that there were between 400 and 500 Rumsen with a population density of between two and two and a half people per square mile. Accounts by Spanish explorers indicate that at the time of contact the Rumsen lived inland, with a heavy reliance on deer and acorns, and only came to the coast for fish and shellfish (Mikkelsen and Jones 2010).

The Rumsen and Esselen existed peacefully in this region for thousands of years before Spanish Missionaries arrived in the 1760s.

The Rumsen used boats made of tule reeds to fish offshore. They fished with lines, using mussel shell fishhooks and abalone shell lures, and with nets, using grooved net-sinkers. They managed the landscape through periodic burning to create and maintain a diverse habitat, including meadows, coastal prairies, and grasslands to promote the growth of seeds and fruit, to increase the grazing area for wild game, and to facilitate the gathering of acorns. They made intricate baskets, which they used for gathering, cooking, winnowing and roasting nuts and seeds, sifting flour, and many other uses. Ceremonial baskets were often decorated with feathers and shell beads. The Rumsen developed plant medicines for every ailment and created songs for every occasion.

Milliken, using census information from the Mission San Carlos baptismal register for 1770, estimates that the Rumsen were distributed between five villages much of the year. The villages included *Tucutnut*, likely located 4 miles inland along the Carmel River; *Socorronda*, located approximately 7 miles up the Carmel River; *Echilat*, located 5 miles southwest of the Carmel River Valley; *Achasta*, located either at the San Carlos Mission or at Monterey; and *Ishxenta*, which was probably located at the mouth of San Jose Creek (Mikkelsen and Jones 2010).

Rumsen lands were bordered by three other Rumsen-speaking groups: the *Calendaruc* in the Castroville-Moss Landing area; the *Ensen* of the Salinas River Valley; and the *Sargentaruc* of the Big Sur coast at the mouths of the Little Sur and Big Sur rivers. One Esselen-speaking group, the *Excelon* of the upper Carmel River watershed, also bordered on Rumsen territory (Mikkelsen and lones 2010).

Territorial boundaries were known and defended. Yet, during the Mission Period, Father Serra documented an intensive summer fish harvest in 1774 involving the local Rumsen as well as other surrounding Rumsen and Esselen tribes (Tibesar 1956(2):145). Whether this land use practice of allowing fishing in one's territory by other tribes can be extended into the pre-contact period is not known.

At the time of European contact, the Esselen were one of the least numerous groups in California. Estimates of their numbers at contact are in the range of 1,200-1,300. (Breschini and Haversat 2004). According to Milliken (1990:59), at the time of European contact there were five Esselen districts: Excelen, Eslenahan, Imunahan, Ekheahan, and Aspasniahan. Within each district there were a number of villages which were sequentially occupied on a seasonal basis depending on the availability of resources such as food, water, shelter, and firewood.

There is very little available ethnographic data on the Esselen and as a result, relatively little is known about Esselen culture. Most of what is known about the Esselen people derives from mission records and archaeology. Archaeological assemblages in Esselen territory are generally comparable with Rumsen collections from the same period (Breschini and Haversat 2004), and include such items as projectile points and other flaked stone tools; mortars and pestles, particularly hopper mortars; and bone awls, tubes, and gaming pieces. Excavations at a dry cave yielded evidence of both twined and coiled basketry and cordage made of a variety of materials including grasses, yucca, dogbane, animal skins, and even human hair (Meighan 1955). Personal ornamentation included Olivella shell beads, clamshell disc beads, steatite beads, and abalone shell ornament. The Esselen may be best known for their unique rock art – painted hands on the walls of a few remote caves in what is now Los Padres National Forest.

# **History**

## Spanish Settlement

Sebastián Vizcaíno, a successful merchant trader, was appointed by the Viceroy of New Spain, Monterey, to head the exploratory party to map the coast of California. Vizcaíno sailed into Monterey Bay in 1602 and thought it was an ideal harbor where Spanish ships could rest, make repairs, and take on supplies. While camped at Monterey, the expedition was visited on several occasions by local Rumsen people who brought gifts of shellfish. Diaries of the expedition provide the earliest descriptions of Rumsen lifeways. Vizcaíno gave an exaggerated description of the bay and its harbor when he recommended that Monterey Bay be the site of a Spanish colony (Beck and Haase 1974:14). The Viceroy Monterey was succeeded by Marqués de Montesclaros who distrusted Vizcaíno and did not believe Vizcaíno's report of a splendid harbor and thus never allowed for a colony's establishment (Bean 1973:23). One hundred and sixty-seven years later, the Don Gaspar de Portolá-Father Crespi expedition arrived in the Monterey Bay area with plans to establish a permanent settlement in Upper California. The expedition left San Diego on July 14, 1769, to find Monterey Bay. After a difficult passage over the Santa Lucia Mountains they followed the Salinas River and reached the ocean on September 30, 1769. The expedition mistook the Salinas River as the Carmelo River described by Vizcaíno. Therefore, the landmarks, the peninsula and Point Pinos, described by Vizcaíno were not in the correct location and the bay did not resemble Vizcaíno's description. The expedition also anticipated that their ship, San José, would be waiting for them. Each of these factors convinced the expedition that they were not at Monterey Bay (Beck and Haase 1974:17, Bean 1973:38).

The expedition was short on supplies and the decision was made to return to San Diego. Before leaving, they erected a cross on a knoll near the lagoon at the State Beach. Buried beneath the cross was a letter inside a bottle with instructions for the San José to look for them along the coast and the explanation that they had decided to return to San Diego because a lack of supplies made it too difficult to continue. A second cross was erected at the northeast side of Point Pinos where the harbor was supposed to have been located. The expedition reached San Diego on January 24, 1770 (Brown 2001:633, Bean 1973:39).

Portolá, still seeking the location of Monterey Bay, set out on a land expedition to the bay on April 17, 1770. The ship San Antonio carried Father Junipero Serra, Lieutenant Pedro Fages and Miguel Costansó, a cartographer and engineer, towards Monterey Bay. Portolá followed practically the same route as the previous year, camping in the same locations. On both expeditions, while camping along San Jose Creek, they encountered Rumsen people who brought them gifts of food (Brown 2001). On May 24th, the party reached Monterey Bay and discovered the cross that was placed in 1769 at Point Pinos. The cross was surrounded by feather-topped arrows, sticks and other artifacts, which were placed there by the Native Americans. The expedition camped in the same location as they had previously. As the fog burned off they had a clear view of the region and realized that the bay, which they had previously mistaken for a lake was actually Monterey Bay (Engelhardt 1912:72–73, Brown 2001:733). After Portolá left the area, Serra established a permanent presence in the area with the construction of Presidio of Monterey and Mission San Carlos de Borromeo in Monterey. Later in 1771, Father Serra moved the Mission San Carlos de Borromeo in Monterey to Carmel Bay, north of the mouth of the Carmel River (Hoover and Kyle 1990:214-215, Stammerjohan 1980:1). Eventually, the point south of the Carmel River was named Punta de los Lobos Marinos or Point of the Sea Wolves after the numerous sea lions living in that area (Stammerjohan 1980:1).

The establishment of Mission San Carlos in 1770 brought drastic changes to the traditional way of life for the Rumsen and the Esselen people. Initially, some were probably drawn to the Mission out of curiosity, or impressed by the material wealth of the Spanish. However, alteration of the landscape by the Mission through livestock grazing and farming soon depleted traditional food sources; European diseases spread through native communities, killing people in large numbers; and the high death toll resulted in a breakdown of communities, leaving the survivors little choice but to join the Mission.



Replica of cross erected by the Portolá-Crespi expedition

The first baptism of a Rumsen speaker was in December 1770. By the end of 1778 most members of the Rumsen local tribe joined the Mission and the five Rumsen villages had been abandoned. The missionaries then reached out to the Esselen-speaking people of the upper Carmel River watershed. Between 1778 and 1791, the Mission absorbed large groups from all of the surrounding Rumsen-speaking tribes as well as *Excelens* from the Big Sur mountains, and *Eslenajans* from the Soledad area down the Salinas River Valley, both groups being Esselen speakers. The final tribal baptisms took place at Mission Carmel between 1804 and 1808 after which the Mission stopped taking in tribal converts (Milliken et al. 2009).

At the time of Mission secularization in 1834, only 188 native people remained at the Mission. Two thirds spoke Costanoan/Ohlone, one third spoke Esselen, and there were numerous bilingual Rumsen/Esselen descendants (Milliken et al. 2009). These intermarried descendants came to be known as Carmeleños. While some Esselen released from the Mission may have returned to the mountains, many remained in the area and their descendants, along with the Rumsen descendants, consider this area their homeland.

The promise that Mission lands would be returned to the Indians was decreed by Spanish law and implied by a number of Mexican laws. In reality, only a small number of Mission Indians actually received land grants during the 1840s, and most of those were lost in the 1850s when the Americans came to power. After secularization, some Mission Indians remained at the Mission for several years. Some found work and housing as laborers or domestic servants for families in town. In 1836 about one third of Monterey households had domestic servants; three quarters of those were former Mission Indians (Monterey Census of 1836, cited in Hackel 2005). Still others found work on local ranchos, in support of the hide and tallow trade.

#### Rancho Period

After the secularization of California's missions in 1834, Teodoro Gonzales applied for a land grant for 8,876 acres of land that stretched from the Carmel River to Big Sur. (Lydon 2006:3). In 1839, Marcelino Escobar was re-granted the land and named it Rancho San Jose y Sur Chiquito. At the same time Lazaro Soto was granted a one square league of land, Rancho Caňada de la Segunda, from Jose Castro. Escobar bequeathed the rancho to his two oldest sons in 1840. They in turn sold it to Josefa de Abrego in 1841. By 1844, the rancho was owned by Captain Jose Castro (Stammerjohan 1980:2–3).

After California became a state in 1850, the California Lands Commission was established to determine the validity of land claims granted during Mexican rule. Castro petitioned for a land patent, but before one was issued he sold the rancho to Joseph S. Emery and Abner Bassett (Stammerjohan 1980:3). The claim was denied, and Emery and Bassett were left to pursue the claim (Stammerjohan 1980:3, Lydon 2006:4).

In 1853, Soto had sold The Rancho Caňada de la Segunda property to Andrew Randall and Fletcher M. Haight. The two men filed a claim with the California Lands Commission, which was confirmed in 1855. By 1858 a road was established that crossed the western boundary of Rancho Caňada de la Segunda. The patent was issued to Haight in 1859, after the death of Andrew Randall (Perez 1996, Hoover et al. 1966). Dominaga Goni de Atherton, wife of Faxon Dean Atherton, acquired the rancho in 1869. By 1892, rancho manager William Hatton purchased it from Mrs. Atherton (Basin Research Associates 2008:17, Cloud 1858, Howard 1978, Clark 1991 cited in TAMC 2009).

## Early American Period

#### 19th Century Commercial Development

## Quarrying and Mining

Shortly after Emery and Bassett purchased their rancho land they established a granite quarry, located west of Whalers Cove at Point Lobos. Both men were stonemasons from New England and they won a contract to supply granite for the construction of Fort Point in San Francisco. Granite from their operation was also used in the construction of the U.S. Mint in San Francisco, the jail adjacent to Colton Hall in Monterey, the Point Sur Lighthouse, and the Navy shipyards at Mare Island in San Francisco Bay (Lydon 2006:4, Stammerjohan 1980:3). The quarry operated until at least the early 1860s and was one of several business enterprises of Emery and Bassett (Stammerjohan 1980:3, Motz 1987:5).

The San Carlos Gold Mining Company was established in 1863 after rumors of abundant gold at Point Lobos. Despite searching and prospecting, no gold was ever found and the company closed in 1866 (Stammerjohan 1980:5). Coal, however, was discovered in the hills southeast of Point Lobos (Stammerjohan 1980:5). In 1878, William Strader leased land from Emery and the other owners of the rancho and established a coal mine in Malpaso Canyon, south of Point Lobos, but Strader's company went bankrupt the next year. After Emery received title to the rancho, he and his partners established the Carmelo Land and Coal Company (CLCC) (Lydon 2006:6–7).

A granite quarry that was located near Whalers Cove supplied granite for construction of the U.S. Mint in San Francisco.

As Emery and Bassett continued the legal process to have their rancho title confirmed others started to settle on their land. None of these groups paid rent to Emery and Bassett because doing so would be an admission that the two were the legal owners. These squatters were hoping that Emery and Bassett's claim would be rejected, and the land opened for homesteading. For the next several decades, more claimants came forward as the rightful owners of Rancho San Jose y Sur Chiquito. Finally, in 1888, the land patent was settled, and the title listed a series of owners (Stammerjohan 1980:4, Lydon 2006:4).

During these years of uncertain land ownership, a group of Chinese citizens settled at the cove at Point Lobos and a larger village was established at Point Alones. At Point Lobos, the Chinese fishermen constructed small shacks at what is today known as the Whalers Cabin. These first Chinese immigrants came by boat and were from southeastern China where they lived and worked as fishermen.

Soon after their arrival they began harvesting abalone. The main industry was harvesting and drying to send back to China. By the 1860s, they expanded to other activities including line fishing from boats, kelp harvesting, and collecting squid and sea urchins. Point Alones was the most important of the villages in the region and it included temples, stores, restaurants, and gambling halls (Lydon 1985:29, 32, 35, 48).

#### Whaling and Abalone Fishing

Portuguese whalers from the Azores islands established a shore whaling station in 1862 on the edge of present-day Whalers Cove. The whaling industry in the region declined in the 1890s with the introduction of kerosene lamps, but at Point Lobos it may have ended as early as 1880 (Motz 1987:6, Stammerjohan 1980:4, Starks 1922:22).

Although the whaling industry was declining in the 1890s, the abalone industry remained robust. In 1895, a Japanese fisherman in Monterey alerted the Agricultural Ministry of Japan to the vast amounts of red abalone along Monterey's coast. The Japanese government enlisted Keio University's recent graduate, Gennosuke Kodani, a young Japanese marine biologist to investigate the fisherman's claim. Kodani arrived in Monterey and identified Whalers Cove as a prime location for his abalone operation because it offered good harvesting opportunities and was close to steamship transportation to move his product. He first rented land from the CLCC in 1897 (Hirahara 2003:104–105).



Whalers Cabin Museum near Whalers Cove in the Reserve

In 1898, Kodani became partners with local landowner Alexander MacMillan (A.M.) Allan, who had purchased 640 acres at Point Lobos from the CLCC. Together they built the Point Lobos Canning Company which constructed its cannery at Point Lobos in 1903 (Motz 1987:16, Stammerjohan 1980:8). In time, the Point Lobos Canning Company canned three-quarters of the abalone sold in California. Kodani and his family lived at Point Lobos for 30 years. He resided in the Whalers Cabin before constructing his own residence (Hudson and Wood 2004:48-49).

#### 19th Century Settlement and Development

The idea to subdivide Point Lobos and the surrounding land was first developed by William Strader in 1878 and was put into fruition in 1890 by the CLCC. The CLCC planned a subdivision with more than 1,000 lots surrounding Whalers Cove. The subdivision, known as Carmelito, was envisioned as a resort community. Land was subdivided and sold. Sales of lots slowed, however, in 1891 by a financial recession and competition of a neighboring subdivision, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Facing mounting debt, the CLCC decided to sell the remaining 700 acres it still owned. Six hundred of those acres were purchased by businessman and engineer, A.M. Allan (Lydon 2006:7–8, Stammerjohan 1980:6).

After acquiring the 600 acres from the CLCC, A.M. Allan purchased lots that were previously sold to private individuals. He also owned a parcel on the east side of what is now SR I and it contained a ranch house where he and his family resided (Bloner 2007 I–4). Shortly after acquiring his property, A.M. Allan established the Point Lobos Ranch and Dairy and the operations of the dairy were managed largely by his daughter, Eunice. By the early 1950s, small family dairies were unprofitable, and the Point Lobos Dairy closed (Lydon 2006:18, Hudson and Wood 2004:30).

Over the years, A.M. Allan and his descendants repurchased all the lots that had been sold by the CLCC; the last lot was acquired in 1950 (Bloner 2007 I–4). A.M. Allan recognized the scenic value of Point Lobos and that it attracted many visitors to his property. To maintain control on his property and to capitalize on the scenic beauty of Point Lobos, A.M. Allan erected a gate in 1899 and charged a 50-cent fee to enter Point Lobos. Throughout A.M. Allan's ownership of Point Lobos, he allowed and welcomed visitors and groups to picnic and enjoy his property (Hudson and Wood 2004:85–94). A.M. Allan's family continued to live at Point Lobos and another of his daughters, Margaret and her husband Adam L. J. Hudson built their home on the property currently known as the Hudson House, in 1949 (Hudson and Wood 2004:68). In the late 1990s, CSP acquired this portion of the A.M. Allan landholdings.



Constructed in 1949, the Hudson House was designed by builder Hugh Comstock.

This region was also developed by settlers like the Greggs, Olivers, and Odellos who engaged in cattle ranching, dairying, and farming. Joseph Gregg came to California in the early 1850s and by 1871 he had established his ranch at the mouth of the Carmel River. It became known as the Gregg Ranch (Schwaderer 2013:4). This ranch ultimately stretched from Carmel River on the north to San Jose Creek on the south, and eastward to The Rancho El Potrero de San Carlos, which was owned by Bradley Sargen. By 1900, Joseph Gregg was retired, but remained on his ranch with his daughter Mary Ann and her husband Montague Steadman and two of his grandchildren. In 1905, after moving to Monterey, Gregg died and his ranch was inherited by his three daughters. The oldest daughter, Elizabeth Gregg Oliver took controlling interest of the ranch (Schwaderer 2013:4-5). She and her husband, Tom Oliver, changed the name of the ranch to the Oliver Ranch (Bischoff 2007a:5). In 1924, the Oliver Ranch focused on milk production because it was more profitable (Schwaderer 2013:6). Tom Oliver died in 1925 and in 1927 his wife sold a large section of the ranch to Sidney Fish. This became the Palo Corona Ranch, and was often referred to as the Fish Ranch. The Oliver family operated a grade B dairy and also owned the Molera Ranch at Big Sur, and the September Ranch in the near vicinity of their San Jose Creek Ranch (Bischoff 2007a:3-4).

The Odello family arrived in the area in the early 1920s when Batista Odello moved his family from South San Francisco. Around 1925 (after Tom Oliver's death), Batista Odello leased land from the Oliver family and established an artichoke farm. The Odellos purchased the property from the Olivers after Elizabeth Oliver's death in 1953. When they acquired the Oliver property the Odellos utilized some of the existing buildings, including the barn and cookhouse/creamery building and demolished others, including a bunkhouse and horse barn. When the family expanded its operations to the west side of SR I they moved the blacksmith shed to its present location near the family's old residence. To prevent the Carmel River floods from reaching their ranch, the Odellos would open the sand bar and create a channel for the water to drain. Not only did their efforts protect their ranch, it also aided the neighbors whose backyards were close to the river and were at risk of being inundated with water. The Odellos continued this practice until about 1957 (Bischoff 2007a:8, 18–19, 21, 31–33).

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

## Acquisition and Development

A.M. Allan and others were interested in preserving the natural beauty of Point Lobos. The Save-the-Redwoods League (League) was created in 1917 and focused on the preservation of California's redwood forests. By the early 1920s, the League recommended that the preservation movement be expanded to include redwood forests across the state and land that could be used for future parks (Engbeck 1980:45). This was the start of a movement to create a State Park System. In 1928, California voters approved a bond measure to create the California Division of Beaches and Parks. The State Park and Recreation Commission hired landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to recommend lands for acquisition. Olmsted recommended Point Lobos because he considered it to be one of the most significant scenic and scientific areas that should be acquired by the state (Roland 2003:7, Engbeck 1980:62).

In 1932, the League raised the necessary matching funds to allow California to acquire Point Lobos. The following year Florence Allan deeded the property to the state (CSP 1969:1). Not long afterwards, a 14-acre cypress grove, located southeast of The Pinnacle, was gifted by the Allan family as a memorial to A.M. and Satie Allan. In 1934, the League re-hired Olmsted to prepare a master plan for Point Lobos, which took 2 years to complete (Engbeck 2002:87). The primary objective of the Master Plan was to maintain and preserve the natural conditions of Point Lobos for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of others. The Master Plan was adopted in 1936 and served as the guiding principles for the Reserve. The plan was implemented soon after it was adopted. Trails, roads and parking lots, an entrance gate, and ranger quarters were constructed. Implementation of the Master Plan created a cultural landscape at the Reserve.

#### <u>Civilian Conservation Corps</u>

During the early 1930s, the development of California's state parks was completely dependent on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), because the 1928 State Park Bond Act only afforded funds for the acquisition of park land. In 1934, the National Park Service produced an illustrated handbook that emphasized basic design principles that allowed buildings and structures to blend into the natural setting of the parks. CSP adopted this approach and the Park Rustic architectural style became the dominant architectural style in California state parks (Engbeck 2002:12).



Landscape architect Frederick Law
Olmsted, Jr. was hired by CSP to
conduct a survey and provide
recommendations on which lands would
be best for acquisition and development
as state parks. Point Lobos was
promoted by Olmsted because of its
significant scenic and scientific attributes.

The Master Plan adopted for the Reserve limited the CCC projects. As a result, the only CCC-related projects were the remodeling of residences, located at the entrance of the Reserve; building some new employee housing, an office and maintenance center; a stone walkway at Whalers Cove; and various picnic areas (Engbeck 2002:87–88). Unlike at other California state parks where landscape architect Daniel R. Hull approved most of the CCC projects, CCC projects at the Reserve were approved by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (Roland 1991:25, Engbeck 2002:87).

## Film Industry

Motion picture filming at Point Lobos began in 1914, with the movie *Valley of the Moon*. Point Lobos has served as the location for scenes in nearly 50 movies, half of which were filmed before Point Lobos became part of the State Park System (Hudson and Wood 2004:103). For a scene in the 1929 production of *Evangeline* a set designed as a village was burned to the ground. Nearby trees were burned and large sections of grasslands were destroyed (Hudson and Wood 2004:106). It took decades for these damaged sections of the park to recover. This prompted the State Park Commission in 1944 to pass a resolution mandating that public hearings be held before a film permit was granted. The damage caused by the film industry also spurred the creation of the Point Lobos League, an organization created to protect the Reserve during film production (PLF 2018b).

#### World War II

Because of the threat of war, the U.S. military undertook efforts to patrol California's coastline as early as 1941. U.S. Army reserves were housed at Point Lobos and in 1942 the Army Signal Corps installed radar on Whalers Knoll. Military personnel also occupied the Whalers Cabin, and approximately 100 soldiers were housed in tents at Point Lobos. By 1943 the Whalers Cabin was used by eight sergeants of the 543<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Brigade. The military also utilized Whalers Cove and conducted Landing Craft, Personnel, Ramp training to prepare personnel for amphibious landings. Military operations at the Whalers Cabin and the Reserve ended after the war and the cabin was returned to the Reserve to be used for rangers' quarters (Motz 1987:19, Clifton and Johnson 2010, Hudson and Wood 2004:108).

#### Post World War II

In 1944, CSP developed a series of standard plans to be used in designing all new park facilities, including residences, service areas and recreational structures. In 1945, CSP hired Colonel Edward Kelton, a former U.S. Army Corps engineer, to implement the first post-CCC construction program (Roland 1993:9–10). By

1948, it was realized that the program needed to be expanded to include residences for the increasing field employees. In response, the State Park Residence Program built 54 employee residences and garages within the State Park System. At the Reserve, two residences and garages were constructed as part of this program (Bischoff 2007b:3). The buildings constructed during this early post-World War II period followed a standard set of plans and were a variation of the 1930s adopted Park Rustic style (Roland 2003:17). Unlike other state parks, little further construction was done at the Reserve because the Master Plan was strictly adhered to even during a time when the State Park System was rapidly expanding (Bischoff 2007c:3). In 1960, 775 underwater acres were added to the Reserve. This created the first marine reserve in the United States. In 1973, the Reserve was dedicated as an Ecological Underwater Reserve (Hudson and Wood 2004:122).

# Archaeological Investigations

#### Early Investigations

The Reserve was initially surveyed by Waldo Wedel in 1935 under the sponsorship of the League. The purpose of the survey was to formally document resources, develop a regional context, and plan for their protection. Wedel described two kinds of sites, shell deposits and bedrock mortars. He noted that artifacts were sparsely distributed on the surface, and he did not note any evidence of structures, burials, or petroglyphs. He summarized that most of the sites at the Reserve are extensive, but shallow deposits containing primarily abalone and mussel. Wedel identified two sites that he thought were "true" shell mounds; Wedel described these two sites as seasonal villages occupied during spring and summer. He also noted that Chinese fishermen in the area used flat locations to dry large amounts of abalone during the late 19th century, making it sometimes difficult to distinguish precontact deposits from historic-era deposits, though the historicera abalone deposits tended to be thin (Wedel 1935).

Since Wedel conducted his survey in 1935, there have been other surveys, probably most notably Pilling and Meighan in 1949 and 1950 (as noted in Kelly et al. 1976), and a limited number of excavations.

#### Recent Investigations

There are currently 35 documented archaeological sites dating from, or containing components dating from, the pre-contact period and three historic period sites within the Reserve. A few of these sites have not been identified since their initial recordation, and some have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) or the

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Six of the sites that have been evaluated are considered eligible for listing, and one other is likely eligible for listing, but have not been submitted for State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence. In addition, the historic site containing the Whalers Cabin is listed on the National Register as part of the Whalers Cabin nomination. Although most of the sites appear to have retained integrity, some sites adjacent to the immediate coastline have suffered from erosion. Likewise, trails and associated pedestrian traffic, particularly on unauthorized user-created trails, has contributed to erosion of several resources.

#### **Architectural Resources**

There are 14 architectural resources located in the Reserve. Four of these are the Whalers Cabin, Shop Building, Custodian's Lodge, and the Hudson House, and are considered historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. Detailed information on these structures can be found in Appendix D.

#### Collections

The Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum, located at Whalers Cove, contain a diverse collection of objects, including objects from indigenous peoples, Chinese fishermen, Japanese abalone fishermen, and Portuguese whalers. Fewer than 100 catalogued CSP museum objects and approximately 206 loaned objects make up the Reserve's museum collections.

The Whalers Cabin Museum contains displays documenting the cultural history of the Reserve including the early settlers, Japanese and Chinese fishermen, military history, and the history of movies that have been filmed within the Reserve. It also includes a view "through the floor" of the museum that displays artifacts from various time periods by showing them in their original placement beneath the cabin.

The Whaling Station Museum is the only on-site whaling museum on the West Coast and the collections focus on whaling equipment and the lives of whalers and their families (Thomson 1997). It documents the historic whaling activities in the area and contains a collection of whale bones, baleen, harpoons, whale-oil barrels, an oil barrel display, a model of a shore whaling boat, diagrams of whale-oil processing, and photographs of the old Monterey Peninsula whalers. The Whaling Station Museum, opened in 1994, is housed in a building that was a former garage.

# Carmel River State Beach

# Acquisition and Development

During the post-World War II period, Point Lobos, like most parks in the system, was experiencing an overwhelming number of visitors, and in response there was tremendous support for expanding and developing a large State Park System in California. Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach were proposed for acquisition in 1947, and in 1952 the State acquired 27 acres on the north side of the Carmel River lagoon owned by James C. Doud and his wife, and Corum B. Jackson. This was followed by acquisition of 22 acres on the south side of the lagoon in 1953 from Helen A. Burnette. The area was renamed Carmel River State Beach and was officially an operating unit of the State Park System in 1953. The following year, the unit was expanded when the Carmel Development Company deeded another four acres on the north side of the river's mouth (CSP 1988).

In 1974, Californians approved Proposition I, a \$250 million bond issue. Ninety million of that money was spent on land acquisition, including the 155-acre agricultural area known as the Odello West field (Engbeck 1980). In 1974, the agricultural land was deeded by the Odello family to the state with a stipulation that the Odello family would lease the land in 5-year increments and continue their farming operations (CSP 1988, Bischoff 2007a). In 1979, a combined General Plan for the Reserve (then called Point Lobos State Reserve) and the State Beach was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission on May 11, 1979 (CSP 1979).

Thirty-five additional acres located south of the Carmel Meadows subdivision was added to the park unit in 1981. A general plan amendment (GPA) was approved in June 1987 to designate 36 acres of this newly acquired property south of Carmel Meadows subdivision for day use and to allow visitor facility development including new parking facilities (CSP 1988). In 1995, after extensive flooding, farming operations on the Odello West field ended and in 1996 plans to convert the agricultural land to riparian and wetland habitat were underway (Bischoff 2007a, CSP 1996). A second GPA was approved in March 1996 to change the land use designation of the 155-acre Odello West field within the State Beach from agricultural use to riparian and wetland habitat to help reduce the risk of flooding and to address resource enhancement goals (CSP 1996).

## Archaeological Investigations

The information in this section has been gathered from the Management Plan for the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve in Carmel River State Beach (CSP 1987), A Cultural Resource Inventory of Carmel River State Beach (Woodward 1986) for CSP, and personal communication with CSP Archaeologist Rae Schwaderer and CSP Historian Matt Bischoff.

There are currently four archaeological sites located entirely within the State Beach. Three additional sites are partially within the unit.

In 1987, 25 acres of the State Beach were classified as a cultural preserve, the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve, by the State Park and Recreation Commission. The area designated as the preserve includes four sites located in the Middle Beach area as described in the Management Plan for the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve in Carmel River State Beach. As stated in the management plan for the preserve, the intent of the plan is to provide additional protection to the sites within the preserve, noting that the sites had not been disturbed as well as to recognize significant cultural resource values within the park unit, with the goals to protect and preserve the archaeological sites within the preserve (CSP 1987).

#### **Architectural Resources**

The State Beach contains the Odello farm complex, which consists of four architectural resources. None of the resources have been formally evaluated for the NRHP or the CRHR. However, the property, as a part of a larger area, was evaluated and found to qualify as a cultural landscape and is CRHR and NRHP eligible at the local level of significance for its strong association with the agriculture of Monterey County as well as its connection to the Odello family. This cultural landscape includes the remaining buildings at the Odello farm complex including the Old Odello Residence, creamery/cookhouse, barn, and blacksmith shed (Garavaglia Architecture, Inc. 2016). Detailed information on these structures can be found in Appendix D.

#### Collections

There is one archaeological collection from testing and evaluation of an archaeological site within the State Beach by Albion Environmental, Inc., which is currently curated at the Monterey District office. The collection consists of a variety of shell, debitage, bone, fire affected rocks, hand stones, milling stones, ground stone, glass, burned wood, and soil samples (CSP 2018).



Old Odello Farm residence within the State Beach

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

# Acquisition and Development

In the 1990s, extensive private development, including a conference center and condominiums, was proposed for Point Lobos Ranch. In response, BSLT purchased the 1,312-acre Point Lobos Ranch property in 1993 and reached an agreement with CSP to transfer the land to CSP over a 10-year period. Transfer of the Point Lobos Ranch property to CSP concluded in 2003. Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990, funded the acquisition, with interim financing provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (Saunders, pers. comm., 2017).

Acquisition of the property was a pivotal step in protecting lands within the San Jose Creek watershed that provide the stunning scenic backdrop for the Reserve while expanding future public outdoor recreation opportunities. Point Lobos Ranch is forested with dense Monterey pine, stately redwood trees and unique Gowen cypress, as well as maritime chaparral, coastal prairie and other significant habitat areas. Point Lobos Ranch is important wildlife habitat for deer, mountain lion, and gray fox, and San Jose Creek within Point Lobos Ranch provides important habitat for threatened south-central California coast steelhead. Point Lobos Ranch also contains important archaeological sites and architectural resources including ranch buildings and historic cottages that were used more than a century ago by whalers and fishermen that docked at Point Lobos (Saunders, pers. comm., 2017).

# Archaeological Investigations

There are three known pre-contact era archaeological resources within Point Lobos Ranch that are extensive and possibly eligible for listing in both the CRHR and NRHP. One of the sites has been recommended as eligible for listing on both the CRHR and NRHP, but has not received SHPO concurrence. There are also four documented historic-period archaeological sites and several historic landscape features, such as roads and power lines. Additional sites within Point Lobos Ranch may also be found to be eligible for listing following a complete inventory and evaluation.

#### Architectural Resources

Two potential historic districts, the Point Lobos Ranch Historic District (PLRHD) and the San Jose Creek Historic District (SJCHD) were identified by CSP in 2012 as part of the Point Lobos Ranch Cultural Resource Inventory. Contributing resources to the PLRHD include the loafing barn, Owl's Nest/First Residence #1,



The historic Foreman's House within Point Lobos Ranch

Morales House/Residence #2, Victorine House/Middle Residence #3, Gould House, dairy barn, hay barn, and Foreman's House. Contributing resources to SJCHD include the barn, main ranch house, dynamite shack, back house, and middle house. Detailed information on these structures can be found in Appendix D.

# **Hatton Canyon Property**

## Acquisition and Development

During the 19th century, Rancho Cañada de la Segunda was part of larger ranch holdings of William Hatton. Hatton was born in Ireland in 1849 and came to California in 1870. He managed several dairies in Carmel Valley, including Pacific Improvement Company's Del Monte Dairy at Rancho los Laureles, and by 1888 was managing Rancho Cañada de la Segunda for Mrs. Atherton. Hatton introduced Durham cattle to his stock of Holsteins and successfully increased his stock breed and the milk butter fat from his dairies. Although he was managing the Atherton dairy, he operated his own dairy, the Hatton Lower Dairy that was situated at SR I and Carmel Valley Road (now the site of a modern shopping center) (Barratt 2010:44–45). Shortly after purchasing the rancho, Hatton died in 1894. His wife, who died in 1922, continued to manage the family ranching properties until the responsibility was passed to her children (USGenWeb 2013, Sand-Realty 2012, Basin Research Associates 2008:17). Caltrans acquired the right-of-way through Hatton Canyon in 1956 for potential use as a new alignment of SR 1. After several lawsuits challenging the environmental analysis for the SR I bypass, the plan to build the bypass officially ended in 1999. In 2001, AB 434 rescinded the SR I realignment project and declared the property as surplus. The property was subsequently purchased by CSP in 2001.

# Archaeological Investigations

There is little information regarding cultural resources within Hatton Canyon. Information in this section is based primarily on Archaeological Survey Report, Carmel Hill and River Bike Trail near Route I from Rio Road to Canyon Drive, Monterey County, by C.I. Busby of Basin Research Associates in San Leandro, prepared for Caltrans District 5 in April 2008. Busby's investigation included most of Hatton Canyon and included an intensive pedestrian survey. The investigation was conducted in support of the Carmel Hill and River Bike Trail project. That report produced for the project noted that a record search at the Northwest Information Center identified one pre-contact cultural resource as being within or adjacent to Hatton Canyon. The report also noted that after thorough additional research, including a field survey of the project site, the cultural resource

was found to be misplotted by the Information Center and not located on CSP property. No other cultural resources were documented during the field survey. Therefore, there are no known pre-contact period cultural resources within Hatton Canyon (Busby 2008). Native American consultation for this General Plan revealed a post-mission period Native American cabin site within Hatton Canyon. No standing structures remain; however, archaeological deposits may be present. The site has not yet been inventoried or recorded.

#### **Architectural Resources**

No CRHP or NRHP listed, determined eligible, or pending properties have been identified within Hatton Canyon. In addition, no historic archaeological resources have been identified within the property (TAMC 2009).

# 2.3.4 Aesthetic Resources

Scenic quality is an important and valuable resource, especially on public lands. Many people value the quality of the scenery and have high expectations of scenic quality when visiting California state parks. Maps showing scenic features within each of the CASP units are included in Appendix E.

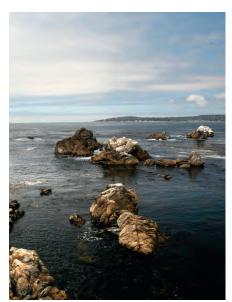
## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

#### Scenic Resources

Scenic resources are viewed by passing motorists and bicyclists along SR 1, residences in Carmel Highlands, Carmel Meadows subdivision, and other surrounding developments at higher elevation. Recreational users within the Reserve enjoy spectacular scenic views. The Reserve is known for its outstanding scenic qualities and was acquired primarily to preserve its scenic beauty and the unusual natural landscape. The unique and significant visual resources within the Reserve have been recognized for decades as evidenced by the Olmsted Master Plan developed for the Reserve in 1935 that describes the outstanding and unique visual resources within the Reserve in depth. Some of the outstanding visual features acknowledged by the Olmsted Master Plan include granitic headlands, coastal and interior cypress forests, the saddle south of Big Dome, pine covered knolls, and north-facing sea bluffs (Olmsted Brothers 1935). The spectacular combination of unique geology, vegetation, and ocean has created a world-renowned place to visit.



Point Lobos was referred to as "...the greatest meeting of land and water in the world," by landscape artist Francis McComas.



Reserve shoreline near Whalers Cove

Scenic resources at the Reserve include the presence of the most outstanding natural grove of Monterey cypress. Once widely distributed, this picturesque tree is found in its natural state only in the Monterey area. Within the Reserve, there are many scenic vistas and overlook sites that are accessible via trails including Whalers Cove, Cypress Grove/Sea Lion Point, and Bird Island. Vistas provide panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and shoreline, Carmel Bay, white sand beaches and emerald-green waters, wildlife, and the many sea stacks and coves of the Reserve (CSP 1979).

The Reserve also has significant underwater viewsheds that are available to divers. There are views of dramatic underwater geology and kelp forests that are abundant with marine life including sea lions, otters, fish, and other marine organisms. Brightly colored marine life such as anemones, corals, and sea stars are so abundant that they completely envelop rocks and stone formations. Underwater geologic features include large pinnacles, reefs, and granite walls. Bluefish Wall, which is an undersea mountainous mass of granite, is completely carpeted with life (Davis 2010, Thomson 1997).

The unique landscape and its special aesthetic qualities have been an inspiration for artists, photographers, poets and writers for many generations. The PLF website provides a platform for artists to post fine art, photography, poetry, writing, videos and student work to share them with the community (PLF 2018a). The landscape of the Reserve also changes seasonally. Summer fog is frequent, producing a cool, misty, and quiet quality to the Reserve. The changing seasons and a variety of weather conditions (e.g., fog, wind, rain) contribute to a transformation of vegetation in form, texture, and color, with the most pronounced changes in the spring. Wildflower displays in the spring create a sea of brightly-colored California golden poppy, Douglas iris, lilac, and blue-eyed grass (Bancroft 2011).

## Designated Scenic Areas and Routes

SR I is designated as an All-American Road by the National Scenic Byways program and was designated as the first State Scenic Highway in California. The 1996 All-American Road designation was limited to the 72-miles of coast within Monterey County; in 2002, the designation was extended south to the City of San Luis Obispo. To be designated as an All-American Road, a roadway must meet the criteria for at least two of the following intrinsic qualities: scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural (FHWA 1995). The portion of SR I with the All-American Road designation is recognized as having the following four intrinsic qualities: scenic, natural, recreational and historic.

SR I was designated as the first State Scenic Highway in California.

All-American Roads are so distinctive they are themselves considered a destination (Caltrans 2004). In addition, the Carmel Area Land Use Plan contains policies that the existing forested corridor along SR I shall be maintained as a scenic resource and any new development along the highway shall be sufficiently set back to minimize visual impact (Caltrans 2004).

The most vivid images along SR I within the Reserve are of steep rocky cliffs with the ocean crashing at the shore. Natural features of the corridor such as the geology, climate, streams, vegetation, and wildlife all contribute to the viewshed.

## **Auditory Resources**

The predominant sounds at the Reserve are natural: the ocean waves and surf, wind, birds (including migratory songbirds), and marine mammals such as the California sea lions. There is also some ambient noise produced by traffic within the Reserve and from SR I, and from various visitor activities, including school groups. However, much of the noise from traffic is reduced by intervening vegetation.

## Carmel River State Beach

#### Scenic Resources

The primary viewers of the State Beach include park visitors, surrounding residences in the Carmel Meadows subdivision and in Carmel-by-the-Sea, and other developments at higher elevations. Portions of the State Beach are visible to motorists on SR I and the private road providing access to the CAWD wastewater treatment plant. The State Beach is an area of high scenic value. From north to south along the beach, the downcoast scenic vistas change constantly and increase in prominence. The headlands are a focal point for mid-ground vistas. However, there are several prominent negative features in the viewshed of the State Beach. These include automobile traffic, power lines paralleling SR I, and nearby development (CSP 1988).

The landscape of the State Beach also changes seasonally. In May, a sandbar forms, closing the river mouth and turning the backwater area into a tranquil lagoon. During winter, the river can cut through the sand barrier berm and flush the backwater lagoon to the sea. When the river breaches to the sea, south-central California coast steelhead trout swim upriver to spawn.

# Designated Scenic Areas and Routes

There are no designated scenic areas within the State Beach.

Portions of the State Beach are within the scenic corridor for SR 1.



Carmel River State Beach

The most vivid images of the State Beach along SR I are of the Carmel River lagoon, beach, and open ocean. Natural features of the corridor such as the geology, climate, streams, vegetation, and wildlife all contribute to the viewshed. Human-made features that contribute to the viewshed include the historic structures at the Odello farm complex, and the cross near the Carmel River mouth.

## **Auditory Resources**

The predominant sounds at the State Beach are natural: the ocean waves and surf, wind, and abundant shorebirds that come to feed in the lagoon. There is also some noise produced by traffic from SR I and the nearby CAWD wastewater treatment plant. However, much of the noise from traffic and the wastewater treatment plant is reduced by intervening vegetation, except at Monastery Beach where the highway is immediately adjacent to the beach.

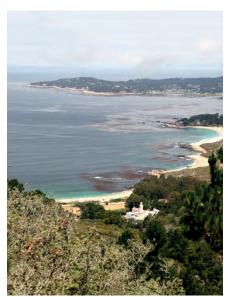
# Point Lobos Ranch Property

#### Scenic Resources

Because of the steep topography of Point Lobos Ranch, there are many distant views to and from the property. Viewer groups with more distant views of Point Lobos Ranch include visitors within the Reserve, the State Beach, Palo Corona Regional Park, the Carmelite Monastery, and residences in nearby subdivisions. Landforms are important to the visual character of Point Lobos Ranch and include high ridges, steeply sloping foothills, and gentle marine terraces spanning from the Santa Lucia Range to the Reserve. The high ridges provide breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Monterey Bay (Dornbusch Associates 2010). Point Lobos Ranch is covered by dense Monterey pine forest and oak woodland, maritime chaparral, riparian, and chamise chaparral habitat. Foreground views also include residences and historic structures associated with farming and ranching.

#### Designated Scenic Areas and Routes

A portion of Point Lobos Ranch is visible from SR I and CSP has a scenic easement in perpetuity on the approximately 30 acres located adjacent to the highway. This scenic easement prohibits construction of any structures other than farm buildings, and states that trees shall not be removed, to the extent feasible (Monterey County Planning Department 1985).



Scenic views of Carmel Bay and the Carmelite Monastery from Point Lobos Ranch

## **Auditory Resources**

Most of Point Lobos Ranch is remote and dense vegetation creates a quiet, peaceful experience. There is some noise produced by traffic from SR I and the nearby residences. However, much of this noise is reduced by intervening vegetation.

# **Hatton Canyon Property**

#### Scenic Resources

The northern portion of Hatton Canyon is not widely visible because of the canyon topography. The primary viewer groups consist of residences and neighbors using the area for informal recreation. Views in this area include a steep-sided canyon with some heavily wooded habitat with mature trees.

The southern portion of Hatton Canyon is much more visible. The main viewer groups of this area are motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using SR I, Rio Road, and Carmel Valley Road; residents; and patrons of the commercial areas east of SR I. Views from the southern portion include SR I and commercial development fringed with narrow patches of undeveloped land, including the riparian area along the Carmel River.

## Designated Scenic Areas and Routes

There are no designated scenic vistas within Hatton Canyon; however, the Greater Monterey Peninsula Area Plan designates this area as a highly sensitive visual area. Areas designated as highly sensitive are defined as possessing those scenic resources that are most unique and have regional or countywide significance (TAMC 2009).

SR I, designated as an All-American Road and State Scenic Highway, is adjacent to the southern portion of the property.

# **Auditory Resources**

Dense vegetation and steep topography in the northern portion of Hatton Canyon creates a quiet, peaceful experience for park users.

# 2.4 Park Operations and Maintenance

# 2.4.1 Facility Management

CSP's facilities maintenance staff maintains the existing structures and infrastructure (water, sewer, electric, gas, and telecommunication services) within the CASP units. The CASP units are served by the Monterey District maintenance shop located on Garden Road in Monterey. CSP maintains all utilities in coordination with the respective utility providers. Facilities maintenance staff also maintain roads, trails, interpretive signage, and other facilities.

# 2.4.2 Public Safety

CSP Rangers and Lifeguards are trained peace officers that help to operate and manage the CASP units. They provide public safety law enforcement, aquatic rescue services, and public education through interpretation (CSP 2010b).

CSP peace officers have the primary public safety and law enforcement responsibility for the CASP units. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office has concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction for park property in the unincorporated area of Monterey County. The California Highway Patrol has concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction for all state facilities. CSP peace officers occasionally are called to assist or back up a local police agency, California Highway Patrol, or other law enforcement agencies. CSP peace officers also provide emergency medical response for all CSP properties. CSP peace officers routinely patrol the CASP units. CAL FIRE provides the primary fire protection services for the CASP units and CSP staff conducts vegetation clearing for fire management to maintain defensible space.

# 2.4.3 Concessions

There are currently no concessions within any of the CASP units.

# 2.4.4 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

# **Contracts and Agreements**

In 2013, CSP, MPRPD, BSLT, and PLF initiated a partnership effort known as the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project (LCPP) to create a collaborative, long-term regional vision for the collective landscape of state and local parklands and open space located adjacent to or nearby one another, from Carmel south to Garrapata State Park. This agreement applies to lands within all of the CASP units, including the Reserve.

# **Public Safety**

Safety for visitors that park along SR I to visit the Reserve is a safety concern for CSP. Scuba diving safety is also a top priority for the Reserve and the State Beach. In 2016, there were two fatalities and five rescues in the Reserve. Enforcement citations at the Reserve are often related to visitors leaving designated trails and dogs in the Reserve (dogs are not allowed in the Reserve). There were also four arrests and 33 citations in the Reserve in 2016. Other enforcement issues include illegal collection of resources.

The nearest fire station is the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District located approximately I mile southeast of the Reserve. This Fire Protection District is operated under a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE (Cypress Fire Protection District 2017). There are also approximately 18 fire hydrants within the Reserve for fire control. Wildfire management in California state parks is guided by Department Operations Manual (DOM) Section 0300-Natural Resources (section 0313.2.1 Wildfire Management), the Natural Resources Handbook, the Wildfire Management Planning Guidelines and Policy (CSP 2008), and the Guidelines for Protection of Structures from Wildland Fires (CSP 2009). These guidelines state that parks with wildland vegetation must have a wildfire management plan, and the guidelines provide a template for preparing wildfire management plans. Key components of the wildfire management plans include managing for wildfires before, during, and after a wildfire incident (CSP 2008).



Visitor use on a Reserve trail

Flood prevention and habitat protection within the Carmel River lagoon are managed cooperatively with Monterey County.



Warning sign at Monastery Beach

### 2.4.5 Carmel River State Beach

# Contracts and Agreements

There is currently a MOU between Monterey County and CSP for sandbar management, flood prevention, and habitat protection within the Carmel River lagoon. This MOU provides for implementation of an interim plan for flood prevention and habitat protection in the lagoon and mutual planning for long-term solutions to resolve these issues. The long-term plan for the lagoon is to balance the natural environment and built environment. The LCPP agreement described above also covers lands within the State Beach.

# **Public Safety**

Water and beach safety are priorities for the State Beach. There were seven water-related fatalities in the State Beach between 2008 and 2017, and all but one occurred at Monastery Beach. The steepness of Monastery Beach and dangerous waves/tides have resulted in yearly drownings. Activities that lead to these fatalities include people walking on the beach, swimming, scuba diving, posing for photographs, and attempting to rescue other people in the water.

The State Beach is within the Cypress Fire Protection District. The nearest fire station to the State Beach is the Cypress Fire Protection District located approximately 0.5-mile northeast of the park on Rio Road. This fire protection district is operated under a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE (Cypress Fire Protection District 2017).

# 2.4.6 Point Lobos Ranch Property Contracts and Agreements

CSP, MPRPD, and BSLT prepared a MOU for implementation of the San Jose Creek Trail Project. The project is an approximately 1.5-mile pedestrian recreation trail that will link Point Lobos Ranch with the MPRPD Palo Corona Regional Park. The project includes a picnic area and three pedestrian bridges spanning San Jose Creek. The MOU states that BSLT will take the lead on building the trail and that CSP and MPRPD will take responsibility for maintaining the trail for a minimum of 20 years. The LCPP agreement described above also covers lands within Point Lobos Ranch.

# **Public Safety**

The nearest fire station to Point Lobos Ranch is the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District located approximately I mile southeast of Point Lobos Ranch. CAL FIRE recently identified areas along Red Wolf Drive for vegetation clearing to ensure access to the residences on this road during an emergency. Implementation of the proposed vegetation clearance would have an adverse effect on the native vegetation within Point Lobos Ranch. CSP staff is coordinating with CAL FIRE on this matter.

# 2.4.7 Hatton Canyon Property

# Contracts and Agreements

There is one contracted lessee for Hatton Canyon. Sima-Barnyard LLC has a 10-year lease for the portions of Hatton Canyon that started in June 2011. The lease is for maintaining a landscaped open area that integrates the paved multi-purpose trail with the Barnyard Shopping Village. The lease permits the lessee to use 2.4 acres of the property adjacent to the shopping center for community events, working/organic gardens, orchards, sculpture placements, produce stands, seasonal farmer's market, approximately 30 parking spaces, and a compost bin and recycle storage area. The LCPP agreement described above also covers lands within Hatton Canyon.

# **Public Safety**

In 2016, there were four citations issued within Hatton Canyon, but no arrests. The nearest fire station is the Cypress Fire Protection District located approximately 0.25-mile to the east on Rio Road (Cypress Fire Protection District 2017).

# 2.5 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation and education heightens and increases public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of natural, cultural, and recreational values. Providing meaningful, powerful, and inspiring experiences and opportunities is one of the core initiatives of CSP. The existing interpretive opportunities, programs, and facilities within each unit are described below.

# 2.5.1 Existing Interpretation and Education

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve has an extensive array of interpretive and educational opportunities and media resources for visitors. The Reserve has two buildings that are used for interpretation. The Whalers Cabin Museum, staffed by docents, was built by Chinese fishermen in the 1850s and functions as the Reserve's cultural history museum. Located north of the Reserve entrance at Whalers Cove, the 760-square-foot facility includes displays and artifacts documenting the cultural history of the Reserve, including the early settlers, Japanese and Chinese fishermen, military history, and the history of movies that have been filmed there.

The Whaling Station Museum, which opened adjacent to the Whalers Cabin Museum in 1994, functions as an extension of the Whalers Cabin Museum. The Whaling Station Museum contains a collection of whale bones, baleen, harpoons, rendering pots, and other artifacts from the whaling industry.

In addition to the museums, the Reserve has the following interpretive infrastructure and opportunities:

- Several self-guided interpretive nature trails including Cypress Grove Trail, Sea Lion Point Trail, and South Plateau Trail.
- An outdoor exhibit shelter at Whalers Cove with three interpretive panels featuring photos of invertebrates, a map of the diving areas, and the Marine Protected Area.
- The Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) long-distance learning program, which is broadcast out of Whalers Cove, has become CSP's leading program with more than 10,000 students reached in the 2016/17 fiscal year.
- A low profile interpretive panel by the Bird Island restrooms featuring the Marine Protected Areas near the Reserve.
- An Information Station near the Sea Lion Point parking area, staffed by docents, that has interpretive materials such as posters of scenery and wildlife, postcards, books and booklets on wildlife and natural resources, and field guides. The Information Station also has animal furs to touch, a collection of wildlife skulls, and information on guided walks, weather, and tides.

A number of interpretive media resources can also be found, including an audio-visual film available at the Whalers Cabin Museum, free publications in many languages, and sales publications about the Reserve that can be downloaded from various online websites, including CSP's websites and the PLF website. The PLF also publishes the quarterly Point Lobos Magazine about the Reserve and the Foundation's work.

Interpretive topics that are covered in brochures include the following:

- Welcome to Point Lobos
- Observation Checklist (including plants, animals, and geologic features)
- Whalers Cabin
- South Plateau Guide
- Cypress Grove Walk
- Sea Lion Point Nature Walk
- Please Don't Feed the Wildlife
- Exploring Tidepools
- Diving at Point Lobos
- Camping (Santa Cruz to the Big Sur Coast)
- The Rocks of Point Lobos State Reserve
- Birds of Point Lobos
- The Southern Sea Otter
- Whales
- Tribal Uses of Plants

#### Interpretive Facilities at the Reserve

- Whalers Cabin Museum exhibits
- Whaling Station Museum exhibits
- Information Station displays and literature
- Interpretive trails
- Interpretive shelter and displays at Whalers Cove (Underwater Reserve)
- Information shelter by entrance
- Bulletin board by entrance
- Marine Protected Area interpretive panel
- Docent/staff building, library and interpretive collections (e.g., mounts, pelts)

#### **Interpretive Media**

- Films at the Whalers Cabin Museum
- Free CSP publications
- PLF publications
- California State Parks and PLF websites
- Cell Phone Tour



Interpretive panels at Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

#### Carmel River State Beach

The existing interpretive facilities at the State Beach are limited. No specific CSP brochures exist for the State Beach, although the CDFW, CSP, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation offer a brochure for the Carmel Bay SMCA, which is offshore of the State Beach. Fixed interpretive opportunities include the following:

- The following three interpretive panels are located at the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve on the north bank of the river next to the existing parking lot:
  - Endangered Species in the Carmel River
  - The Dynamic Lagoon
  - A Question of Balance

These panels interpret the delicate balance between the historic and current uses of the Carmel River for drinking and irrigation water, the needs of endangered species such as south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frogs in the lagoon and river, and the need for flood control to protect adjacent homes and businesses.

- Additional information on regulations pertaining to dogs on the beach and beach safety is provided at a kiosk near the restroom.
- Signs regarding beach safety are posted at Monastery Beach.

### Point Lobos Ranch Property

There are no existing interpretation or education facilities at Point Lobos Ranch because the property has not been open to the public.

### **Hatton Canyon Property**

There are no existing interpretation or education facilities within Hatton Canyon.

# 2.5.2 Interpretive Audience Demographics

Interpretive audience demographics are similar to the overall park visitor demographics described in Section 2.7, Planning Influences, except for the interpretive opportunity associated with organized programs through Carmel, Big Sur, Monterey, and Salinas area schools. For those interpretive and educational programs, the audiences are young and reflect local/regional income, ethnicity, language, and cultural characteristics, rather than statewide, national, or international visitor origins. Multi-lingual language presentations for school groups are important when a substantial number of English-language learner students are participating.

The known or expected variations in demographics between visitors to the Reserve, State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon are important to note for interpretive facilities and programs. The origin of visitors is expected to vary between the areas from the generally known sources of local communities, greater Monterey Bay/Salinas region, San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento/Stockton/ Central Valley region, other California regions, other states nationally, and international origins. At the Reserve, the national and international components of visitation influence the strategies for conveying interpretive themes and messages, such as variations in language and cultures of visitors. Because visitors to the State Beach originate primarily from the local and Monterey Bay/Salinas region, they reflect the typical demography of that region. The trail use opportunities of Point Lobos Ranch are expected to draw visitors representing both the region's residents and statewide profile of the trail use/hiking communities.

# 2.5.3 Support for Interpretation

The most active interpretation support currently provided is within the Reserve. Interpretation facilities are limited to static displays at the State Beach and activities are absent at Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon.

In the Reserve, the CSP District Interpretive Specialists and docents work closely together to help inspire and educate visitors to preserve and protect natural, cultural and scenic resources. PLF supports the docents at the Reserve.

CSP docent staff supported by PLF is a group of more than 200 trained volunteers who supplement the existing CSP staff.

Docents lead nature walks for visitors including school groups and people who are mobility-constrained, set up wildlife viewing

CSP's Docent Corps serves as the primary interpretive team at the Reserve. The Docent Corps includes:

- A full-time Docent Coordinator who is a CSP employee
- About 200 docents available to work in the Reserve
- Specialized interpretive equipment and technology, such as spotting scopes
- Volunteer support tools, such as an interactive web site, training resources, and identifying green jackets
- Bilingual brochures
- School outreach program
- Library of research and historic reports
- Interpretive collections



Interpretation by volunteer at the Reserve

locations with spotting scopes to offer views of the marine mammals and birds, and staff the Reserve's Information Station and the Whalers Cabin Museum. The docents are essential for the interpretive and educational programs found within the Reserve, acting as volunteers conveying information and helping to improve and expand on the interpretive and educational opportunities provided to visitors.

The Reserve is used by schools providing a unique opportunity to study the natural history of the Monterey/Carmel/Big Sur coast. The Reserve is well suited to a number of learning opportunities for school field trips. The goal is to offer the Reserve as an outside classroom to support and achieve California Science Content Standards, to instill in youth the enjoyment, appreciation, and awareness of the natural environment, and to practice and foster a conservation ethic.

# 2.5.4 Local, Regional, and Statewide Context

Major interpretation topics in the region are recreation; marine life and its protection, including marine mammals and tidepools; wetlands; Native California tribes; special status species; and the coastal landscape.

Following is a list of interpretive and educational programs and facilities in the regional area, with their primary topics listed:

- CSP Monterey District natural history field trips; cultural history field trips; environmental studies programs; Junior Rangers Programs; Litter-Getter Programs (engages children in trash collecting activities while explaining the environmental value of acting responsibly in parks); and the Junior Lifeguard Programs;
- MPRPD Interpretive walks/hikes includes hikes through various MPRPD parks focusing on natural and recreation resources;
- MPRPD Let's Go Outdoors Program environmental education and outdoor related programs, classes, and activities on topics such as photography, star gazing, hiking, kayaking, wildlife watching, art and writing, gardening, composting, and horseback riding;
- MPRPD Nature Camp camps include hands-on activities and outdoor adventures such as camping and hiking;

- BSLT education programs include science and environmental camps, art-in-nature classes, Plant-a-Thons, wilderness challenge experiences, and interactive history, agriculture and nature exhibits;
- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History includes field trips and classroom visits, summer camps, Science Saturdays, Longterm Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students, and Monarch butterfly monitoring;
- Carmel Mission includes museums, exhibitions, and tours;
- Monterey Bay Aquarium includes field trips, classroom curriculum, Teen Conservation Leaders volunteer program;
- Monterey County Toro Park and Environmental Center field trips for grades 1-4;
- CSUMB Camp Sea Lab programs include day and residential summer camps for ages 8-17, outdoor school for ages 3-8, workshops/curriculum for teachers to incorporate marine science in the classroom, and family workshops for children of all ages;
- Monterey State Historic Park school programs, a collection of significant historic houses and buildings including the Pacific House Museum:
- MPRPD Garland Ranch Visitor Center;
- Monterey County Visitor Center;
- Monterey County Agriculture and Rural Life Museum; and
- Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Nature Center.

# 2.6 Park Support

This section describes the volunteers that are currently active within each CASP unit, cooperating associations, and/or supporting organizations that support one or more of the CASP units.



At Monterey Bay Aquarium, another premier interpretive facility in the region, over 2 million people visit annually, with 95 percent being inspired to consider action for ocean conservation. Many aquarium visitors also visit the Reserve.



The Reserve had approximately 200 active docents who volunteered more than 25,000 hours in 2016.

### 2.6.1 Volunteers

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

There are approximately 200 active docents who are part of the CSP Volunteers in Parks Program at the Reserve. They work to enhance visitor's experience and knowledge about the Reserve. Some of the docents have been volunteering for more than 35 years and new recruits are regularly added (CSP 2012). In 2016, more than 25,000 hours were volunteered by the docents (CSP 2017).

The docents provide many services to the visitors of the Reserve, such as:

- Leading nature walks for visitors and school groups;
- Staffing the Information Station which includes providing interpretation and information services to visitors, including free brochures about the Reserve, and selling a variety of publications and other items relevant to the Reserve;
- Staffing and visitor interpretation at the Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum;
- Providing spotting scopes to enhance wildlife views;
- Staffing the mobile interpretive van (Mint); and
- Staffing the Easy Access Adventure program for visitors with mobility issues.

CSP holds regular training and meetings with the docents to keep them up-to-date with park-related information.

### Carmel River State Beach

Volunteers at the State Beach help with cleanup activities, such as the Coastal Cleanup Day. School and volunteer groups are working on the restoration areas and south-central California coast steelhead protection. Volunteers from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary also assist with beach monitoring activities at the State Beach, including Carmel River south-central California coast steelhead counts, monitoring rates of stranding for all species of marine birds and mammals, and water quality monitoring.

# Point Lobos Ranch Property

Volunteer groups assist with weed control and management. Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project, which is the education and outreach branch of the Watershed Institute of CSUMB, has helped with weed control. The California Native Plant Society and Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund have also sponsored weed eradication events.

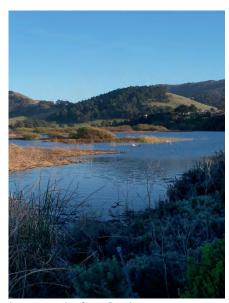
# **Hatton Canyon Property**

There are no active volunteers for Hatton Canyon.

# 2.6.2 Cooperating Associations and Supporting Groups

Associations and groups supporting CSP include the following (in alphabetical order).

- **Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT)** CSP is coordinating with BSLT to address resources, features, facilities and recreation opportunities for properties in the immediate vicinity of the CASP units. BSLT is also working on the Odello East project, which is a flood protection bypass/causeway, trails, parking, and 90 acres of restoration directly east of the State Beach. BSLT has also contracted with PRBO Conservation Science/Point Blue Conservation Science to prepare a comprehensive bird plan for the lower Carmel River watershed. In 2013, CSP, MPRPD, BSLT, and PLF initiated the LCPP MOU described above under Contracts and Agreements. The BSLT has also taken a leadership role in the Carmel River FREE Project to restore habitat and reduce flood risks where the natural and built environments intersect along the lower Carmel River and Carmel Lagoon (BSLT 2017).
- Caltrans maintains a mitigation bank within the State Beach and located along the Carmel River for impacts from regional transportation projects.
- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation has been an active partner of the CSP properties by funding community outreach programs and workshops to raise awareness about the marine protected areas that are part of the Reserve and the State Beach.
- Carmel River Steelhead Association has a mission to restore and conserve the south-central California coast



Lagoon at the State Beach



Since 1978, the PLF has raised more than \$2 million for various restoration, education, and interpretive activities at the Reserve.

- steelhead fishery on the Carmel River and its watershed (Carmel River Steelhead Association 2017).
- Carmel River Task Force meets four times a year to discuss issues concerning the Carmel River watershed.
- Carmel River Watershed Conservancy the primary mission is to protect the natural resources of the Carmel River watershed.
- Carmel River Watershed Council participates in fish rescues and cleanup activities on the Carmel River.
- Monterey County Resource Management Agency –
  works collaboratively with interested parties to develop a
  comprehensive strategy and coordinated approach for the
  management of the Carmel River lagoon.
- Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) –
  CSP continues to work with MPRPD to coordinate
  recreational uses on the nearby park properties so there are
  similar uses on similar pieces of property (using a landscape
  relevant approach) and maintain continuity between
  properties.
- Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) is the non-profit
  organization supporting the Reserve. PLF assists CSP in several
  ways, such as funding and supporting the CSP docent program,
  financially supporting projects within the Reserve, financially
  supporting the CSUMB Graduate Intern Research program,
  and developing "Discover Point Lobos," an interactive iPad
  application to connect children to their environment through
  the Reserve.
- Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC)

   plans and funds a transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environmental quality and economic activities (TAMC 2014). TAMC funded and constructed the existing paved multi-purpose trail within Hatton Canyon, and will continue to be an important partner for funding and implementing future projects and improvements within Hatton Canyon.

# 2.7 Planning Influences

This section describes the planning context of the General Plan and the influential factors considered during its preparation.

Detailed information on Planning Influences can be found in Appendix F.

# 2.7.1 Systemwide Planning

Systemwide planning influences are applied to the entirety of the California State Park System. They include CSP's mission and long-range planning documents that apply to all CSP units.

# **Planning Documents**

A summary of systemwide information that influences planning within the CASP units is provided below:

- **Department Operations Manual (DOM)** The DOM provides the policies and procedures that are pertinent to the operation of the State Park System. It is intended as a working document for Department personnel. Section 0300, Natural Resources, guides the management of the natural resources under the jurisdiction of CSP. Section 0400, currently under revision, will provide cultural resource management guidance. Until it is complete, Section 1832 of the Resource Management Directives, the Cultural Resources Management Handbook, and the Departmental Notices provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures to guide the management of cultural resources under the jurisdiction of CSP. DOM 2000, Museum Collections Management, guides the management of the Department's museum collections, which include cultural objects, natural history specimens, archival materials, and archaeological and paleontological collections.
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – SCORP provides a strategy for statewide outdoor recreation leadership, information on public opinion regarding outdoor recreation, and actions to address issues largely based on the public participation efforts.
- California Recreational Trails Plan The plan is a guide to trails within California managed by a variety of agencies and other recreation providers. One of the trails discussed in the plan is the Pacific Coast/California Coastal Trail, which passes through the Carmel area and continues south along the coast. This trail is envisioned to be 1,150 miles long, spanning from Mexico to Oregon. As of 2017, it was considered approximately 60 percent complete (California State Coastal Conservancy 2017).



Bedrock mortar in the Reserve



The Pacific Coast/California Coastal Trail, envisioned to be 1,150 miles from Mexico to Oregon at completion, passes through the Carmel area.

- Systemwide Park Operations and Concessions Policies

   CSP partners with a variety of businesses, non-profits, and public agencies through concession contracts, cooperative agreements, and operating agreements to offer the public these goods and services.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, and applies to all actions by the states, including the preparation of state park general plans. CSP published the Accessibility Guidelines which states that universal accessibility is integrated into CSP's culture and embodied in its programs, providing visitors, regardless of their abilities, with high quality recreational opportunities while preserving the integrity of park resources (CSP 2015a).
- California Heritage Task Force This task force was created to develop a set of policies and programs for California's cultural heritage resources.
- California History Plan This plan provides a holistic framework to guide interpretation of cultural resources throughout the state. The Reserve, the State Beach, and Point Lobos Ranch all contain important artifacts and elements of California's history. The California History Plan specifically states that interpretation at the Reserve should recognize the contribution of Japanese commercial abalone fishing and processing to the "Evolving Economies" theme in the History Plan/Framework.
- California Underwater Parks and Reserves Plan A cumulative and comprehensive summary of laws, policies, documents, studies, and surveys concerning the marine areas of the State Park System is provided in this plan.
- Sea Level Rise and Extreme Event Guidance for California State Parks – CSP developed guidance that provides updated information regarding adaptation to sea level rise predicted along the California coast.

Additional detail on these systemwide planning documents is provided in Appendix F.

# 2.7.2 Regional Planning

Various regional plans govern lands in the vicinity of and adjacent to the CASP units. Below, in alphabetical order, is a list of these



Kelp forest

plans and how they may relate to the General Plan. Additional detail is provided for each of these plans in Appendix F.

- Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan This management plan covers a 75-mile length of SR I, including portions that run through the CASP units.
- Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program (CALUP) – The Reserve, the State Beach, and Point Lobos Ranch are within the CALUP area. The CALUP contains a number of policies relating to fuel load management, noxious weeds, interpretive programs, water resources, sensitive biological resources, parking, recreation opportunities, and visual resources that are pertinent to one or more of the CSP properties.
- Carmel Valley Master Plan This plan covers the area of Hatton Canyon not included in the Greater Monterey Peninsula Area Plan.
- City of Carmel-by-the-Sea General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan – The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's sphere of influence extends to Hatton Canyon to the east and the State Beach to the south.
- Greater Monterey Peninsula Area Plan This area plan covers the northernmost area of Upper Hatton Canyon.
- Monterey County General Plan The County General Plan includes policies to address unincorporated areas within the county.
- Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan –
   Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC)
   completed the last update of the regional transportation plan (RTP) in 2014, and the only improvements listed in the vicinity of the CASP units are a proposed climbing lane along SR I between Rio Road and Carmel Valley Road, and installing a Class I path from Carmel Valley Road to SR I.
- Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) –
  Several MPRPD properties are adjacent to CSP properties.
  The largest is Palo Corona Regional Park, located directly east
  of SR I from the State Beach and adjacent to Point Lobos
  Ranch. MPRPD is in the process of preparing a General
  Development Plan for Palo Corona Regional Park, which is
  anticipated for completion in 2018.

Adjacent MPRPD property, such as Palo Corona Regional Park, provides great opportunities for collaboration with the CASP units.

 Watershed Assessment and Action Plan of the Carmel River Watershed – This action plan identifies areas within the river and watershed in need of restoration and provides guidance to develop restoration and conservation measures.

# 2.7.3 Regulatory Influences

Federal, state, and local laws and regulations influence resources within the CASP units. Various agencies have regulatory or management authority within the planning area, and compliance with applicable regulations was considered in development of the General Plan. A summary of applicable regulations is provided below. Additional detail related to these regulations is provided in Appendix F.

# Federal Laws and Regulations

- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have authority over projects that may result in take of a species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA.
  - Recovery Plan for Five Plants from Monterey County USFWS prepared a recovery plan for coastal dunes milk-vetch, Yadon's rein orchid, Hickman's cinquefoil, Monterey clover, and Gowen cypress. These species occur or could occur within the CASP units.
  - South-Central California Coast Steelhead Recovery Plan NMFS prepared this plan for recovery of south-central California coast steelhead. Chapter 10 of the plan specifically focuses on the Carmel River Basin Biogeographic Population Group.
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act – This act is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in United States federal waters.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) The MBTA provides for international protection of migratory birds and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to regulate the taking of migratory birds.
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) The MMPA established a federal responsibility to conserve marine mammals. Among other prohibitions, the MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals.



Source: (c) 2012 Charles M. Bancroft Yadon's rein orchid

- Clean Water Act (CWA)/ Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne Act) – The CWA is the primary federal law that governs and authorizes water quality control activities, and the Porter-Cologne Act is California's statutory authority for the protection of water quality (discussed below under State Laws and Regulations).
- Federal Clean Air Act / California Clean Air Act The federal and state acts authorize the establishment of ambient air quality standards. The local air quality control agency is the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District.
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 of the act requires scoping, identification, assessment, and consultation to determine effects on properties included in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) – NAGPRA was established in 1990 and provides for the protection of Native American graves. This act requires federal agencies and recipients of federal funds to document Native American human remains and cultural items within their collection, to notify all tribes that are or are likely to be affiliated with these holdings, and to provide an opportunity for the repatriation of appropriate human remains or cultural items.
- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings – These are principles that promote historic preservation best practices that will help to protect cultural resources. The Standards are a series of concepts about maintaining, repairing, and replacing historic materials, as well as designing new additions or making alterations. The Guidelines offer general design and technical recommendations to assist in applying the Standards to a specific property.

### State Laws and Regulations

 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – CEQA requires state and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. General plans typically contain a programmatic environmental impact report (EIR), and park development projects require appropriate environmental review, which may include an EIR.

- Assembly Bill 52, CEQA Guidelines Update for Tribal Cultural Resources – As part of the 2013/14 legislative session, AB 52 established a new class of resources under CEQA, tribal cultural resources, and requires that lead agencies undertaking CEQA review must, upon written request of a California Native American Tribe, begin consultation once the lead agency determines that the application for the project is complete. CEQA also requires lead agencies to consider whether projects will impact tribal cultural resources. Tribal cultural resources are defined as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR or included in a local register of historical resources, and a resource determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to PRC Section 5024.
- Public Resources Code (PRC) The PRC authorizes certain powers and responsibilities in CSP. PRC sections specifically pertaining to entering into contracts and agreements, preparing general plans, classification of park units, and concessions include sections 513, 5002.2, 5010.1, 5019.50–5019.80, 5024, and 5080. A number of PRC sections focus on cultural resources, discussed below.
  - PRC 5024 and 5024.5 PRC 5024 requires that each state agency shall formulate policies to preserve and maintain, when prudent and feasible, all state-owned historical resources under its jurisdiction listed in or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or registered or eligible for registration as a state historical landmark. PRC 5024.5 further states that a state agency must give notice to the SHPO early in the planning process should an action potentially have an adverse effect on a significant historical resource. If the SHPO determines that the action will have an adverse effect on a listed historical resource, prudent and feasible measures that will eliminate or mitigate the adverse effects will be adopted by the state agency and SHPO.
  - **PRC 5097.5** Makes it a misdemeanor for anyone to knowingly disturb any archaeological, paleontological, or historical features situated on public lands.
  - PRC 5097.9 et seq. Prohibits a public agency or private party from interfering with the free expression or exercise of Native American religion, or from causing severe or irreparable damage to any Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or

ceremonial site, or sacred shrine located on public property. It also established the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and stipulates that no public agency can alter, modify, disturb, remove, destroy, or damage any Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine except with the consent of the NAHC. PRC 5097.99 states that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated.

- California Code of Regulations (Archaeological Features) – Title 14, Section 4308, Archaeological Features, states that no person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological, or historical interest or value within a State Park.
- Executive Order W-26-92 Requires state agencies to take specific measures to preserve significant state-owned properties and to administer historic properties under their control in a spirit of stewardship. It directs all state agencies to recognize, and to the extent prudent and feasible, to preserve and maintain the state's significant historical resources.
- Executive Order B-10-11 Establishes the role and responsibilities of the Governor's Tribal Advisor and directs that every state agency and department under the Governor's executive control communicate and consult with federally recognized tribes and other California Native Americans, and permit elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.
- State Lands Commission and Public Trust Doctrine Tidelands and submerged lands, including those that have been filled, are subject to the Public Trust Doctrine, under which these lands are held in trust for the statewide public and are dedicated to uses such as commerce, fisheries, navigation, environmental preservation, and recreation (CSLC 2015).
- California Ocean Protection Council Act This act established the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to conserve, restore, and manage the California's ocean, bays, estuaries, and coastal wetlands. A Vision for Our Ocean and Coast is the OPC's 5-year strategic plan that guides the agency's priorities. In April 2017, OPC released its Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea level Rise Science policy document. The report includes new information regarding the

- science and projections of sea level rise under various greenhouse gas (GHG) emission scenarios.
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA) CESA directs state agencies to decline approval of projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of a species.

#### California Fish and Game Code:

- Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration All diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake in California that supports wildlife resources are subject to regulation by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code.
- **Section 3503.5** This section states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any raptors (i.e., species in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes), including their nests or eggs.
- Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 These sections state that no permits may be issued to allow for the take of fully protected species. To date, no fully protected species have been documented in any of the CASP units.
- Marine Life Protection Act This act established a Central Coast Region, composed of 29 marine protected areas (MPAs), from San Mateo County to Santa Barbara County. The offshore area directly adjacent to the Reserve has been included in the Central Coast Marine Protected Area as the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve. In addition, the Point Lobos SMCA extends seaward from the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (see Figure 2-1).

The northern portion of the State Beach is located adjacent to the Carmel Bay SMCA, and Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve is located further offshore.

California Coastal Act – The Coastal Act includes specific
policies that address issues such as shoreline public access and
recreation, lower cost visitor accommodations, terrestrial and
marine habitat protection, visual resources, landform alteration,
agricultural lands, commercial fisheries, water quality,



Harbor seal at the Reserve

transportation, development design, and public works. The Coastal Commission partners with local municipalities, such as Monterey County, to plan and regulate the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities within the CASP units in the coastal zone generally would require a coastal permit from the Coastal Commission or Monterey County.

- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Under Section 401 of the federal CWA, an applicant for a Section 404 permit must obtain a certificate from the appropriate state agency stating that the intended dredging or filling activity is consistent with the state's water quality standards and criteria. In California, the authority to grant water quality certification is delegated by the State Water Resources Control Board to the nine regional water quality control boards. The CASP units are under the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy This state plan outlines adaptation strategies for seven major sectors organized around risks to the state's natural resources, infrastructure, and public health in the face of climate change. CSP was part of the Coastal and Ocean Working Group that developed strategies related to oceans and coastal resources, most of which focus on sea level rise.
- 2014 and 2018 Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk – Safeguarding California, originally released in 2014, provides policy guidance for state decision-makers, and is part of continuing efforts to reduce impacts and prepare for climate risks. Safeguarding California Plan: 2018 Update was released in January 2018. The Plan provides an updated programmatic survey of existing efforts to combat climate change throughout the state (CNRA 2018).
- Assembly Bill 32 The California Global Warming Solutions Act established regulatory, reporting, and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions. AB 32 put a cap on GHG emissions, setting a target of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. As part of its implementation of AB 32 and Executive Order S-3-05, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) developed the Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan) in 2008. California is currently on track to meet or exceed the AB 32 current target of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- Executive Order B-30-15 This executive order established a new GHG emissions reduction target 40 percent below 1990

The 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy and 2014/2018 Safeguarding California Plan promote the protection of regionally significant development and habitat that are vulnerable to sea level rise.

levels by 2030. Executive Order B-30-15 also directed CARB to update the AB 32 Scoping Plan to reflect the path to achieving the 2030 target.

- Senate Bill 32 and Assembly Bill 197 Two bills enacted in 2016 served to extend California's GHG reduction programs beyond 2020. SB 32 amended the Health and Safety Code to include Section 38566, which contains language to authorize CARB to achieve a statewide GHG emission reduction of at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by no later than December 31, 2030.
- Climate Change Scoping Plan and Updates The 2017
   Climate Change Scoping Plan Update (2017 Scoping Plan Update) provides the framework for achieving the mandate of SB 32 (2016) to reduce statewide GHG emissions to at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by the end of 2030 (CARB 2017a).

# 2.7.4 Demographics, Trends, and Projections

# Population Increase and Park Visitation

The California Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Monterey County will grow an average 0.5 percent per year for a total of 18.8 percent growth between 2010 and 2050. In the same timeframe, the population of California is expected to grow 26.9 percent (DOF 2012). The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) 2014 Regional Growth Forecast estimates that the region is projected to add 152,292 residents between 2010 and 2035 for an increase of 20.5 percent (AMBAG 2014).

In 2017, the service-providing industry, which includes tourism, was the largest employer in Monterey County. The second largest industry was agriculture, and government the third largest industry in Monterey County (California Employment Development Department 2017). According to the 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate, the median household income in Monterey County was \$60,494. This is slightly less than the \$64,500 median household income in California. Monterey County has a lower percentage of persons with a bachelor's degree or higher education at 19.5 percent versus 34.7 percent statewide (U.S. Census 2015).

Overall, Monterey County is a tourist destination that attracts visitors year-round, with peak visitation in the Monterey region between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend.

Almost 14 percent of the County's land area is devoted to parks and recreation facilities operated by governmental agencies. The County parks system makes up about 10 percent of the County's total park acreage (Monterey County 2010). In the context of regional influences, the visitation to other state parks in the Monterey region is shown in Table 2-4.

Table 2-4 Annual Visitation to Regional State Parks			
	2014	2015	2016
Monterey SB	418,356	470,601	412,045
Monterey SHP	196,191	179,104	132,989
Asilomar SB	674,718	697,851	810,905
Andrew Molera SP	93,654	129,325	56,773
Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP	153,738	261,200	106,551
Total	1,649,567	1,845,089	1,635,405

Source: CSP 2014a, 2015b, 2016

As noted on Table 2-4, overall visitation to state parks in the region increased between 2014 and 2015, and declined in 2016 due to wildfires and the temporary closure of SR I (CSP 2014a, 2015b, 2016).

# Population Diversity/Changing Ethnic Patterns

As of the 2010 U.S. Census, California had 37,253,956 residents. Of the total population 57.6 percent were white, 13 percent Asian, 6.2 percent Black or African American, I percent American Indian and Alaskan native, and 0.4 percent native Hawaiian or other Pacific native. Seventeen percent were some other race, 4.9 percent were two or more races, and 37.6 percent were of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race) (US Census 2015).

CASP units are within unincorporated Monterey County, and adjacent to the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. As of the 2010 U.S. Census, Monterey County had 415,057 residents. Categorized by race, there were 55.6 percent white, 6.1 percent Asian, 3.1 percent Black or African American, 1.3 percent American Indian and Alaskan native, 0.5 percent native Hawaiian or other Pacific native, 28.3 percent were some other race, and 5.2 percent were of two or more races. Of this population total, 55.4 percent were of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race). Demographic projections for Monterey County show a decrease in the white and Asian populations and an increase in the multiracial population. The percentages of other races are projected to stay about the same



The service-providing industry, which includes tourism, is the largest industry in Monterey County.

for Monterey County (DOF 2017). Categorized by age, the majority of Monterey County population (62.6 percent) is between 18-64 years, followed by 18.9 percent 5-17 years, 10.7 percent 65 years and over, and 7.8 percent 4 years and younger.

As of the 2010 U.S. Census, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea had 3,722 residents, of which 93.1 percent were white, 3.0 percent Asian, 0.3 percent Black or African American, and 0.2 percent native Hawaiian and other Pacific native. Of the total population, 4.7 percent were of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race). Grouped by age range, the 2010 census reported 10.2 percent of the population under age 18, 54.1 percent between 18-64 years, and 35.7 percent over 65 years. According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the median household income in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is \$76,463, significantly higher than the statewide median. Residents in Carmel-by-the-Sea are generally more educated than residents in the county or statewide, with 63.3 percent of the population having a bachelor's degree or higher (DOF 2012).

Trail within the Reserve

### **Recreation Trends**

#### Statewide Trends

As recorded within the Complete Findings of the Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California (CSP 2014b), respondents to a 2012 statewide recreation survey were asked about the activities in which they participated. The top five activities mentioned by the highest percentage of participants were the following:

- Picnicking (70.4 percent)
- Walking (63.8 percent)
- Beach activities (52.8 percent)
- Shopping at farmer's market (49.5 percent)
- Swimming in a pool (48.2 percent)

The top three most popular activities are available at the Reserve and State Beach. The top four recreation activities that survey respondents would like to participate in more often include picnicking, walking, camping, and beach activities. The most common facilities and amenities used by respondents included the following:

- Community/facility buildings (65.4 percent)
- Unpaved multiuse trails (60.2 percent)
- Picnic tables/pavilions (56.6 percent)

#### Regional Patterns and Use

The Central Coast region had a high percentage of respondents who visited a park within a month of the survey, and 85.9 percent had visited a park within 6 months. The type of parks Central Coast region respondents visited most frequently during the previous year were highly developed parks and recreation areas. The top five activities that Central Coast participants would like to participate in more often include the following (CSP 2014b):

The Central Coast region had a high percentage of respondents that reported visiting a park within a month of the survey.

- Picnicking in picnic areas
- Walking for fitness or pleasure on paved surfaces
- Beach activities (i.e., swimming, sunbathing, surf play, wading, playing on beach)
- Attending outdoor cultural events
- Day hiking on unpaved trails

The Reserve is a popular destination for visitors living within the region, the state, the country, and even the world. With the advent of social media, awareness of the Reserve has contributed to a steady increase in visitation. The State Beach is popular with locals and is less well-known to visitors from outside the region. Point Lobos Ranch is currently not open to the public. Hatton Canyon is currently used for walking and bicycle riding.

The planning process has required close coordination with a variety of agencies and stakeholders.

# 2.7.5 Public Concerns, Interests, and Opportunities

# Public Meetings and Workshops

In addition to holding a number of agency and stakeholder meetings, the planning team conducted two public workshops and an open house to inform the general public and receive public input on the General Plan. The State Park and Recreation Commission also conducted an additional listening session. The first workshop introduced the planning process, anticipated planning schedule, and sought public input. The second workshop presented the alternative concepts that had been developed based on different thematic ideas envisioned for the CASP units, and early public and stakeholder ideas and input. The public provided comments on the alternative concepts. In addition, the planning team met with neighborhood groups representing residents of Hatton Canyon, Red Wolf Drive, Ribera Road/Carmel Meadows, and Carmel Highlands to solicit further input. These comments helped to form the draft preferred alternative, which was presented to the public at an open house. The purpose of the State Park and Recreation Commission's listening session was to receive additional input on the preferred alternative and share information about coordination among the agencies and organizations involved in regional land conservation. The preferred alternative was further refined in response to public input and is presented in Chapter 4 as the Park Plan.

### Native California Indian Consultation

Ongoing consultation has occurred throughout the planning process with Native California Indian representatives of the Rumsen, Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation, Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, Ka Koon Ta Ruk Band of Costanoan-Ohlone Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria, and the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council. Through telephone discussions, email, in-person meetings, and site visits tribal representatives shared information, interests, and concerns regarding known cultural resources, future interpretation and management opportunities, and suggestions for a potential park name.

The main concern identified was the protection and preservation of Native California Indian cultural sites, particularly the area near San Jose Creek known as the Hudson Mound and Polo Field. All were supportive of a new cultural preserve proposal intended to provide a high level of resource protection. Concern remains regarding the appropriate level of public access to the area.

All discussions reflected interest in seeing the Native California Indians interpreted to the public in these parks and all were enthusiastic about working collaboratively with CSP to develop sensitive and informative interpretation.

Nearly the entire area of the CASP GP planning area was historically known to the Native California people as Ishxenta. Most of the tribal representatives consulted would like to see the name Ishxenta restored as the name of the new state park.

#### Continued Public Involvement

Following the General Plan process, opportunities for continued public involvement will be provided during future planning of project-specific areas of the CASP units, including future management plans and development plans that are prepared. This also includes public review of proposed projects required under CEQA.

Future management plans and project efforts will implement the recommendations, goals, and guidelines presented in this General Plan.

Chapter 2 Existing Conditions

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Chapter 3
ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

# 3 ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

This chapter identifies the planning assumptions that, along with the California State Parks (CSP) mission, underpin the General Plan. Following the assumptions are descriptions and analyses of key issues to be addressed by the plan's goals and guidelines in Chapter 4.

# 3.1 Planning Assumptions

The following assumptions are based on current state and federal laws, regulations, and CSP policy. These assumptions form the planning context and set the parameters for addressing general planning issues.

CSP will do the following:

- Manage and protect rare, threatened, and endangered species and sensitive natural plant communities and wildlife habitats, including the marine, coastal, and inland resources, as required by federal and state laws, and by CSP's mission.
- Protect the rich prehistoric cultural resources and sites that
  occur within each of the park units. Consult with California
  Native American Tribes to obtain a mutually respectful
  understanding of the long-term needs for protection and
  treatment of heritage and sacred sites, objects, or human
  remains, as well as to define future consultations that would
  be required during subsequent planning, design, and project
  implementation.
- Preserve the park's cultural resources, including all identified archaeological or historic properties, which may be districts, landscapes, sites, buildings, features and objects, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Continue to adapt to the changing climate, including anticipation of sea level rise and increase in wildfire risk over time.
- Work with state, regional, and local agencies and with nongovernmental organization partners on inter-jurisdictional matters, such as transportation solutions in the State Route (SR) I corridor, regional transportation hub parking, regional trail connections, wildfire risk reduction and response, and management of the Carmel River and lagoon environs.



California State Parks' Mission:
"To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation."

For descriptions of current unit classifications, see Section 1.8, Planning Hierarchy (1.8.2 Classification). Section 4.1, Classification, outlines the classification decisions included in the plan for the two existing units and two unclassified properties.



Example of important historic resources, the Odello Farm buildings at the State Beach

See Interagency and Stakeholder Involvement in Chapter I for a summary of the public process used to engage the public throughout the planning process.

- Plan for transportation options and visitor facilities that resolve parking issues in the units.
- Emphasize enhancement of the visitor experience, which will include management of recreation opportunities among the units to reduce excessive visitation that results in the degradation of sensitive resources.
- Maintain ongoing, open communication with the surrounding community and seek input regarding plan implementation from local, regional, and statewide interests.
- Coordinate planning efforts between state parks and other public park and open space areas managed by Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), U.S. Forest Service, Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), City of Carmel, and Monterey County to evaluate and enhance connectivity and compatibility of recreation and interpretive opportunities and resource management programs.

# 3.2 Carmel Area State Parks Issues

The key issues that influenced the planning effort for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) units are discussed below. These issues are parkwide, because multiple units are affected, but also have implications for individual units or areas. The General Plan addresses these issues through the parkwide management goals and guidelines, which are presented in Chapter 4, Park Plan. Several, area-specific issues are also discussed in Section 3.3.

# 3.2.1 Visitor Capacity Management

Visitor overuse in sensitive resource areas can damage park resources and diminish the quality of visitor experiences. Overuse is an acute concern at the Reserve because of the richness of its iconic natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the extremely high demand for visitation. A 2016 survey of the coastal bluffs of the Reserve documented substantial trail degradation, creation of unauthorized trails, areas of soil and vegetation loss, and disturbance of marine wildlife (Noble 2016). Visitor management needs to take into account how to achieve sustainable uses in the Reserve, as well as the other units, whereby resource degradation can be prevented.

The 1979 General Plan estimated the capacity of the Reserve based on available parking spaces:
150 spaces x 3 persons per vehicle =
450 people maximum at one time.
Assuming three parking space turnovers per day, the daily carrying capacity equaled 1,350 persons.

The appropriate visitor capacity of the Reserve has been a topic of both CSP management focus and public input for decades. Because of the national and international renown of the Reserve, large numbers of annual visitors and many peak-visitation days occur every year. The high level of visitor use continues to damage sensitive marine and coastal natural resources and cultural resources within the Reserve. The 1979 General Plan related the Reserve carrying capacity to a parking facility-capacity-based calculation of 450 visitors at one time, based on a vehicle parking capacity of 150 spaces and an average of three people per vehicle. Using an estimated parking lot turnover of three times per day, the daily facility carrying capacity was noted to be 1,350 visitors per day. The calculation did not attempt to correlate the parking lot capacity to resource impacts, visitor behavior, visitor destination, or visitor experience, but noted the importance of monitoring resource degradation and adapting management responses accordingly.

Currently, there is limited reliable data on total visitor attendance at the Reserve, because many visitors park on the highway and walk in to avoid the entrance fee or because parking inside the Reserve has been filled to capacity. Even with the limited data available, it is clear that the Reserve exceeds its visitor capacity. It is estimated that 400,000 visitors walked into the Reserve in 2016. Because of its State Natural Reserve unit classification, management priority is directed to protect important resources, and CSP staff need a sustainable use strategy to monitor, account for, and adaptively manage the unit to minimize resource degradation.

CSP is currently working with the Point Lobos Foundation (PLF) to fence trails to keep people on designated paths, placing interpretive and educational signs near sensitive areas to inform visitors why it is important to protect such resources, and restoring coastal bluffs to re-establish habitat that has been lost due to human foot traffic.

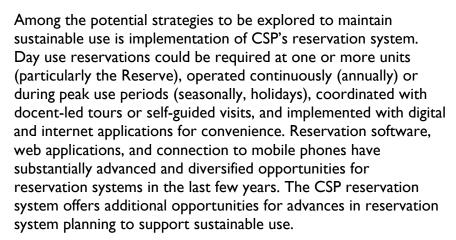
Overuse and the need for sustainable visitor management are not issues that only apply to the Reserve. Current and planned uses of all of the publicly open CASP units, including the impacts of special events on the park's sensitive resources, are ongoing issues. Resource degradation has occurred within the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve at the State Beach due to visitor overuse and special events. Visitor use management at Point Lobos Ranch will need to consider protection of areas with Natural and Cultural Preserve designations. Key considerations are visitor management at each of the CASP units to maintain the resource integrity and desired visitor experience. Special events should be evaluated with regard to regional opportunities for these events, the consistency with CSP's mission, and the purpose and vision of the park.



Park visitors painting and using Reserve trails



Interpretive display at Whalers Cove



Another strategy to maintain sustainable use includes charging a day use fee for walk-in visitors should SR I parking not be removed. When a reservation and shuttle system is implemented, walk-in fees could be eliminated because park entry would require a reservation.

#### 3.2.2 Resource Protection

Key parkwide resource protection issues include balancing park use with resource protection, climate change adaptation, water quality, and water supply.

# Balancing Park Use with Resource Protection

CSP must take the needs of the native flora and fauna, sensitive habitats, the natural processes and functions that support sensitive aquatic and terrestrial communities, and important cultural resource sensitivity into full account when defining approaches to manage the recreational and operational needs of the park units. Where a unit classification is a State Natural Reserve, or where a natural or cultural preserve has been established, management priority is assigned to resource protection. With a state park or state beach classification, management considerations seek to balance resource protection and high-quality recreational objectives.

There are rare plant communities and endangered species that provide unique opportunities for education and research; however, research must be compatible with CSP's mandate to protect these resources for future generations. Research also takes place in the marine reserve, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issues collection permits for certain species. There are opportunities to review and clarify policies for issuing collection permits and scientific research permits for all CASP units to ensure long-term sustainability of the processes.



Tidepools at the Reserve

In addition to protecting rare, threatened and endangered species, CSP must also address management of invasive and nonnative species in the park units. PLF will continue to map and eradicate nonnative invasive plant species within the Reserve, including cape ivy, poison hemlock, Harding grass, fireweed, velvet grass, and sea fig. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) will continue to eradicate French broom at Point Lobos Ranch.

Mapping the sensitive natural and cultural resources should occur prior to implementing park improvement projects to better assure sensitive resources are avoided or minimally impacted, are documented, and monitored over time. CSP and PLF continue to partner on a long-term wildlife disturbance research effort to inform park managers on how to minimize wildlife/human conflicts within the Reserve. Other studies include assessing small mammals within the coastal prairie meadows of the Reserve.

CSP and the PLF have also initiated a research program that looks at the Reserve's resource base and makes recommendations on how to reduce sediment delivery to the Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). As a result of this research, CSP has implemented south shore bluff restoration projects. CSP will continue research to gather needed resource data to help park managers make informed resource management decisions.

There is a continuing need for habitat restoration and CSP anticipates future restoration at Lower Sea Lion Point, Coal Chute Point, and Granite Point, among other places.

There is a need to balance educational and recreational uses and park management with the preservation and protection of the many historic and prehistoric resources in the parks. The Reserve, the State Beach, and Point Lobos Ranch all contain significant historic and prehistoric resources. Cultural and sacred sites important to Native people exist in the units. There are opportunities for CSP to protect these resources, while providing for high-quality outdoor recreation, interpretation, and education for visitors.

# Climate Change Adaptation

It is anticipated that climate change will cause ecological stressors, resource and property damage, and public safety risks in the coastal areas in California. Possible climate impacts include: increased temperatures of up to 6°F higher than the current average temperatures by 2100; precipitation changes of 4 to 8 inches less in annual rainfall by 2100; sea level rise up to 55 inches higher than current sea levels by 2100; reduced agricultural



Gowen cypress at Point Lobos Ranch

Ecological stressors refer to any physical, chemical, or biological constraint on the productivity of a given species and development of ecosystems.

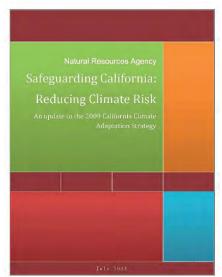
activity; biodiversity threats; loss of natural and cultural resources, shoreline retreat, facilities, and infrastructure due to erosion; public health threats; and increased wildfire risks of up to 100 percent by 2085. In the CASP units, sea level rise is the most apparent climate risk, but increased wildfire risk, changes in storms, flooding risk, and ecological responses will also be of concern. Planning must include adaptation to the changing climate, as well as consideration for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Regarding sea level rise, the California Climate Change Adaptation Policy Guide prepared by the California Emergency Management Agency and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) estimated that the entire coastal zone is susceptible to sea level rise, including beaches, bluffs, bays, and estuaries. While sea level rise predictions vary based on future GHG emissions scenarios, the most commonly used prediction for planning purposes is 1.41 meters by 2100. This prediction is included in the 2017 version of Cal-Adapt, the state's internet climate adaptation tool, administered by CNRA and the California Energy Commission.

The 2009 California Climate Change Adaptation Strategy adopted six adaptation strategies for ocean and coastal resources that are important to address when planning for CASP. The six adaptation strategies laid out by the Coastal Adaptation Working Group, including CSP, are:

- Strategy I: Establish State Policy to Avoid Future Hazards and Protect Critical Habitat;
- Strategy 2: Provide Statewide Guidance for Protecting Existing Critical Ecosystems, Existing Coastal Development, and Future Investments;
- Strategy 3: State Agencies Should Prepare Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Plans;
- Strategy 4: Support Regional and Local Planning for Addressing Sea Level Rise Impacts;
- Strategy 5: Complete a Statewide Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Every Five Years; and
- Strategy 6: Support Essential Data Collection and Information Sharing.

In 2014, CNRA published Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk as an update to the 2009 Adaptation Strategy. The 2014 report includes an Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems and Resources chapter



2014 Safeguarding California Report

with an update of sea level rise and other risk information. For sea level rise, it continues to rely on projections from a 2009 Pacific Institute study commissioned by the state that has been cited by most agencies with purview over coastal lands or resources.

CNRA updated the 2014 Safeguarding California report in 2018. A key component of the update is consideration of revised sea level rise predictions. In 2017, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) compiled updated science findings to indicate that predictions for sea level in 2100 will be higher than previously expected, because of an increased rate of ice sheet melt in Greenland and Antarctica. Ice sheet melt will overtake thermal expansion and glacial melt as the major source of long-term future sea level rise. In a 2017 Science Report, OPC describes the updated sea level rise predictions for the California coast that will be used to modify state agency guidance for addressing sea level rise. Sea level rise predictions will continue to evolve as understanding of ocean warming and ice-melt dynamics improves.

CSP has developed a Sea Level Rise and Extreme Event Guidance document (CSP 2017) that includes recommendations for addressing sea level rise at California state parks located on the coast. This document anticipates effects to coastal park units resulting from the following:

- Inundation of significant cultural and natural resources;
- loss of beach area and width;
- accelerated bluff erosion;
- damage to park facilities and infrastructure owned by CSP and others;
- decreased public access;
- altered recreational opportunities; and
- change in revenue generation opportunities.

The projected increase in sea level and extreme events justifies the need for a careful evaluation of the potential vulnerabilities to and effects of flooding, inundation, and erosion on CSP's coastal resources.

The guidance document describes how proposed projects in the coastal zone would be evaluated, including anticipated level of sea rise, coastal storm surge, and extreme event potential impacts.

Together, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets contain more than 99% of the freshwater ice on Earth (National Snow and Ice Data Center 2017).

However, decisions will also be based on park unit needs and other local and statewide considerations. Given the level of uncertainty regarding the timing of anticipated sea level rise and extreme events, the document recommends planning for the worst-case scenario and provides tools and resources to inform decisions and to identify, document, and manage vulnerabilities early in the project management and planning process.

CSP will plan for management of sensitive natural and cultural resources along the coast to minimize damage or record information from locations that are infeasible to protect in areas that are prone to near-term inundation or storm-wave runup, such as at the State Beach, where cultural resources within the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve would be vulnerable to increased coastal erosion.

# Water Quality

The primary water resources in the CASP units include the ocean (including bays and coves), Gibson Creek, San Jose Creek, and the Carmel River. Groundwater in the area primarily occurs in unconfined deposits in alluvial material. Water quality in the Carmel River lagoon varies throughout the year, and is driven by changes in local weather, lagoon volume, stream flow, wave and tidal conditions, California American Water (CalAm) water usage, and whether the sandbar separating the river from the ocean is open or closed. During dry months, dissolved oxygen and temperature are managed to maintain water quality for south-central California coast steelhead habitat by augmenting lagoon water via an aerator using groundwater from a well near SR I. Sediment and pollutant discharge to marine water is also a critical issue, recognizing the presence of a designated ASBS and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Potential point sources of pollution to the streams in the park units include the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) wastewater treatment plant and existing package treatment plants located to the north of the Reserve and the State Beach. Package treatment plants are small on-site treatment plants designed to handle specific needs. Treated wastewater effluent from the CAWD plant is discharged into Carmel Bay through a pipeline that passes through the State Beach. Effluent from the two package treatment plants is discharged into the open ocean north of the Reserve.

Runoff from SR I is concentrated and conveyed in a series of corrugated metal pipes, with the outfall being conveyed through the pine forest in the Reserve, and discharged into Whalers Cove.



Carmel River — south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog habitat

Package plants are pre-manufactured treatment facilities used to treat wastewater in small communities or on individual properties. Package plants are designed to treat flows as low as 0.002 MGD or as high as 0.5 MGD (EPA 2000).

This runoff has caused erosion and silt flows into Whalers Cove impacting ocean water clarity. Runoff from the Whalers Cove parking lot is conveyed down the boat ramp and into the ocean contributing sediment and pollutants to the ASBS. The south shore unpaved parking lots also contribute sediment to the ASBS as noted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB has identified these areas as point sources in need of pre-treatment prior to being discharged to the ASBS.

Soils in Hatton Canyon have high erosion potential that likely contribute sediment runoff to the seasonal creek. The existing unpaved service road within Hatton Canyon also causes water quality issues including sedimentation. The ephemeral creek can inundate the sewer manholes in the canyon, resulting in sewer spills into the creek.

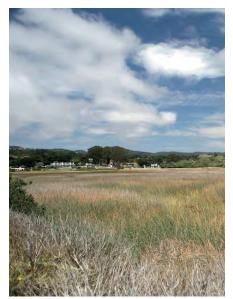
Following the Soberanes fire in 2016, high levels of sedimentation have been observed in San Jose Creek. A few bank erosion sites, roads, and road crossings contribute to the fine sediment in the creek. Siltation of San Jose Creek has increased since the Soberanes fire which exposed soils within the watershed.

Groundwater within Point Lobos Ranch is primarily within the San Jose Creek aquifer. Saltwater intrusion is occasionally a problem for groundwater in this area. Salt water has been found in wells when dug to certain depths.

Maintaining and improving water quality in all CASP units is an ongoing consideration. Opportunities also exist for enhancing water quality by reducing sedimentation through improved trail and road design.

## Water Supply

It has been determined that the Carmel River groundwater basin is in an overdraft condition, leading to reduced river levels. Water is in short supply in the Monterey Peninsula area. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) expects a water supply gap of up to 7,000-acre feet per year by 2021. Although MPWMD, CalAm, and other agencies are working on projects to increase water supply, it is expected that water supply constraints will be an ongoing issue in the community, including for CASP water needs, for the foreseeable future. CSP has been informed that no new water supplies are available for additional development. To provide an ongoing water supply for existing and new uses, CSP must become more efficient in how its existing water allocation will be used. Water efficiency and conservation guidelines for all units and all future park uses are an ongoing need.



Carmel River marsh at the State Beach



Hudson House on the northern portion of the Reserve

Aquatic and riparian habitats have been severely affected by the past diversions from the Carmel River and ongoing groundwater overdraft. There have been efforts to maintain the riparian vegetation along the river through irrigation in dry months and to prevent south-central California coast steelhead deaths by fish relocations. Significant opportunities exist for CSP to continue working with CalAm and MPWMD to manage the habitat needs within those portions of the Carmel River watershed that are in their jurisdiction and also continue as a partner in larger scale watershed planning efforts, as appropriate.

## 3.2.3 Circulation, Access, and Parking

Parkwide issues related to circulation, parking, and pedestrian access include vehicle access, parking adequacy, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and universal access. Currently, the vast majority of visitors rely on personal autos as the primary transportation mode to reach the Reserve and State Beach. SR I can become congested during periods of substantial visitation to the Monterey area.

#### Park Unit Access

Public access to the CASP units raises a number of issues, with long-established, well-developed circulation, parking, and pedestrian facilities serving the Reserve and State Beach, and the need to develop new facilities on acquired but not yet opened property (i.e., Point Lobos Ranch). Public access decisions are influenced by CSP's mission to provide both high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities and protection of the most valuable natural and cultural resources, as well as to meet the California Coastal Act requirement for maximum public access to the coastal zone (California Coastal Act, PRC Section 30210).

Public access to the Reserve is directly from SR I, by turning onto Point Lobos Road. There is also a private entrance to the Reserve that provides access to the Hudson House (currently used as a park staff residence). The primary access issue for the Reserve is that more visitors arrive than can be accommodated with the available onsite Reserve parking. This leads to extensive parking along SR I outside the Reserve for walk-in visitors and visitors who want to park outside the Reserve to avoid the day use parking fee, traffic backing up onto SR I from the main access road, congestion along the highway corridor, and potential pedestrian safety issues.

The State Beach can be accessed from the parking lot on Scenic Road, a small parking lot adjacent to Bay School, and at Monastery Beach off SR I. There are also walk-in access points adjacent to

the Bay School, via a driveway at Odello Farm, and via the service road/trail. CAWD, City of Carmel, BSLT, and CSP have also explored the potential for installing a foot bridge across the Carmel River near the northeast corner of the CAWD plant to facilitate public access from the City of Carmel to the State Beach and the Odello West field. This river crossing trail could be included in a coastal access trail alignment.

While the Point Lobos Ranch property is not open for public access, intersections exist with SR I at existing roadways. San Jose Creek Canyon Road provides access to the northern portion of Point Lobos Ranch. Red Wolf Drive and Riley Ranch Road provide access to the upper elevations. Homeowners on Red Wolf Drive have voiced concern about public access to Point Lobos Ranch that would allow visitor use of Riley Ranch Road and Red Wolf Drive due to concerns about loss of privacy, trespass, access, and heightened fire danger associated with public use.

Hatton Canyon can be accessed by pedestrians at the south and north ends, as well as from neighboring properties. There is a paved bike path in the southern portion of the property, accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists from SR I, Carmel Valley Road, and the adjacent shopping centers. Residential neighbors have opposed increasing public access to the northern end of the property due to concerns about loss of privacy and potential fire hazards associated with public use.

CSP has created parking facilities and trails that are accessible according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) primarily in the Reserve, plus three visitor parking spaces at the State Beach parking lot off Scenic Road. There is potential to continue to improve ADA access where visitor facilities are developed on Point Lobos Ranch and at the Odello Farm area in the State Beach.

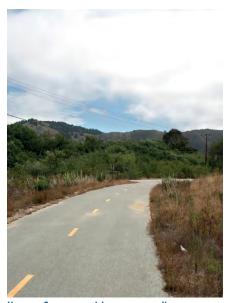
### Parking Locations in the Units

Adequate, safe, and well-located parking has been an ongoing management issue for the Reserve and the Monastery Beach area. The location of some parking areas contributes to increased degradation of natural and cultural resources, such as unpaved parking areas in the Reserve. Other parking areas, such as the State Beach parking lot off Scenic Road, has already been subject to inundation and erosion.

The Reserve contains approximately 150 public parking spaces for visitors in several parking areas (plus additional accessible parking and staff parking). Some of the parking near coastal bluffs is on unpaved surfaces or is close to sensitive cultural resource sites



CAWD force main crossing the Carmel River lagoon



Hatton Canyon multi-purpose trail



Parking along SR I at Monastery Beach



Carmel River Beach parking lot off Scenic Road

and native vegetation. There are plans to reconfigure some of the existing parking areas at the Reserve to increase parking efficiency and reduce negative resource impacts (i.e., at all unpaved parking areas located along the south shore of the Reserve). Recognizing the need to reduce visitor-caused degradation of natural and cultural resources, the relocation and/or removal of parking from the Reserve is an important consideration of the General Plan, in conjunction with other strategies for visitor use management, such as a reservation system, regional transportation center, and guided tours.

The State Beach has a parking lot off of Scenic Road that is used by visitors for access to the beach and Carmel River lagoon. This parking lot was severely damaged by river breaching activities in 2011, which resulted in the parking lot losing parking spaces. The parking lot at Scenic Road is still threatened by increased erosion and vulnerable to flooding and blowing sand, as well as to future sea level rise. General Plan issues for this area include whether it is feasible to maintain this parking area in the long-term and how to best provide public access to this section of the State Beach.

Additional parking for the State Beach also occurs along SR I at Monastery Beach. The approved 1987 General Plan Amendment included plans for two additional parking areas at the State Beach: a 75-space parking lot on the 36-acre area north of the Bay School and a 10-space parking lot near the southern portion of Monastery Beach. Neither of these parking lots were built due to a lack of funding, concern over development in these areas, and a desire by local residents to retain the areas in open space.

Visitor demand exceeding the parking capacity within the Reserve and at the State Beach has resulted in many visitors parking on the shoulders of SR I and walking into the park units. Hundreds of cars can be found parking within the highway right-of-way shoulders on busy days. Existing shoulder space within the right-of-way of SR I near the Reserve can support approximately 325 cars. Pedestrians walking along the highway shoulders have caused increased concern for pedestrian safety, because visitors try to cross SR I, which has a 55-mph speed limit and no pedestrian facilities in this area. Parking along SR I has also resulted in park visitors shortcutting through the Reserve's perimeter fence resulting in resource degradation.

High visitor demand for parking is region-wide. Palo Corona Regional Park has very little parking. MPRPD has used Palo Corona Regional Park's 13 vehicle parking spaces to limit public visitation until a master plan is completed. A 58-space parking lot was recently constructed within Palo Corona Regional Park; however,

with existing traffic conditions along SR I, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is requiring a southbound left-turn lane improvement and roadway widening at the intersection before public access to the parking lot is allowed. These improvements are to occur as part of the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE Project) causeway bridge and floodplain improvements, a two-year, \$25-million project that is anticipated to begin construction in 2020. Public vehicular access to Palo Corona Regional Park will be restricted from using the parking lot until these roadway improvements are completed (MPRPD 2017). MPRPD has expressed a desire to coordinate with CSP to provide visitor parking for the parks on a regional level.

## **Potential Transportation Solutions**

The addition of Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon to the CASP units provides opportunities to address current vehicular access, congestion, and parking problems and, in doing so, enhance visitors' experiences. A reservation system can be a primary management tool to address parking and degradation from visitor overuse in the Reserve. Implementing a reservation system for the Reserve will accomplish multiple objectives by managing daily visitation rates to sustainable levels to avoid or minimize resource degradation and will establish a formal Reserve entry system that does not depend on eliminating SR I parking and which can be augmented by a regional transportation center parking and shuttle system. Muir Woods National Monument implemented a parking and shuttle reservation system beginning in January 2018 to better manage visitor demand and improve visitor experience and congestion. Initial monitoring of the reservation system has shown many benefits, including decreased congestion and vehicle queuing at the park entrance, managed steady visitor levels throughout the day, and increased park/visitor experience (Golub, pers. comm., 2018).

In addition, visitor parking for the Reserve may be provided in Point Lobos Ranch. However, care in siting facilities is important because Point Lobos Ranch contains significant cultural and natural resources that could place limitations on development or visitor use. Areas near the A.M. Allan Ranch historic complex are examples of potentially suitable land for limited amounts of parking that may be developed in coordination with reduction or removal of parking from the Reserve.

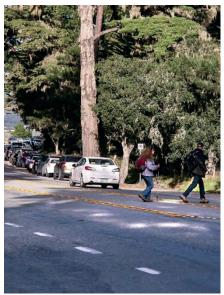
The Lower Hatton Canyon area has potential to serve as a site for a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies and organizations. If CSP were to provide land for this center, transit and/or shuttle



SR I illustrating the absence of pedestrian facilities



Cyclists riding on SR I near Point Lobos Ranch



Visitors to the Reserve park on both shoulders of SR I and often cross the highway on foot

Known as "sleeper," "sneaker," or "king" waves, the sleeper wave is a large coastal wave that may appear in a wave train without warning.

operations could link to multiple park units in the region, including CASP units, and provide important alternative travel modes. Shuttles could be based here as part of a regional transportation hub with routes to the various regional and state park units, as well as to other local destination points of interest. Shuttles could be included in a future reservation system aimed at managing peak visitor use, including high season, holidays, and weekends.

### Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation

SR I is the primary highway in the vicinity of all four CASP units and the backbone of regional circulation. Pedestrian and bicycle circulation between park units is an important planning issue. All park units can be accessed via non-motorized and public transportation. SR I is classified as a Caltrans Class III Bikeway (Bike Route), which provides for shared use with pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic. This designation allows visitors direct access to all four of the CASP units by bicycle.

The most commonly mentioned issue for both pedestrian and bicyclist safety is the interaction with motorized traffic along SR I. Because of the parking issues previously discussed, pedestrians often walk along or cross the busy highway. There is potential for additional connectivity and improved pedestrian and bicycle transportation opportunities between the park units.

## 3.2.4 Public Safety

Parkwide public safety issues within the CASP units primarily include visitor safety (i.e., aquatic, beach, and bluff hazards and pedestrians along SR I) and wildfire danger.

## **Visitor Safety**

Hazards related to aquatic recreation and trails along coastal bluffs are an ongoing issue. The shoreline of the State Beach and the Reserve can be hazardous. Monastery Beach (part of the State Beach) is known for its steep beach leading to an off-shore underwater canyon. Rip currents, combined with occasional "sleeper waves," have caused injuries and deaths. From 2000 to 2017, there have been seven fatalities at Monastery Beach or Carmel River Beach. CSP has posted warning signs at Monastery Beach, but visitors continue to use this beach for swimming. Monastery Beach is a popular destination, as the beach and parking access are very visible to people traveling on SR 1. CSP has implemented various actions to improve aquatic safety through visitor education, posted signage, and patrols by lifeguards and rangers.

For visitors who park their cars on the shoulder of SR I to access the Reserve or coastline of the State Beach, pedestrian risks can arise from crossing the busy highway on foot. Visitors park their vehicles on the road shoulders which are within the Caltrans SR I right-of-way, and are outside the authority of CSP. Visitors often walk along SR I and cross the travel lanes of this state highway at multiple locations.

#### Wildfire

Like many places in California, Monterey County experiences wildfires. Historically, fires burned regularly through the Reserve and surrounding area. More recently, natural fires have been prevented, leading to a buildup of fuels. Major regional wildfires have occurred recently near the parks, including the 2016 Soberanes Fire, which ignited in Garrapata State Park and touched the easternmost section of Point Lobos Ranch. Residents in the Carmel Knolls community adjacent to Hatton Canyon and along Red Wolf Drive adjacent to Point Lobos Ranch have expressed concerns that public access to these properties could increase fire danger. Wildfire risk is predicted to worsen with climate change.

CSP, in coordination with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), is currently working to reduce fuels along the SR I corridor between the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch. Another fuel-reduction project is the ongoing stand density reduction of the pine forest at the Reserve.

Evaluating fire hazards and coordinating with CAL FIRE and local fire agencies to address fire hazards with appropriate management techniques, including updating and finalizing wildfire management plans for all of the CASP units, is ongoing and critical. The potential for wildfire to adversely affect cultural resources, including historic structures, also exists at three of the four CASP units.

### 3.2.5 Visitor Facilities

Visitor facilities within the Reserve include trails, benches, picnic areas/tables, an information station, a diver access ramp at Whalers Cove, stairs for beach access, restrooms, and interpretive displays. Visitor facilities within the State Beach include interpretive signs, restrooms at Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach, and the service road/unpaved trail providing beach access. Within Upper Hatton Canyon, there is an unpaved service road/trail and there is a paved multi-purpose trail in the southern portion of the property. There are special event areas near the Barnyard Shopping Center and on Marathon Flats in the southernmost portion of Hatton Canyon. There are no visitor facilities within Point Lobos Ranch, because the site is not open to public access, although it is informally used by neighbors.



Open space on Point Lobos Ranch

The Soberanes Fire, burning over 132,000 acres for three months from July to October 2016 in the coast range, reached the eastern edge of Point Lobos Ranch and became an expensive wildfire fight at over \$200 million.



View of Carmel Meadows neighborhood homes from the State Beach

A key planning issue is the degree to which visitor facilities that may increase demand should be added. Because of the sensitivity of natural and cultural resources in many locations (including preserves for both natural and cultural resources) and the existing traffic congestion in the SR I corridor, local input has raised concern about the need to avoid adding facilities that would increase visitation or increase traffic, such as a major visitor center. However, during the past several years, there have also been a wide range of suggestions from the public for new or improved facilities to serve visitors at CASP units, notwithstanding the competing input about avoiding new visitor-attracting facilities. The park units will be assessed with regard to providing high quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the people of California while also protecting the area's unique resources.

Some residents in surrounding neighborhoods have opposed development of new facilities near their homes. Some Carmel Highlands residents opposed improvements that may result in increased use at the Reserve. Residents of the Carmel Meadows subdivision, adjacent to the State Beach, have voiced opposition to developing any park visitor facilities at the Odello Farm complex. Residents along Red Wolf Drive and Riley Ranch Road have objected to visitor access and facilities in Point Lobos Ranch near their homes and residents of Hatton Canyon have expressed concerns about extending the paved multi-purpose trail to the top of the canyon. Local residents do not want to see these areas developed in a manner that will result in increased public use, increased noise, potential for increased trespass issues, and loss of solitude and sense of place.

The General Plan team will review facility constraints and opportunities and the General Plan will provide guidance about what facilities will be planned on each property and which existing facilities could be adapted to provide for the desired uses.

## 3.2.6 Recreation Opportunities

Both the Reserve and the State Beach allow for various types of outdoor recreation, such as sightseeing, walking/hiking, photography, sunbathing, sunset viewing, painting, nature appreciation, bird watching, picnicking, swimming, beachcombing, surf fishing, and whale watching. Bicycling is only allowed on paved roads within the Reserve. Snorkeling, kayaking, scuba diving, and paddle boarding are available in the Underwater Park at the Reserve by reservation. Both the Reserve and the State Beach are limited to day use only.

Some uses are not allowed in the Reserve because of the potential to damage sensitive resources. State Natural Reserves consist of areas with outstanding natural or scenic characteristics and, because of this, the law restricts manipulating resources to the "minimum required to negate the deleterious influence of man" (PRC Section 5019.65 [a]) in State Natural Reserves.

Recreation uses are not allowed if they would damage natural or cultural resources. Opportunities exist to consider new types of recreation, however, while preventing damage to sensitive resources and remaining consistent with the unit classification and desired visitor experience. One potential recreation opportunity is to provide wi-fi in the Reserve and use that wi-fi as part of interpretive tours.

Public outdoor recreation activities are not currently allowed at Point Lobos Ranch, because it has not yet been opened for public access.

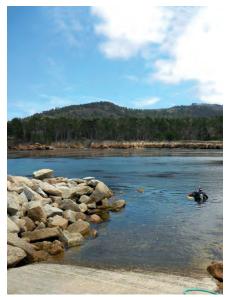
MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park includes land adjacent to the San Jose Creek area of Point Lobos Ranch. MPRPD is preparing the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan and has evaluated camping and other recreational uses on this portion of their property, assuming that access and parking is made available through Point Lobos Ranch, along the San Jose Creek Canyon Road easement. When Point Lobos Ranch is available for public use, it is anticipated that trails will connect CSP land to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park.

Hatton Canyon is currently used for walking and bird watching along the utility service road/trail in the upper portion, as well as for biking, walking, and special events on the lower portion of the property.

There are numerous opportunities to coordinate proposed recreational uses with other open space agencies and organizations, like MPRPD and the BSLT, who own and/or manage park or open space properties near or immediately adjacent to the CASP units.

## 3.2.7 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation is essential to allow visitors to interact with and learn about the park units. The issues and opportunities for interpretation and education are important to help visitors learn about the richness of the natural and cultural resources and scenic beauty of the park units and understand how to be better stewards of those resources when using the parks. Visitors can be



Diver access ramp at the Reserve's Whalers Cove



Picnic area within the Reserve

better informed and understand the resources, rules, safety issues and hazards, and be inspired by the messages about resource qualities so they can help to preserve and protect sensitive resources and have a safe and enjoyable experience.

The parks are also visited by local school groups to explore the natural and cultural heritage. The parks can provide excellent opportunities to expand the educational programs for students of all ages, including college level and beyond.

The 1979 General Plan provided guidance for interpretive themes for the Reserve and the State Beach and many of these themes are currently used. With the two additional properties considered in this general planning effort, there are opportunities for more comprehensive and integrated interpretation and education.

The use of digital information delivery and social media technology improves the ability to communicate interpretive stories. To take full advantage, the mix of interpretive opportunities should rely on use of the latest communication and presentation technologies. A significant percentage of people, particularly younger generations, prefer to gather information through digital audio or audio-visual means. Internet sources provide information. GPS helps find places. Mobile applications (apps) both gather and convey information at specific sites and offer interactive opportunities. Staying connected with others online occurs through Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, texting, and many other internet sites and resources. These communication channels can be used effectively in the park units for staying connected with some target audiences, and consequently, being able to reach people quickly to publicize events, such as conservation-related work projects, and to keep people up to date on park events.

Social media can be very effective and it requires a significant amount of staff and/or volunteer time to keep content fresh and to interact with users. There are many opportunities to use new and evolving technology and social media to supplement brochures, signage, and static exhibits. In some areas new technologies can replace current signage and exhibits, thus reducing visual intrusion and associated needs for maintenance, while increasing the likelihood of engaging younger audiences.

## 3.2.8 Maintenance and Renovation Needs

The Reserve has been public property since 1933. The State Beach was acquired in 1953. Utilities, buildings, and various facilities and underlying park infrastructure were built decades ago with much in need of repair, renovation, or replacement. Utilities in the Reserve were not designed to support modern demands. The existing entrance station has a phone line and electricity, but no restroom to accommodate the park staff who must leave the facility to use the public restroom nearby. Restrooms have had several ongoing maintenance issues because of the age of the sewer system. Some public locations within the Reserve do not have electricity. The parking lot surfaces near the Information Station have been damaged by tree roots making for rough pavement. There is also minor flooding where trails are not appropriately graded and several roads and trail sections need maintenance. Maintenance and facility renovation issues include better maintenance of the trails, such as vegetation and erosion control; enhancement of the Reserve's Information Station; adding phone service to Rat Hill; and renovation of maintenance and storage areas.

The parking area and restroom at the State Beach along Scenic Road have been damaged because of erosion. Stairs to the State Beach from the Carmel Meadows subdivision are in need of repair. The State Beach contains the Odello Farm complex, a group of historic buildings that should be assessed for potential adaptive reuse. However, the buildings are in an extremely dilapidated condition and have been subject to interim stabilization until decisions are made on their disposition. The structures are historic resources, which must be addressed during planning and potential reuse evaluations.

Point Lobos Ranch has several existing buildings and barns. Some buildings are currently being renovated for use as staff housing, while others are in need of repair and upgrades if they were to be used for official park use. Many of the buildings are historic resources, which has implications for future rehabilitation and use.

Except for the paved multi-purpose trail and unpaved service road/trail, there are no existing facilities within Hatton Canyon. The service road is used for sewer line access by CAWD. The unpaved service road/trail through Upper Hatton Canyon is in need of redesign because it acts as the drainage in many areas and erodes considerably when there is significant rainfall. The multi-purpose trail at the south end of the unit is in good condition and there are no specific renovation needs at this time.



Existing buildings on Point Lobos Ranch



Storage and maintenance facilities at the Reserve

## 3.2.9 Partnerships and Regional Integration

### **Partnerships**

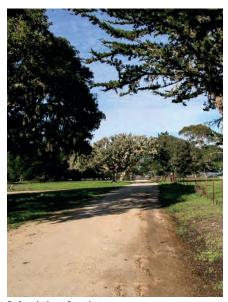
Many organizations and agencies have interests in the CASP units and their protection and/or use and have established partnerships with CSP. Partners include nonprofit organizations like the PLF, Carmel River Steelhead Association, and BSLT; educational organizations such as local school districts and California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB); park and open space agencies like the MPRPD; transportation agencies like Caltrans, Monterey-Salinas Transit, and Transportation Agency for Monterey County; resource agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, CDFW, and others.

One of the potential partnership opportunities relates to the coordinated use and management of federal, regional, state, and local parks and open space areas, including other state parks, the MPRPD regional parks, and the Los Padres National Forest. The MPRPD is preparing a General Development Plan for Palo Corona Regional Park, including trail connections. Attention to potential trail connections, mutually supportive planned uses, and coordinated resource management strategies among these agencies will create substantial benefits for resources and outdoor recreation in the region.

Many agencies and organizations are currently working together in their individual purviews for the Carmel River, the Carmel River lagoon, and its associated resources. The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County leads the Carmel River Watershed Task Force to address issues in the watershed, including water supply, flood control, habitat, and education. CSP should continue to work with the organizations in the task force to coordinate efforts in the watershed. Management of the lagoon will include close coordination with CSP, Monterey County RMA, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Coastal Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. CSP is working with Caltrans, Monterey County, and the California Coastal Commission to plan and build a coastal trail from Hatton Canyon to the Reserve.

Improved partnerships and coordination are needed to define and implement transportation solutions for the existing and expected future congestion in the community and the current reliance on personal autos to access CASP units. Caltrans, Monterey-Salinas Transit, and Monterey County will be key participants in





Point Lobos Ranch

developing multimodal approaches to improve mobility, including transit, shuttles, and a transportation center in the urban community that would help reduce congestion on the region's highways. CSP should also work closely with Caltrans, Monterey County, and elected officials in developing creative solutions to SR I parking.

Other important partnerships involve coordination of resource management actions to meet multiple objectives. CSP is working with CAL FIRE to guide fire fuel reductions to locations that would not damage sensitive natural or cultural resources. CSP and CDFW are working together to manage important marine resources with effective coordination. CDFW has responsibility for marine protected areas that border CSP's marine reserve, while CSP maintains management of the Underwater Park portion of the Reserve.

## **Regional Integration**

Coordinated planning and management can identify recreation needs and desires and expand recreation opportunities by integrating recreation into a regional open space and recreation network, enhancing regional natural resource preservation and management, enhancing regional interpretation, and improving the effectiveness of maintenance, administrative, and visitor services. In addition, CASP units can benefit from improved regional transportation opportunities. The planning and management of the CASP units should consider interagency and regional coordination as key elements.

The CASP units are located near Garrapata State Park, BSLT lands, MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park, Santa Lucia Preserve, Jacks Peak Park, and other local parks and open space. The proximity of these properties and the similarity of natural, cultural, and recreational resources provide opportunities to manage these lands in a coordinated and integrated way. Coordination among the region's open space and park agencies as well as with adjacent private property owners can strengthen natural and cultural resource protection, enhance park operations, improve recreational and educational opportunities, and protect private property interests.

A regional planning effort has been initiated that aims to create an unbroken chain of public access parks and open space between the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur. In 2013, the BSLT, CSP, MPRPD, and the PLF initiated a partnership effort known as the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project to support the creation and implementation of a collaborative, long-term vision for the



Source: Walkifornia (BLOG) 2/5/12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEa7FmdlMmg Palo Corona Regional Park



Many visitors walk into the Reserve after parking on SR I

See Planning Process in Chapter I for a summary of the process used throughout General Plan development to receive public and stakeholder input.

collective landscape of state and local parklands and open space in the region, from Carmel south to Garrapata State Park. In 2014, the four organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize their collaboration.

This collaborative planning effort is looking to create a significant recreation and open space experience, foster an effective wildlife corridor, and enhance management opportunities by linking the Palo Corona lands with the BSLT and CSP adjoining park and open space lands. The Lobos-Corona Parklands Project partners are working together to develop a model partnership that will result in improved coordination and enhanced land management practices, trail planning and networks, regional transportation opportunities, public access and safety, and visitor educational and recreational experiences that will serve the community and the land.

## Relationships with Neighbors

Several residential neighborhoods are located near or adjacent to the Reserve, State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon. CSP seeks to maintain open communications with neighbors to address concerns that arise. Concerns raised by neighbors are addressed in the General Plan. CSP concerns involving neighbors also exist, such as perceived privatization of public lands by neighbors who may encroach onto CSP-owned land with private landscaping and/or other site improvements.

## 3.2.10 Communication and Public/ Stakeholder Involvement

The Carmel area contains many informed and involved residents, organizations, agencies, and Native American tribes with interest in the CASP units. In addition, there are many visitors who live outside the region, and even outside the country. Ongoing communication with all interested parties, including neighbors, stakeholders, other agencies, Native American tribes, and the general public is key to the planning process. Multiple public and stakeholder meetings have been held at key planning milestones. District staff have met with residents of adjacent neighborhoods, organizations, tribes, and agencies during the planning process, in addition to the noticed public meetings.

## 3.2.11 Financial Sustainability

To sustain and improve park operations, reliable and adequate funding is necessary. Numerous suggestions have been offered about how the park units could financially contribute to their own operations; however, many ideas have been controversial. There is some controversy regarding whether CSP should establish more concessions, restrict concessions, take advantage of leasable facilities and property, provide revenue-producing recreational activities, or rely on user or parking fees.

The Reserve experiences substantial visitation by walk-in visitors. A day use fee for walk-in visitors is a topic for consideration in the General Plan. The issue is complex and community input has been mixed. The opportunity exists to link a primary need for better management of walk-in visitors to improve resource protection with a secondary benefit of day use fee revenues.

An important component to past, present, and likely future funding for the Reserve is the PLF, which has raised and provided funds for multiple projects at the Reserve. The PLF, a nonprofit organization dedicated to "enhance the public's awareness and enjoyment of the unique qualities of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, and to assist California State Parks in preserving the Reserve" (Point Lobos Foundation 2017), is a key partner at the Reserve.



Because the CASP General Plan addresses four existing park units (two classified units and two unclassified properties), many of the parkwide issues described above have area-specific implications. In addition to the parkwide issues, several area-specific issues are a highlighted.

## 3.3.1 Visitor-Caused Resource Degradation at the Reserve

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is iconic as a coastal landscape, with an internationally renowned reputation for its scenic beauty, marine and coastal ecosystems, and rich cultural history and prehistory. This beauty and richness of the Reserve's resources and its easy accessibility have resulted in a strong attraction as a visitor destination, substantially elevating its popularity. Because of the popularity of the Reserve, the visitation has exceeded facility capacity on a regular basis and the high level of visitor use has resulted in degradation of natural and cultural resources. Concern has been expressed by park staff and the public about "loving the



Marine mammals and birds at the Reserve

Reserve to death." Degradation includes erosion on slopes, trail incision and widening, vegetation trampling and loss, soil loss and conveyance of sediment into nearby marine waters, damage to cultural resources, and disturbance of marine and terrestrial wildlife. A key need is to reduce the overuse of the Reserve's sensitive resource areas by visitors, which has resulted in substantial degradation. This issue is a key driver of goals and guidelines for the Reserve.

In light of rising visitation rates, there is a need to minimize off-trail use and resource impacts consistent with the classification of the Reserve as a State Natural Reserve. A strategy discussed in the Park Plan is to employ CSP's reservation system to better manage visitation to reduce overuse impacts to sensitive resources. Another strategy is the increased use of guided tours.

## 3.3.2 Traffic Congestion and Access to the Reserve

SR I in the Carmel area is a popular highway for tourists and a key community travel and commuter route for local residents. It is part of the Pacific Coast Highway, a 650-mile, north-south route that runs along most of the Pacific coastline. Access to the Reserve is currently dominated by visitor use of personal autos. This popularity and predominance of auto travel results in traffic challenges for park users and managers of all the CASP units, but most urgently at the Reserve. The popularity of the Reserve has resulted in lines of cars extending out from the Reserve entrance onto SR I on weekends, holidays, and during the busy summer vacation season. There is a dedicated left-hand turning lane for vehicles entering the Reserve from northbound SR I but no dedicated right-hand turn lane for those traveling southbound. In addition, visitors park their vehicles along the shoulders of SR I and walk into the Reserve. This adds to the traffic congestion and creates safety hazards because of visitors walking along or across the highway where there are no pedestrian facilities. Drivers on this popular route may not be aware that traffic is stopped near the entrance of the Reserve or by on-highway parking and pedestrian activity. Slow-moving or stopped cars substantially interfere with the flow of traffic on SR I.

The SR I right-of-way, where visitors park vehicles on highway shoulders, is owned and managed by Caltrans and is not under CSP control. CSP supports the elimination of on-highway parking near the Reserve, because it contributes substantial numbers of walk-in visitors who contribute to overuse problems, is not safe, allows visitors to avoid paying fees, makes it difficult to control



Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

visitor numbers, and creates a potential human health and safety issue. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors recently voted for a resolution proposing the removal of parking along SR I near the Reserve for safety purposes. CSP will continue cooperating with regional partners to help respond to traffic congestion issues near the park units and along SR I. Resolution of traffic, transit, and access issues at the Reserve will require extensive cooperation among CSP, transportation agency officials in the region, Monterey County, local political representatives, and the California Coastal Commission.

## 3.3.3 Carmel River and Lagoon Flooding

Flooding has been a long-standing concern for the low-lying neighborhoods surrounding the Carmel River lagoon. Most of the State Beach and some surrounding neighborhoods lie within the 100-year floodplain of the river and have experienced extensive and repeated flooding. Levees have been added along the river to address flood protection; however, neighbors directly adjacent to the Carmel River and next to the State Beach do not have physical flood-levee protection. The 1996 amendment to the 1979 General Plan changed the designation of the Odello West field in the State Beach from agriculture to riparian and wetland habitat to facilitate wetland and riparian habitat restoration and support this area as an active floodway for the Carmel River. Subsequent projects were undertaken to achieve this goal, including the 2004 Carmel River Lagoon Enhancement Project, which converted approximately 98 acres of fallow agricultural land at Odello West to lagoon, wetland, and riparian habitats.

Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is the lead CEQA agency on the Carmel River FREE Project and is a cosponsor of the project with BSLT. The County is the project sponsor of the causeway component in a cooperative agreement with Caltrans. USFWS is the NEPA lead agency, and also has a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the federal environmental review of the project within the highway right-ofway. Because this project affects CSP lands, CSP has been an active partner for many years. The project consists of two interdependent components: floodplain restoration and SR I causeway over the river. The floodplain restoration consists removing earthen levees on the south side of the Carmel River channel upstream of SR I, grading existing farmland above the 100-year floodplain elevation to create an agricultural preserve, grading on approximately 100 acres to restore the site's ecological function as a floodplain, and implementing a restoration



Source: David Royal, Monterey County Herald 6/13/2016

Routine sandbar breaching activities at the State Beach



Visitors enjoying the Carmel River lagoon

management plan. The causeway project consists of replacing a portion of the SR I roadway embankment with a pile-supported causeway section to accommodate flood flows underneath it. The causeway project is in design development and undergoing environmental review. The Carmel River FREE Project would result in the reconnection and restoration of approximately 100 acres of historic floodplain.

The Monterey County RMA uses heavy equipment during regular, seasonal sandbar breaching activities to prevent flooding of adjacent neighborhoods. Mechanical sandbar management to prevent flooding results in impacts to resources around the lagoon. One of the routes for this heavy equipment to the mouth of the Carmel River used to include dirt roads that traversed through the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve which has been designated along the rocky headlands located immediately north of Monastery Beach in the State Beach. Previous heavy equipment use within the cultural preserve resulted in resource damage. Monterey County currently accesses the beach at the Carmel River State Beach parking lot on Scenic Road, avoiding use of the cultural preserve.

A number of residences in the neighborhood north of the lagoon have been constructed in the floodplain (with the approval of Monterey County), making the residential structures vulnerable to flooding. South-central California coast steelhead, listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, use the lagoon, and NOAA Fisheries has concerns about this sensitive fish habitat. Under pressure from NOAA NMFS, the Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, CDFW, California Coastal Commission, and local special interests to address these issues, the Monterey County RMA has proposed a plan to address the natural floodplain function and habitat improvement for federally listed species associated with the lagoon (south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and snowy plover) by allowing the lagoon to breach more naturally, thereby decreasing the flood and erosion risk to private structures. Flood protection would be provided by a proposed flood protection wall, also called the "Ecosystem Protective Barrier" (EPB). However, the EPB is proposed to be located on CSP property within the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. Also included in the proposal are a Scenic Road Protection Structure (consisting of 900 linear feet of rip-rap boulders placed in the Carmel River Beach) and an Interim Sandbar Management Plan.

CSP has expressed its opposition to the Ecosystem Protective Barrier and to the Scenic Road Protection Structure, based on conflicts with state law, the public trust, and the State Constitution. The county's plan has been undergoing regulatory and environmental review, including a 2014 biological assessment for the Endangered Species Act and a draft environmental impact report released for public review in 2016-2017.

Continued consideration of the constraints of flooding along the Carmel River and in and around the lagoon will be important in the General Plan.

## 3.3.4 Opening the Point Lobos Ranch Property

Acquisition of the Point Lobos Ranch Property preserved and protected a scenic, naturally sensitive, and culturally important landscape, including high-elevation vistas offering spectacular views of Carmel Bay and the coastline. The land supports one of the world's largest native Monterey pine forests, globally significant populations of the rare Gowen cypress, and other rare maritime chaparral plants. The property and surrounding public lands provide mountain lion habitat, and San Jose Creek supports habitat for the California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead. The property also contains important Native American archaeological sites, including a major Rumsen village site, and an historic ranch complex.

Currently, the property supports CSP staff housing and a few operational and maintenance facilities, but it has not yet been opened for public use. Opening the property presents an opportunity to help redistribute visitor use from other units where resource degradation from overuse has occurred; however, it must be carried out in a manner that protects Point Lobos Ranch's resources. Point Lobos Ranch can support the improved management and resource protection at the Reserve by accommodating a limited amount of new parking for Reserve visitors in coordination with removal of parking spaces there. The General Plan addresses the approach for use of Point Lobos Ranch in ways that protect its sensitive resources and takes advantage of new trail and day use opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

The planning alternatives help CSP consider options for use and management of the units and properties and present choices to the public during the planning process leading to development of the Preliminary General Plan.

## 3.4 Planning Alternatives

During the course of General Plan preparation, CSP considered alternative concepts for management, visitor access and uses, park facilities, and classification of the units and properties. CSP has maintained open communication with the surrounding Carmel community, has involved stakeholders for many years, and has been committed to substantial public outreach and involvement during the course of General Plan preparation. Development and review of planning alternatives have been key steps in gathering community input, understanding community and stakeholder concerns, and defining a preferred plan.

Two planning alternative concepts were initially developed with parkwide and area-specific issues in mind, along with public, agency, and stakeholder input received in the beginning stages of the planning process. The alternative concepts offered features and facilities that highlighted a range of visitor opportunities in each unit. These alternative concepts were presented to the public and provided opportunities for further public input and feedback before the final preferred alternative was developed.

Public input focused on natural and cultural resource protection and traffic congestion as two key topics of interest.

The draft preferred alternative responded to this public input by reducing the size or amount of new visitor facilities, including multimodal transportation options intended to reduce traffic congestion, and proposing a visitor reservation system to efficiently manage visitor use and optimize resource protection. The preferred alternative represents the Park Plan contained in this document and described in detail in Chapter 4.





Chapter 4
PARK PLAN

### 4 PARK PLAN

The Park Plan describes the purpose and long-range vision for the Carmel Area State Parks (CASP) and the proposed goals and supporting guidelines that outline how to achieve that purpose and vision. To the extent that subsequent, more detailed evaluation or site-specific planning is needed to develop facility or management solutions, a guideline may include direction to prepare a feasibility study or management plan.

Goals and guidelines respond to known planning issues and provide the foundation for resource protection, enhancement, and restoration; facility development; high-quality visitor experiences; effective and efficient operations and maintenance; and inspirational interpretation within the CASP units. The General Plan also considers and emphasizes partnerships, where appropriate, with other agencies and organizations to develop the most effective and coordinated approaches for relevant management needs outside California State Parks (CSP) jurisdiction that may affect CASP units, such as infrastructure improvements, multi-agency operational issues (e.g., transportation), visitor use management within the array of regional public lands, coordinated education and interpretation programs, and natural and cultural resource management integrated with surrounding regional parks, public open space, and national forests. While goals and guidelines in the General Plan focus on the facilities and resources under the authority of CSP, collaboration with Monterey County, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Coastal Commission, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), U.S. Forest Service, Point Lobos Foundation (PLF), Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), Monterey-Salinas Transit, Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD), City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and other agencies and organizations will continue to be important to the implementation of goals and guidelines that address mutual interests.

4.1 Classification

Park management and facility planning are guided by the park unit's classification. The State Park and Recreation Commission establishes park unit classifications, consistent with the California Public Resources Code (PRC). The State Park System is organized by a ten-level classification system. Most properties fit into the following six classifications: State Park, State Beach, State Historic Park, State Recreation Area, State Natural Reserve, and State Vehicular Recreation Area. These classifications are described in

The Park Plan presents the purpose, vision, and management guidance for the future of CASP. It describes the proposed new or changed uses and the resource management strategies for each park unit.

State Natural Reserves consist of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity.

State Parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values.

Sections 5019.50 et seq. of Article 1.7 of the PRC. The following discussion presents the recommended classifications and their associated definitions for units within CASP.

#### 4.1.1 State Natural Reserve

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands and Underwater Park west of State Route (SR) I will continue in this classification because the vision and purpose of the unit are specifically to preserve the terrestrial and marine habitats, ecological processes, sensitive species, cultural resources, and exceptional scenic qualities exemplified by the unique land and waterscape of Point Lobos. The State Natural Reserve classification is most well suited to this purpose. Continuing the heritage of this unit as a State Natural Reserve emphasizes CSP's commitment to the long-term sustainable use and management. Under the PRC, the definition of a State Natural Reserve is:

PRC Section 5019.65(a): State natural reserves, consisting of areas selected and managed for the purpose of preserving their native ecological associations, unique faunal or floral characteristics, geological features, and scenic qualities in a condition of undisturbed integrity. Resource manipulation shall be restricted to the minimum required to negate the deleterious influence of man.

Improvements undertaken shall be for the purpose of making the areas available, on a day use basis, for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of their natural features. Living and nonliving resources contained within state natural reserves shall not be disturbed or removed for other than scientific or management purposes.

### 4.1.2 State Park

Carmel River State Beach and the eastern parcel of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will be reclassified and combined with the Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property, which will together become classified as a new State Park.

This General Plan addresses multiple units and properties because of the many resource and visitor use management connections and relationships. There is an opportunity to evaluate park classification and organize the parks to most efficiently and effectively manage resources and visitors according to CSP's mission. Consolidating these units and properties into one State Park will provide more comprehensive and effective protection of

the park's natural and cultural resources and management of the opportunities for diverse recreational use. Benefits of the reclassification and consolidation include:

- Coordinated protection and management of a diverse array of natural and cultural resources through multiple Natural Preserves and Cultural Preserves.
- A clearer understanding by visitors of coastal and inland access and outdoor recreation opportunities through unified information about a consolidated state park. Wayfinding, interpretation, and educational informational will be integrated.
- Opportunity for efficient, visitor-friendly transportation options provided to all areas through an integrated transportation hub concept that offers streamlined revenue collection opportunities and can be implemented in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies.
- A well-coordinated approach to restoration and adaptive use of historic structures.
- Integrated management of resource protection, visitor use, staff assignments, fiscal investments, maintenance and operation.

The State Park classification is pursuant to the definition under the PRC, which states:

PRC Section 5019.53: State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.

Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.



Middle Beach adjacent to the Carmel Meadows neighborhood



China Cove and beach at the Reserve

Natural preserves focus on protection of natural processes, functions, and qualities of a protected area. Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as those improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

State parks may be established in the terrestrial or nonmarine aquatic (lake or stream) environments of the state.

#### **Sub-Unit Classifications**

Within the State Park there are existing and proposed sub-unit areas classified as Natural Preserve and Cultural Preserve, pursuant to PRC definitions.

#### Natural Preserve

Within the State Park, there are three sub-units identified as Natural Preserve, defined per the PRC. Natural preserves focus on protection of the natural processes, functions, and qualities of the protected area. Limited visitor-serving facilities are allowed, typically interpretive elements and/or trails designed to provide access for visitors to appreciate a preserve's natural values.

PRC Section 5019.71: Natural preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other state park system units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.

#### **Cultural Preserve**

Within the State Park there are two sub-units identified as Cultural Preserve, as defined by the PRC. Cultural preserves focus on complete protection of the cultural sites and resources that comprise the tribal or historic values of the preserve. Visitor facilities are restricted to those not affecting the integrity of the preserve's cultural resources.

PRC Section 5019.74: Cultural preserves consist of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements that conflict with that integrity shall be permitted.

Cultural preserves focus on the complete protection of cultural sites and resources that compose the tribal or historic values of the preserve.

## 4.2 Purpose and Vision

The statement of purpose describes a park's broad purpose and significance to California, its key resources and values, and establishes a framework for future management and planning. A statement of purpose for each unit within the State Park System is required by PRC Section 5002.2(b), "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification." The park vision describes the desired future condition, character, uses, and functions of a park after General Plan goals are realized. The vision expresses what each park should ultimately feel and look like, and what kinds of visitor opportunities should be provided. Changes that affect the character of a park may require an update to the park's statement of purpose, vision, and sometimes to its classification to ensure appropriate resource protection, management, and visitor opportunities. The statement of purpose and vision for CASP are as follows.

A park's statement of purpose describes its broad purpose and establishes the framework for future management and planning. The park vision describes the future condition and what each park should ultimately feel and look like after General Plan goals are realized.

# 4.2.1 Carmel Area State Parks Declaration of Purpose and Vision

## Declaration of Purpose

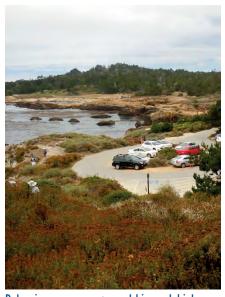
The Declaration of Purpose describes the unique role that CASP will play in meeting the CSP mission. The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of a unit as determined by its prime resource values, opportunities, and relationship to the larger context of the State Park System. The CASP units are intrinsically connected by their natural and human histories and, therefore, the parkwide Declaration of Purpose for CASP covers all of the units to provide a consistent and integrated purpose. An integrated Declaration of Purpose will help coordinate future planning efforts and decision-making, so that they consider the interrelationship of all units together. The proposed parkwide Declaration of Purpose for CASP is as follows:

The purpose of the Carmel Area State Parks is to provide public access to the central coast of California and the recreational opportunities offered by its waters, shoreline, beach, inland areas, and adjacent community setting. With sensitive marine and terrestrial habitats and spectacular scenery, the parks highlight the dramatic convergence of land and sea, which has been an inspiration for artists, poets, photographers, and writers for many years. Subject to high, year-round, visitor demand, preserving the rich natural, scenic, and cultural resources is a delicate balance, achieved through innovative adaptive management strategies.

### Vision for Carmel Area State Parks

The parkwide Vision Statement for CASP presents a narrative of desired future conditions, character, uses, and functions of the parks. Like the parks' integrated purpose, the vision for CASP is comprehensive, addressing all the units. This holistic vision recognizes that visitors see the units as fitting together—marine, coastal, inland, and ridgeline elements of the same central coast landscape. The vision for CASP is as follows:

The vision for the Carmel Area State Parks is to provide a world-class natural environment and outdoor recreational experience on the central California coast for local, regional, national, and international visitors. With the ever-changing forces that modify the complex landscapes and seascapes, the diverse resources, some unique to this area, will be closely monitored to ensure that they are protected. Environmentally sustainable visitor opportunities will be provided that are compatible



Balancing resource stewardship and highquality visitor experience

with the parks' unique ecosystems and resources. The parks will offer high-quality public access and visitor experiences and will preserve resources in an integrated and balanced approach. The parks will be key destinations, playing an important role in providing access to the region's coast and surrounding parks and open space lands.

High-quality recreational opportunities will be varied and focused on interpretation, education, and outdoor enjoyment that deepen visitor experiences and connection to park resources. The rich archaeological resources will be protected and managed, resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the complex and extensive Native American presence in the region. The significance and integration of historic buildings and historic-period archaeological resources will be protected. Select cultural sites and historic structures will be adaptively re-used, in keeping with their significance and integrity, to celebrate the original people and later settlers who lived on this land.

The park experience will inspire people to appreciate, protect, and steward park resources. Park visitation will be managed to protect sensitive resources and enhance the visitor experience. Ecological restoration and cultural preservation will enhance and preserve resource integrity. Transportation strategies will be expanded, and infrastructure will be improved to provide alternatives to personal auto access, reducing vehicular traffic in the parks and helping to preserve natural and cultural resources. Park staffing and facilities will be designed to effectively serve seasonal and annual visitor fluctuations, while emphasizing resource protection.

Managing the parks in a coordinated manner will result in focused, efficient, and integrated implementation of park directives for superior resource protection and the highest-quality visitor experiences.

## 4.2.2 Unit Purpose and Vision

The following presents separate purpose and vision statements for the Reserve and New State Park.

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

A Declaration of Purpose was adopted for the Reserve as part of the 1979 General Plan. In developing the current purpose statement, the themes articulated in the original general plan have been updated to reflect contemporary resource conditions, management needs, and planning issues.



View from Point Lobos Ranch

Naming the new State Park will occur in conjunction with General Plan approval as a separate action by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Existing Park Units/Properties	Proposed Park Units
Point Lobos State	Point Lobos State
Natural Reserve	Natural Reserve
Carmel River State	New State Park –
Beach	Coastal Area
Point Lobos Ranch	New State Park –
Property	Inland Area
Hatton Canyon	New State Park –
Property	Hatton Canyon Area

#### Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for the Reserve is as follows:

The purpose of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is to protect and preserve forever, for public enlightenment, inspiration, and aesthetic enjoyment in environmentally sensitive ways, an area rich with unique natural resources and ecological significance. Its irreplaceable resources include the Monterey cypress-covered headlands, Monterey pine forests, coastal prairies, rocky coastal bluffs and shorelines, tidepools, sandy beaches, and ecologically unique marine habitat, together with the related natural, scenic, and cultural values and the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna.

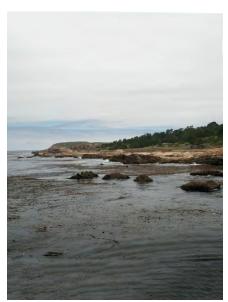
The aquatic and terrestrial resources will be managed as a composite whole, preserving the natural ecosystems in accordance with sound scientific principles; interpreting these globally significant resources for the education, inspiration, and enjoyment of visitors; and providing necessary services and compatible facilities consistent with the restoration and preservation of scenic beauty and natural ecologic resources, processes, functions and values.

#### Vision

The vision for the Reserve is as follows:

The Reserve will display the dramatic convergence of land and ocean where some of California's most unique plant and animal species are seen in their native environs. Trails will provide a variety of high-quality visitor experiences, ranging from the black cormorants nesting at Bird Island, to the bark of sea lions hauled out on Sea Lion Rock, to the shimmering clear waters of tidepools. Trails will connect visitors to historic places, rock outcroppings, and coastal forest, including Monterey pines and one of the most outstanding natural groves of Monterey cypress in the world. Sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and the waves crashing against rugged bluffs will be available to visitors, as well as diverse views of underwater geology and kelp forests rich with marine life, including sea lions, otters, harbor seals, rock fish, and brightly colored anemones, corals, and sea stars.

Beyond the value to visitors, the Reserve's resources are scientifically important, including rare terrestrial and marine plant and animal communities, sensitive archaeological sites, and unique geological formations, and each will be maintained in a state of undisturbed integrity for future generations to enjoy.



The Reserve coastline

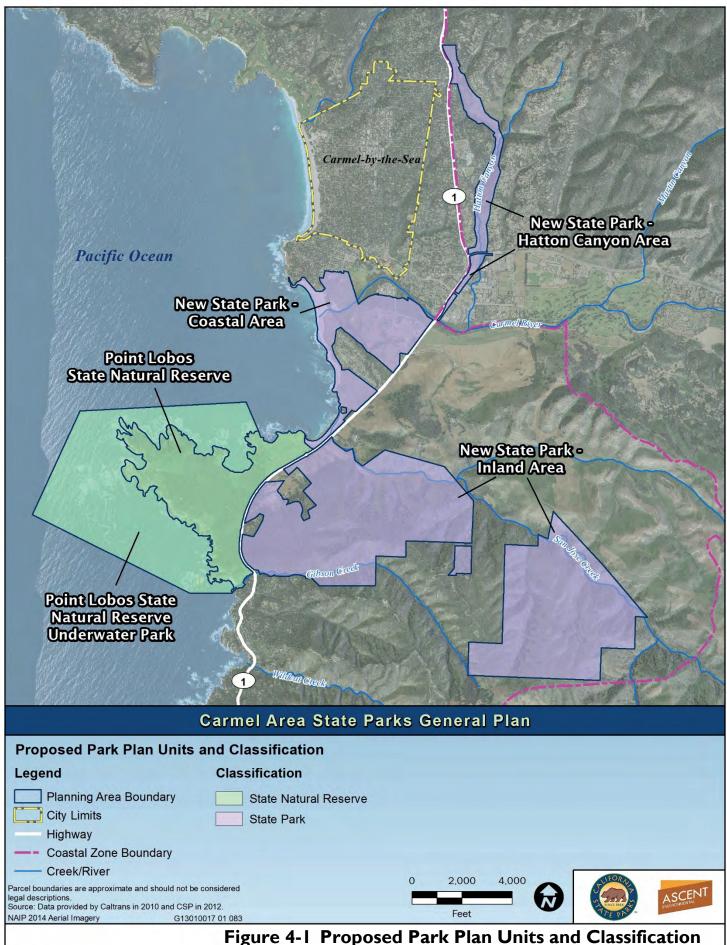


Figure 4-1 Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification



Rocky coastline and beach

#### New State Park

#### Declaration of Purpose

The Declaration of Purpose for the New State Park is as follows:

The purpose of the New State Park is to preserve, protect, interpret, and manage the coastal and inland resources of the park from Carmel Bay to the Santa Lucia Range ridgeline for the education, inspiration, and enjoyment of its visitors.

The coastal area provides a combination of beautiful sandy beaches, freshwater wetlands, rocky bluffs, and adjacent uplands, including coastal bluff and coastal scrub communities, that are managed for protection, interpretation, and environmentally sensitive day use. Preservation and restoration of the wetland and riparian habitats formed by the lower Carmel River and San Jose Creek are essential because of their ecological importance. The outstanding cultural, natural, and scenic values found in the historic Odello Farm complex, Native American sites, and the rocky coastline of Carmel Bay are to be protected.

The inland area, east of State Route 1, preserves and protects a wide variety of sensitive habitats and an extremely scenic portion of the northern Santa Lucia Range offering spectacular views of Carmel Bay and the Pacific Ocean coastline. It contains one of the world's largest native stands of Monterey pine forests, examples of the rare Gowen cypress, and the rare maritime chaparral plant community. This area and surrounding public lands provide important mountain lion habitat and wildlife corridors, and San Jose Creek supports south-central California coast steelhead spawning grounds and habitat for California red-legged frog, both protected species. Important cultural resources include significant Native American archaeological resources and culturally important sites and an early 20th century complex of ranch buildings. The natural, cultural, and scenic resources, features, and values will be preserved, protected, interpreted, and managed, making them available to the public for their education, inspiration, and recreation.

The Hatton Canyon area is an urban open space. The southern section serves as an informal recreation and community gathering space. The upper canyon area provides open space and wildlife habitat to be maintained for public use and enjoyment.

#### Vision

The vision for the New State Park is as follows:

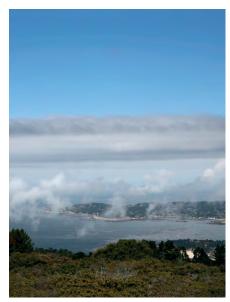
New State Park will provide an opportunity to explore and experience the progression of landscapes and ecosystems from the Pacific Ocean shore to the ridgelines of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Beachgoers will enjoy the white sands of the beach. Children and families will splash in the Carmel River lagoon, while trail users explore the rocky shore and birders and naturalists enjoy walks along lagoon trails observing and listening to the waterfowl, migratory birds, and other wildlife. The visitor experience will encompass the natural and scenic qualities of the coastal forests, including large expanses of unfragmented Monterey pine and Gowen cypress, and connect to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park via a regional trail network. Interpretation and education programs will enhance the visitor experience by inspiring people with the region's rich natural and cultural heritage. The historic farm and ranch structures will be adaptively re-used, providing visual and interpretive interest.

Adaptive management strategies will help to protect the lagoon ecosystem, sensitive plant communities, and wildlife habitat found in the natural preserves and the sensitive archaeological resources associated with Native American lifeways found in the cultural preserves. The cultural preserves will also provide a place for Native American traditional, ceremonial, and special events. These exceptional resources will be protected and preserved for future generations.

Lower Hatton Canyon will serve as a resource for community gatherings and regional special events. With local and regional transportation agencies as partners, a transportation center in this area will provide multimodal options for convenient and efficient access to state and regional parks and open space.



Multi-purpose trail in Lower Hatton Canyon



Coastal vista



The planning team incorporated public input in the development of goals and guidelines, including input received during public workshops and meetings and in comment letters and emails.

Goals establish the purpose and define the desired future conditions, while guidelines provide direction for actions needed to achieve the goals.

## 4.3 Carmel Area State Parks Goals and Guidelines

This section presents goals and guidelines that apply to the CASP units as a whole. The parkwide goals and guidelines have been developed to address existing issues, needs, and opportunities for improvement, protection, or change, and to provide guidance for the management of CASP to achieve the purpose and vision.

The purpose of the goals and guidelines, as defined below, is to present the desired future conditions and approach for achieving those conditions in the context of parkwide issues, opportunities, and constraints. Proposed primary themes for interpretation and education are also provided. Goals and guidelines are defined as follows:

 Goals: Overall purpose or intent toward which management will direct effort. Goals are not necessarily measurable except in terms of the achievement of component objectives that are involved in the attainment of the goal.  Guidelines: General set of parameters that provide direction for accomplishing goals and outline strategies used to achieve the goal. Guidelines describe site-specific strategies that would contribute to meeting the goals.

Management zone-specific goals and guidelines are presented in Section 4.5.

Public input during General Plan preparation identified important priorities, including resource preservation and protection; circulation, parking, and access improvements that reduce reliance on personal autos for park access and thus decrease traffic congestion on SR I; and adequacy of park staff to provide effective resource management and park user services to improve visitor experience and management. The following goals and guidelines, developed through the planning process with input from stakeholders and the public, are organized into six broad categories:

- Resource Management (MANAGE)
- Visitor Experience, Use, and Opportunities (VISIT)
- Circulation, Parking, and Access (ACCESS)
- Operations and Maintenance (MAINTAIN)
- Coordinated Planning and Partnerships (PLAN)
- Interpretation and Education (INTERPRET)

## 4.3.1 Resource Management

Sound stewardship of natural and cultural resources is essential for maintaining the significant resource values of the parks and for achieving the vision. The goals and guidelines included in this plan provide guidance specific to parkwide resources, actions, and functions and the overall framework for managing resources.

### Natural Resource Management

Natural resource management goals and guidelines form the heart of the General Plan's direction for protection of the natural qualities and processes that create CASP's ecological significance and contribute to high-quality visitor experiences. The flora, fauna, and ecosystems of CASP units need to be protected, restored if needed, interpreted, and managed in balance with visitor use opportunities.

### Vegetation Management

Protection of native vegetation is the critical starting point for effective ecosystem stewardship. The parks support considerable botanical diversity and many special status plants that warrant protection.

Active management strategies can help to protect forests in the parks



Restoration of coastal prairie habitat includes closing user-created trails and replanting native bunchgrass

#### MANAGE Goal 1

Protect, maintain, and, where needed, restore the botanical diversity of natural areas. Protect special status plants and manage resources for their perpetuation and enhancement.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.1

Inventory and monitor natural botanical resources, including natural communities and special status plants, on a periodic basis to document their abundance and distribution, gain a better understanding of resources, and to inform management decisions. Promote research opportunities with local universities to complete the inventories and monitoring.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.2

Implement management actions using proven ecological principles and professionally accepted methods to maintain or enhance populations for those special status plant species identified as at risk or affected by known threats, including overuse.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.3

Maintain a healthy forest stand consisting of mixed-aged trees by implementing forest management practices and monitor vegetation for diseases, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.4

Protect and restore native plant communities. Identify locations that are degraded from past management practices or visitor use, protect areas from future damage, and maintain or re-establish natural ecological processes. Restore areas through revegetation with native species appropriate to the site and with fenced enclosures. Protect restoration areas using adaptive management strategies as appropriate.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.5

Manage non-native, invasive plant species to prevent their establishment and control their spread. Prioritize control efforts to those species that threaten special status plants, wildlife, or habitats; that are the most invasive or ecologically detrimental; and/or that are in conspicuous areas occupied by intact native habitat and plant communities.

#### MANAGE Guideline 1.6

Manage coastal prairie meadows and prevent encroachment from surrounding forest and coastal scrub species. Conduct periodic low intensity controlled burns combined with manual and mechanical tree and brush thinning to promote a healthy coastal prairie system and to control the encroachment of coastal scrub and tree species. Conduct annual weed surveys and control invasive non-native plants.

#### Wildlife Management

Thriving, self-sustaining wildlife populations reflect a strong and healthy environment. A wide array of marine, aquatic, and terrestrial fauna occupies the diverse habitats of the parks and they are critical to protect.

#### MANAGE Goal 2

Protect, maintain, and, where needed, restore native marine, aquatic, and terrestrial wildlife to sustain wildlife populations and biodiversity. Protect special status wildlife and manage resources for their perpetuation and enhancement.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.1

Inventory and monitor native wildlife, including conducting small mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile surveys to identify existing habitats and population trends, and to develop and implement visitor management strategies for the protection and perpetuation of wildlife.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.2

Identify and limit visitor access to important breeding and rearing areas, including visitor exclusion during marine mammal and shore bird breeding and rearing periods and aquatic habitat occupied by special status fish and amphibians.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.3

Locate new facilities to minimize encroachment into native wildlife feeding, resting, breeding, and rearing habitats.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.4

Reduce and eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters and educating visitors about the detrimental effects of human food on wildlife.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft

Special status wildlife species known to occur include the western snowy ployer

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.5

Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats to establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting. Minimize human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas and restore wildlife habitat.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.6

Use sound ecological principles to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats, including professionally accepted methods, such as considering the needs of special status species in the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in disturbance to their habitat and minimizing trail and facility building and park maintenance activities in or near breeding and rearing areas during breeding seasons.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.7

Identify, maintain, and protect wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages with federal, state, and local agencies to permit movement of wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity. Collect baseline information to monitor the health and function of core habitat areas and these linkages. Monitor wildlife as necessary to gauge the effectiveness of linkages.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.8

Cooperate with federal, state, local agencies, and open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional wildlife resource management and planning, including coordinating efforts to identify and preserve habitat linkages.

#### MANAGE Guideline 2.9

Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs and feral pigs, which may create stresses or threats to special status wildlife species. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species most detrimental to the environment.

# Physical Resource Management

The geological and hydrological characteristics of natural areas form the structures and processes that sustain ecosystem health. Embedded in underlying geology is the paleontological record of past floral and faunal life. Climate is another key element of the physical resources of the marine, coastal, and inland areas of the CASP units. With predicted climate change, hazard risks and management needs are actively evolving and will continue for decades.

# Geology

Forming the physical foundation of ecosystems, important geologic features warrant management. Marine rock formations, coastal bluff geology, plate tectonics, stream geomorphology, and beach sediment transport processes are all reflected in the parks.

## MANAGE Goal 3

Study, interpret, and protect important geologic features.

#### MANAGE Guideline 3.1

Monitor, document, and study the geologic features and processes, including geologic events such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation. Identify the cause and effect relationships and implement corrective measures as needed to protect these features.

#### MANAGE Guideline 3.2

Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate.

# Hydrology and Water Quality

If geology is the physical foundation of ecosystems, hydrology is the fundamental natural process that can alter that foundation over time. Water quality is the chemistry of hydrologic systems; its condition is sometimes natural and sometimes degraded by human actions. Management of hydrologic systems, natural processes, water quality, and the aquatic and marine habitats that depend on hydrologic conditions is vital.

#### MANAGE Goal 4

Protect, restore, and preserve wetlands and their natural hydrologic processes, water quality, and ecosystem functions.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.1

Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft
Granite formations in the Reserve



Carmel River lagoon

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.2

Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.3

Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to preserve sensitive stream and riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and critical fish and wildlife habitat. Effective stream and riparian habitat management actions are:

- Avoid excessive ground disturbance, grading, vegetation removal or trampling, and sedimentation to streams during trail construction along or across streams and riparian habitats and other facilities encroaching into riparian corridors;
- Design and locate trails to reduce ongoing erosion potential by avoiding, if feasible, steep slopes that require trail grades exceeding 7 to 10 percent and alignments that run parallel to Carmel River, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek within 50 feet of riparian habitat;
- Install temporary or (if necessary) permanent sediment erosion control measures and/or BMPs to protect streams where monitoring has identified eroding soil;
- Where stream and riparian habitat conditions are known to be degraded along the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek, and their major tributaries, restore stream and riparian habitat, including natural hydrologic processes, aquatic ecosystem functions, and re-planting of native vegetation;
- Monitor and eradicate invasive aquatic and terrestrial weeds to protect and enhance stream aquatic ecosystems and native riparian vegetation and habitat; and
- Monitor stream embeddedness/pool/riffle sequencing to establish a baseline and monitor sedimentation at select monitoring sites to document trends over time in relation to habitat quality indices.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.4

Minimize overall CASP water demand through conservation practices, water use reduction features in facilities, and visitor education.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.5

Prevent water quality degradation to sensitive water features, including Carmel River and Iagoon, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek and their tributaries, and Areas of Special Biological Significance.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.6

Avoid placement of incompatible structures or uses within the 100-year FEMA floodplain hazard areas, which are the FEMA-mapped floodplains in the Carmel River lagoon; along the Carmel River, including the northern portion of the Odello West field; the mouth of San Jose Creek and upstream approximately 2,000 feet; and the southern portion of Hatton Canyon from approximately 700 feet north of Rio Road to the Carmel River.

#### MANAGE Guideline 4.7

As part of visitor interpretation and education, illustrate the importance of land use and management adjustments to reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals harmful to wetlands and waterways.

## MANAGE Guideline 4.8

Design infrastructure, facilities, and visitor use areas to minimize stormwater runoff and prevent soil erosion.

#### MANAGE Goal 5

Minimize degradation of environmentally sensitive aquatic and marine resources and impairment to water quality where access to scenic, recreation, and interpretive opportunity sites is provided.

#### MANAGE Guideline 5.1

Restore vegetative buffers adjacent to trails and unpaved parking areas to reduce sediment transport into surface waters. Close or move facilities that contribute to runoff directly into the ocean or directly to the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek.

#### MANAGE Guideline 5.2

Use trail design features and natural and constructed barriers to discourage the creation of unauthorized trails that would degrade ocean or stream water quality. Decommission and restore existing unauthorized trails that contribute sediment and other pollutants to aquatic and marine environments. Restore ecologically damaged areas to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.

# Paleontology

Paleobiological records are captured in ancient geologic strata, especially in the Carmelo Formation, and they warrant careful stewardship.

## MANAGE Goal 6

Protect and preserve significant paleontological resources.

#### MANAGE Guideline 6.1

Inventory, map, and monitor paleontological resources for their protection, preservation, and interpretation.

#### MANAGE Guideline 6.2

Coordinate with paleobiology resource specialists on protection and preservation of paleontological resources that have both natural and cultural resource value.

#### MANAGE Guideline 6.3

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the formation, sensitivity, and importance of protecting paleontological resources.

# Climate Change

The changing climate will substantially influence natural and human conditions over the coming decades. Human-caused climate change from greenhouse gas emissions has set the course for warming temperatures, altered weather, and increased risks relevant to the park units from sea level rise, wildfires, and flooding. Precipitation is projected to decrease by nearly 8 inches throughout the century in the Big Sur region. By 2100, sea levels may rise up to 55 inches, posing threats to the Monterey Bay Area, with an estimated 11 percent increase in acreage vulnerable to flooding in Monterey County. Projected fire risks in southwestern Monterey County, near the Big Sur and Carmel Valley areas, is expected to increase by 70 to 100 percent by 2085 (Cal EMA and CNRA 2012).

See Table 2-2 for more projected effects of climate change on the central California coastal region.

#### MANAGE Goal 7

Adapt to increased risks from sea level rise, flooding, wildfire, and other climate change effects.

#### MANAGE Guideline 7.1

Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents prepared to address foreseeable climate change risks, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.

# Cultural Resources Management

The parks contain a diverse combination of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and places, exemplifying the importance of the region for both its Native American heritage and historic significance.

# Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources represent a record of the prehistoric and historic-era heritage of the park units. They can also possess tribal values to Native Americans whose ancestors occupied the region for generations. Protection of important archaeological resources is a critical priority, and interpretation of them has important learning value.

#### MANAGE Goal 8

Protect, document, and interpret significant prehistoric archaeological and cultural resources.

#### MANAGE Guideline 8.1

For areas not already inventoried, conduct inventories for cultural resources where and when development or other landscape disturbance is planned. Document and map resources identified or areas with high potential to contain resources.

#### MANAGE Guideline 8.2

Identify, document, catalogue, and curate artifacts and collections that have been recovered from cultural sites, according to the Office of Historic Preservation guidelines.

#### MANAGE Guideline 8.3

Prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans, as necessary, to further define a framework to identify, acknowledge, assess, and create effective management procedures for cultural sites and cultural preserves.



Coastal area

#### MANAGE Guideline 8.4

In coordination with local tribal representatives, monitor sensitive cultural resources to identify specific areas of degradation, inform a culturally sensitive adaptive management strategy, and determine the need for potential visitor access limitations or exclusions.

In consultation with local tribal representatives, stabilize cultural sites and recover data, where feasible, at sites at risk from erosion, damage, or sea level rise. Prevent degradation and looting of cultural resources by limiting visitor access, and increasing law enforcement to specific sensitive areas.

#### MANAGE Guideline 8.5

Collaborate with the local tribal representatives to expand Native American interpretation themes, features, and programs related to park resources.

## Historic Resources

From first European contact to the Mission Period, whaling, marine fish harvest, historic farming, and ranching, the parks offer rich and varied historic importance of human connection to the land and ocean. Protection and interpretation of the historic resources in the parks help improve understanding of those past periods.

## MANAGE Goal 9

Identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.1

Complete an inventory and assessment of significant cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historic Resources to gain a better understanding of resources and to inform management decisions.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.2

Complete Historic Structure Reports (HSRs) for those existing historic buildings that do not have them, and update existing HSRs as needed. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Provide documentation including graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing conditions, recommend appropriate treatments, management actions



Historic Odello Farm barns

and goals for preservation or rehabilitation and appropriate adaptive use of the property, and outline the scope of recommended work for current and future resource managers.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.3

Prepare treatment plans for historic resources. Development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for those historic buildings, structures, and features that have been identified as significant, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance; the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features, and the existing condition of these individual features.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.4

Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.5

Identify and evaluate the historic significance of potential cultural landscapes.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.6

Consult with local tribal representatives who have traditional ties to resources within CASP to ensure productive and collaborative working relationships during the planning and implementation of specific development projects, and especially when considering management practices of interest and concern to them.

#### MANAGE Guideline 9.7

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting historic resources.



Trail sign in the Reserve using natural materials and with scenic preservation message

# Aesthetic Resources Management

Striking, dramatic, and awe-inspiring are examples of descriptions of the scenic qualities of these parks. The aesthetics of the landscape and waterscape are primary attractions for visitors.

#### MANAGE Goal 10

Identify and protect scenic qualities, vistas, and viewsheds to preserve the beauty of the parks.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.1

Remove or screen from view built elements that have negative aesthetic qualities.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.2

Design infrastructure, use areas, and facilities to integrate scenic quality protection, to maintain important views (including publicly accessible coastal views, consistent with the California Coastal Act), and to be visually compatible with the existing natural landscape or historic character of the location. To the extent feasible, new structures will be sited in currently developed areas near other existing structures and facilities to avoid adding intrusive structural elements into important views or vistas.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.3

Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.4

Minimize visibility of new structures or other facilities to travelers on SR I, a State Scenic Highway. Use distance, buffering with existing topography and vegetation, planted vegetation screening, low-profile design, appropriate colors that blend with surroundings, and natural appearing non-reflective materials as strategies to protect scenic highway views.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.5

Design signs and interpretive displays to appear consistent with the surrounding natural environment, using low-profile design and natural-appearing materials that are consistent in color and texture to the natural environment.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.6

Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.7

Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.8

Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.

#### MANAGE Guideline 10.9

Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to preserve, protect, and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds. Consider the Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program and other applicable standards for scenic resources.

# 4.3.2 Visitor Experience, Use, and Opportunities

With the immense, international popularity of the Reserve, strong local and regional visitation to the coastal area and beaches, and the sensitive resources in all units, provision of high quality visitor experiences requires a balance between providing visitor opportunities and carefully managing visitor use.

# Recreation and Visitor Experience

These parks provide an array of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The variety allows for management approaches that seek to appropriately distribute visitor use to enhance visitor experiences and protect resources.

#### VISIT Goal 1

Develop recreation access and recreation opportunities that distribute visitor use to avoid or minimize significant damage to sensitive resources.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.1

In collaboration with regional partners and stakeholders, provide information to encourage visitation to nearby state parks, regional parks and open space, and National Forest land. Methods to encourage this cross-connection include providing information describing regional resources, such as location maps with park and open space access and trail connection information, and working with partners to provide regional mass transit opportunities.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.2

Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would cost-effectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.3

Maintain trail connections and access to regional trail systems while minimizing plant and wildlife habitat fragmentation and avoiding damage to cultural resources.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.4

Manage visitor use in sensitive areas where resources are being negatively impacted by overuse. Limit public access to sensitive areas and provide access to less sensitive locations with outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.5

Evaluate new recreational opportunities, trends, and activities that would bring diverse and underrepresented populations to the parks without impacting positive user experiences or degrading resources.

#### VISIT Guideline 1.6

Continue to support and expand successful programming in the parks, including youth activities, special events, and volunteer recruitment.

# 4.3.3 Circulation, Parking, and Access

Personal vehicles are currently the primary transportation mode for access to the parks. Visitor traffic contributes to congestion along SR I and other connecting roads. Many personal vehicles park on the highway shoulder within the right-of-way of SR I to access the Reserve and parts of the coastal area. A primary theme of the parkwide Circulation, Parking, and Access goals and guidelines is to develop facilities and alternative transportation systems within the parks and provide access to the parks, in partnership with state, regional, and local transportation agencies, to implement management actions that offer multimodal transportation options.

# **Reservation System**

Unrestricted walk-in access is problematic, especially within the Reserve and the coastal areas, which contain fragile natural and cultural resources. Implementing an innovative reservation system is the primary management tool that will define appropriate levels of visitation, control peak-season overuse, and improve visitor experience, park operations, safety, and accessibility, while protecting natural and cultural resources from overuse.

# ACCESS Goal 1

Evaluate, design, and implement a day use reservation system to serve as the primary mechanism to manage visitor access, peak visitation, and overall levels of all visitor use.

## ACCESS Guideline 1.1

Evaluate how to effectively implement a reservation system to apply to day use, with first priority for implementation for the Reserve. Consider various reservation options for walk-in visitors, visitors using alternative modes of transportation such as a local or regional shuttle system, and those arriving by vehicle.



Parking along SR I within the highway right-of-way

#### ACCESS Guideline 1.2

Coordinate physical infrastructure requirements and property boundary controls with efforts needed to implement the visitor entry management and fee system (see ACCESS Guideline 2.3).

#### ACCESS Guideline 1.3

Develop digital/internet applications that will lead to management efficiencies and overall ease of use for visitors. Consider the infrastructure needed to collect and track reservations.

#### ACCESS Guideline 1.4

Evaluate the need to implement a day use reservation system in other areas of the parks where visitor overuse is resulting in natural and/or cultural resource degradation.

#### ACCESS Guideline 1.5

Conduct public education regarding the need for a reservation system as an overall visitor management approach.

#### ACCESS Guideline 1.6

Consult with managers of other state and national parks using reservation systems to gain information and to further understand implementation opportunities and constraints.

# Visitor Entry Management and Fee System

To adequately manage vehicle and walk-in arrivals, visitor entry features, fee requirements, and associated boundary controls should be modernized, upgraded, and coordinated with the implementation of a reservation system.

## **ACCESS Goal 2**

In coordination with a day use reservation system, evaluate, design, and implement a park entry fee system to manage visitor access and overall levels of all visitor use.

#### ACCESS Guideline 2.1

Evaluate options for a visitor entry fee system and determine the most effective approach. Implement the fee system in coordination with development and implementation of a reservation system and other access and parking actions.

## ACCESS Guideline 2.2

Evaluate the need to implement an entry fee system in other areas of the parks, as needed.

#### ACCESS Guideline 2.3

Develop physical improvements, digital/internet applications, and management systems needed to implement a visitor entry fee system. These may include changes in visitor vehicle and walk-in entrance features, property boundary access controls, digital mobile phone applications for fee payment, parking fee collections equipment, and other entry fee collection infrastructure and computer systems.

#### ACCESS Guideline 2.4

Educate the public on the need for an entry fee system for visitors and how to use the new system prior to its launch. Options include posting to the CSP website, social media, local media outlets, and CSP-sponsored workshops or public information events at local or individually sponsored events.

# Vehicular Access and Parking

Visitor access management is intended to reduce reliance on personal autos for arrival to the parks and manage total visitor vehicle trips, so they do not substantially increase because of General Plan implementation. This will be accomplished through a coordinated set of actions that offer multimodal access choices and redistribution of parking, in coordination with the previously described visitor reservation system.

#### **ACCESS Goal 3**

Implement multimodal transportation, vehicular access, and parking enhancements, in conjunction with visitor capacity management, to better manage the location and distribution of visitor use to improve visitor experience, park operations, safety, accessibility, and resource protection. Multimodal transportation access to CASP units will be expanded during periods of heavy visitation to help alleviate traffic congestion along SR 1.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.1

Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.2

Prioritize planned transportation improvements, so that the greatest mobility needs are addressed first, as funding is secured to improve accessibility, safety, and resource protection.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.3

Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.4

When parking is removed from an area causing resource impacts, provide transportation enhancements that offer sustainable visitor accessibility opportunities and better distribute visitor use, with options that may include relocated parking, internal transit or park shuttle service, and/or alternative conveyance means.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.5

Coordinate the provision of alternative parking locations or conveyance means with the timing of parking removal or other relevant access-related actions.

#### ACCESS Guideline 3.6

Accompany changes in parking and alternative conveyance with visitor information about transportation options.

#### **ACCESS Goal 4**

Plan and implement access and parking improvements within the parks recognizing the existing on-highway parking within the right-of-way of SR 1.

#### ACCESS Guideline 4.1

Transportation improvements needed for highway access into the parks from SR I will take into account the continued presence of on-highway parking for pertinent design issues, such as intersection sight distance, signage, and turning lanes, if needed.

#### ACCESS Guideline 4.2

Actions regarding parking facilities within the parks will be determined based on park needs and will be independent of decisions by other agencies related to SR I on-highway parking.

#### ACCESS Guideline 4.3

If Monterey County and/or Caltrans propose actions to prohibit SR I on-highway parking near the parks, review the proposals for the potential to affect intersection access and walk-in visitor management and provide input to those agencies.

# **Trails**

These park units offer an array of trail opportunities that provide access to dramatic scenery, interesting resources, and places for nature appreciation and solitude. The region-wide system of trails through public lands will benefit from improved connections within the parks. The sustainability of the alignments and design of authorized trails will guide trail management.

## ACCESS Goal 5

Design and implement strategic and sustainable trail improvements and linkages, including trail restoration and re-routing trails through less sensitive habitats, as appropriate, coordinating with other open space and park entities.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.1

Prepare a Road and Trail Management Plan, in coordination with local and regional parks and open space partners, that evaluates the park's entire trail system, trail use and user conflicts, and guides the placement and use of future trails. Coordinate with MPRPD and BSLT regarding trail connections and permitted uses. The plan will



Trails at the Reserve's Allan Memorial Grove

recognize future opportunities for regional trail connections, opportunities to connect trails with adjacent zones, and will provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.2

Provide amenities along trails, such as interpretive information, seating, and viewpoints, as appropriate.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.3

Enhance, maintain, and provide ADA accessible trails where appropriate to allow visitors to view plants, wildlife, landscapes, scenic vistas, and historic features of the area.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.4

Identify locations where decommissioning and restoration of unauthorized trails are needed, including but not limited to, the North Shore Trail in the Reserve and non-designated trails in the coastal areas, to decrease erosion, soil compaction, and degradation of cultural and natural resources and wildlife habitats. Prioritize actions to address first the most degraded and sensitive resource locations.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.5

Identify areas where trail delineation needs improvement, and educate visitors to stay on designated trails to prevent damage to habitat, reduce erosion, and prevent vegetation and soil loss.

### ACCESS Guideline 5.6

Conduct erosion assessments of roads and trails and implement adaptive management strategies to minimize erosion. Document sedimentation conveyance pathways to the ASBS and implement sediment and erosion control BMP measures to reduce sediment delivery and erosion.

#### ACCESS Guideline 5.7

Locate trails to minimize placing people in proximity to private property. Provide signs clarifying public property boundaries and provide trail users with information regarding park rules, wayfinding, and regulations to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing.

# 4.3.4 Operations and Maintenance

The administration and operation of the parks includes visitor services, public safety, facility maintenance, utilities and infrastructure maintenance, and visitor interaction as performed by maintenance staff, rangers, resource specialists, interpreters, and other administrative personnel. Volunteers, participating partner groups, and concessionaires also play an important role in park operations by providing additional services. Goals and guidelines in this section outline strategies to maintain, upgrade, and develop operations in the parks.

# Utilities and Infrastructure

Sustainable and efficient resource use and adequate utilities and infrastructure are critical to effective management of the parks. Important utility constraints are respected, including water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal capacity.

## MAINTAIN Goal 1

Repair, upgrade, and develop adequate infrastructure for efficient use of energy, water, and other resources.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1

Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2

Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.

# **Facilities**

Park facilities are important elements of the CASP infrastructure; they allow for efficient park management, sustainable operations, and quality visitor services.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 2

Develop or adaptively use existing facilities that will improve park operations.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 2.1

Locate operational facilities in proximity to existing operational facilities where they promote efficient and effective park operations, consistent with resource protection priorities.



Maintenance equipment at Rat Hill

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 2.2

Consider adaptive reuse of historic structures, such as the Gatehouse, Hudson House, or historic ranch and farm structures. All actions affecting the resources will be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to retain the historic integrity of the structures.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 2.3

Identify alternative staff housing facilities or off-park housing strategies, to expand the availability of local staff housing and to allow reuse of some existing staff residences for other operational and visitor-serving purposes, such as visitor information and orientation.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 2.4

Provide some staff housing in existing structures for security and surveillance of parklands.

## MAINTAIN Goal 3

Develop and maintain environmentally compatible and logistically convenient facilities to meet visitor, staff, and park management needs and to support efficient operations.

## MAINTAIN Guideline 3.1

Initiate site-specific project planning to determine the specific size and locations for parking and staging areas, interpretive facilities, and other facilities to inform management decisions.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 3.2

New facility development will consider the site selection criteria in Table 4-1 to determine site suitability. Potential environmental effects will be minimized or avoided.

## MAINTAIN Guideline 3.3

When planning new facility development or property acquisitions, consider the needs for public safety personnel, equipment, and communication systems.

Table 4-1 Site Selection Criteria	
Facility or Improvement	Siting Criteria
Trails and Coastal Access	■ Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where negative effects can be avoided or mitigated
	■ Connection to roadway and parking areas
	■ Connection to regional trail network
	Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks
	Adequate buffer distance from marine mammals and from marine bird nesting
Scenic Viewpoints	■ View of prominent, notable, or characteristic park feature
	Opportunity for park interpretation
	Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks
Parking Areas	Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where effects can be avoided or mitigated
	<ul> <li>Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to geologic hazards, such as landsliding and falling rocks</li> </ul>
	■ Close to recreational resources or trails
	■ Easy and safe access to major access road
Day Use Areas	Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where effects can be avoided or mitigated
	Availability of utilities (e.g., water, sewer, electricity), if needed
	■ Connection to roadway or trails
	Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks
Operational Facilities	Site without sensitive and special status natural resources and sensitive cultural resources or where significant adverse effects can be avoided or minimized
	<ul> <li>Availability of utilities (e.g., water, sewer, electricity) or ability to obtain services without undue cost and environmental issues</li> </ul>
	■ Connection to roadway
	■ Central/convenient location within units and District
	<ul> <li>Average slope of less than 10 percent</li> </ul>
	Avoid the 100-year floodplain
	Without visual obstruction of scenic resources as viewed from roadways, trails, and scenic viewpoints
	Avoid areas demonstrated to be prone to landsliding and falling rocks

# **Public Safety**

Public safety is a top priority in the CASP units. Facility design and visitor management strategies must address known and potential safety needs, including traffic and pedestrian safety, trails in steep slope and cliff areas, wave-exposed beaches, responding to criminal activity, and other emergency response situations.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 4

Maintain visitor safety and effectively communicate safety risks to improve public awareness.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.1

Identify and implement enhanced visitor safety communication methods, including use of social media, signage, public information, and site-specific solutions to reduce risks. If needed, implement area or facility closures when safety risks are unacceptable.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2

Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.3

Identify ways to promote visitor safety for water dependent recreational activities through programs and signage.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.4

Coordinate with other public entities in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and utilizing the expertise of all personnel.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.5

Evaluate signage informing visitors of known hazards and install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.6

Provide adequate staffing for public safety and emergency incident response to reports of cliff fall, scuba diving and other aquatic emergencies, land-based medical emergencies, and violations of laws and regulations.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7

Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.

# Wildfire Prevention and Suppression

Recent fires in the nearby forest and coastal scrub landscapes demonstrate the wildfire risks in the central coast region. As a regional issue, protection from wildfires warrants a partnership approach.

## **MAINTAIN Goal 6**

Protect human life, property, and sensitive natural and cultural resources within the parks through the prevention and suppression of destructive wildland fires.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 6.1

Coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and the county fire departments to prepare and update Wildfire Management Plans for these parks addressing all aspects of wildfire planning.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 6.2

Incorporate findings of ongoing fire management research in park maintenance and operations. This may include the use of new tools, concepts, or methods.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 6.3

Regularly update fuel management plans and collaborate with CAL FIRE to determine effective fuel reduction methods, avoiding and protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources (including historic buildings).

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 6.4

Reduce fuel and conduct forest thinning measures, as appropriate and where it is beneficial to or does not negatively affect natural or cultural resource values, to prevent the rapid spread of wildland fires.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 6.5

Prohibit the use of park lands for the purposes of providing new private road access, including fire roads.

# Sustainability

California state policy includes several features requiring sustainability in the use and conservation of resources and in control of pollutant emissions, including GHGs. CSP is committed to sustainable operations in its parks.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 7

Integrate and employ sustainability principles and practices in all aspects of park facilities, programs, and operations.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1

Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2

Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.

# Concessions and Special Events

Concessions provide valued services to visitors and special events have long been a part of the public use of the parks. They both play important roles in visitor experiences and operations of the CASP units.

#### **MAINTAIN Goal 8**

Allow for appropriate concessions to enhance visitor experiences, consistent with resource protection priorities.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 8.1

Provide visitor services and products that enhance recreational and/or educational experiences at the park, consistent with the PRC, CSP policies, the park's purpose and classification, and General Plan guidelines. Examples of concession opportunities could include parking, shuttles, and guided tours.

#### **MAINTAIN Goal 9**

Allow special events that offer high quality visitor services and experiences, while protecting the park's natural, cultural, recreation, and aesthetic resources.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 9.1

Only permit special events that do not result in damage to physical, natural, cultural, and scenic resources by defining allowed locations, activities, event sizes, and other management conditions to protect resources. Enforce fines for rule violation and resource degradation.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 9.2

Educate permit applicants about proper stewardship of park resources and visitor rules, fines, and restrictions pertinent to their events.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 9.3

Monitor special events for resource damage. If resource damage occurs, evaluate the circumstances and implement adaptive changes to the type, number, size, visitor rules, and/or location of special events.

# Park Operations and Support

Well-managed and efficient park operations depend on appropriate staffing levels, adequate funding sources, and support from volunteers and local partners. Staffing, funding, and support will continue to be important for the parks to be able to provide visitor safety and enjoyment, protect resource values, and overall maintenance of the units. On-site staff are needed to enhance resource management, protect sensitive resources, manage operations of the units, create safe environments, respond to emergency incidents, expand educational and interpretive programs, and keep facilities clean and well maintained. CSP has a long history of partnering with volunteers and local organizations. The following goals and guidelines build on these relationships and seek to identify new opportunities for collaboration and ways to optimize park funding.



Docents provide information and resources to visitors at the Reserve

MAINTAIN Goal 10 outlines the importance of providing adequate staffing levels for public safety.



Volunteers pulling invasive weeds at the Reserve

## MAINTAIN Goal 10

Provide the proper staffing balance for park management, operations, maintenance, resource preservation, visitor safety, and visitor serving programs.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 10.1

Continue to work with PLF, BSLT, other non-governmental partners, and volunteers on the training, operation, and programming of park events, resource stewardship, interpretation, and programs consistent with the General Plan.

## MAINTAIN Guideline 10.2

Continue to support partnerships and work closely with local partners and volunteers to improve visitor services; maintain and/or upgrade, as necessary, existing interpretive facilities; monitor visitor use; identify, develop and implement resource protection and restoration projects; perform maintenance activities; and implement educational and interpretation programs consistent with the General Plan.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 10.3

Provide increased levels of service to include the addition of two park rangers, up to four seasonal park aids, and one permanent full-time maintenance worker when the new park areas are open to the public.

#### MAINTAIN Goal 11

Continue to improve park operation and management opportunities.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 11.1

Leverage available funding sources to finance improvements and improve operations through park partnerships, concessions, state and federal grants, and other financing mechanisms.

#### MAINTAIN Guideline 11.2

Define and implement new opportunities and updated fee schedules for visitation, concessions, and special events.

# 4.3.5 Coordinated Planning and Partnerships

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations that own and manage park and open space land in the Monterey/Big Sur region have well-established, ongoing working relationships to coordinate management of these lands. Goals and guidelines promote the important role of partnerships with these and other agencies and organizations.

# Regional Planning

## PLAN Goal 1

Improve connectivity with other public open spaces and support interagency partnerships to provide an interconnected regional system of parks and greenways and enhance public safety.

#### PLAN Guideline 1.1

Coordinate natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource management, interpretation, operations, staff housing, emergency services, and facility development programs with other regional parks to promote healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and aesthetic resources, and operational efficiencies.

#### PLAN Guideline 1.2

Work closely with partners such as Monterey County, Caltrans, PLF, and BSLT on the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (FREE)/SR I causeway project and coordinate access with the MPRPD for trail connections to Palo Corona Regional Park.

#### PLAN Guideline 1.3

Continue to work in partnership with MPRPD, BSLT, and PLF on regional planning projects to help integrate park management and operations and to enhance public recreation, outdoor education, and stewardship opportunities in the region.

#### PLAN Guideline 1.4

Coordinate and collaborate with universities, colleges, and other research organizations on natural, cultural, and scientific resource studies to increase the knowledge of resources in the parks and region, to inform park managers, and to establish research opportunities.

#### PLAN Guideline 1.5

Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.

#### PLAN Goal 2

Coordinate and work closely with Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, Monterey County transportation agencies, MPRPD, and elected representatives to develop safe parking alternatives and a regional multimodal transportation system.

#### PLAN Guideline 2.1

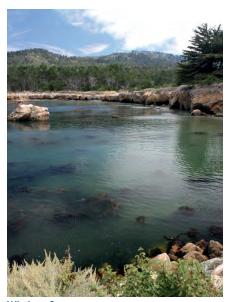
Evaluate a range of regional alternative parking opportunities and shuttle system routes. Assess opportunities, constraints, and feasibility on a region-wide basis with all interested agencies, organizations, and other partners.

# 4.3.6 Interpretation and Education

Interpretation in a State Park or State Natural Reserve differs from formal instruction in a school classroom. The goal of interpretation is to help visitors find their own personal meanings in the resources and to inspire feelings of stewardship, rather than to teach visitors facts about the resources. Opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of interpretation.

Interpretation can make a visitor's experience more enjoyable, while enhancing his or her understanding and appreciation of the park's resources. Interpretation promotes recreational enjoyment, visitor safety, cultural and natural resource appreciation, and understanding of management and maintenance practices. It can also educate visitors about how to help preserve the resources they came to enjoy and how to reduce their impacts on the park's resources, giving visitors a take-home message on the importance of resource conservation in their daily lives.

While interpretation frequently leads to learning experiences, school groups visiting the parks typically need focused educational programming that aligns with their scholastic curriculum and meets specific learning objectives. CSP plays a leadership role in providing education programs for California's grade K-12 school groups. The parks hold the potential to offer a variety of curriculum-based education programs for local school groups, especially in partnership.



Whalers Cove

# Park Interpretive Significance

A park's interpretive significance comprises special resources and stories represented at the park that have been identified as important topics for park interpretation. The parks preserve and provide interpretive access to a treasure of varied natural and cultural resources that represent one of the most stunning and inspirational landscapes in the State Park System. The parks include Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, which is often described as the crown jewel of the State Park System, and the new State Park with its diverse landscape and resources from the ocean to the Santa Lucia Mountains ridgeline.

The primary interpretive themes need to be coordinated between the two park units. The themes involve the interface of the marine and coastal ecosystems; fragility of many sensitive resources; and important periods of Native American presence, historic agriculture uses, and marine fishing and whaling activities. These elements of interpretive significance guide planning for the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of natural and cultural resources.

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve has a rich history of protection and conservation. In April of 1960, the State Lands Commission deeded to the State Park System 750 sub-tidal acres at Point Lobos, creating the nation's first Marine Protected Area (MPA). It was a prime example of kelp-dominated underwater marine habitat in California. Today, several marine protected areas surrounding the Reserve are: Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (SMR), Carmel Bay SMCA, and Carmel Pinnacles SMR. Marine Protected Areas are marine or estuarine waters set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and its associated habitat. In addition, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects the surrounding open waters and is an educational complement to interpretation by CSP.

Important natural resources for interpretation at the Reserve include marine mammals, such as sea lions, seals, and sea otters at the Reserve and whales in Carmel Bay during their migrations. The Monterey cypress-covered headlands are significant. Kelp and other marine vegetation are also important. The geology of the Carmelo Formation is so rare that geologists from all parts of the world come to study these deposits.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft Otters in kelp at the Reserve

The cultural stories of the area are also compelling. The lands within the Reserve have a rich and diverse human history dating back more than 2,000 years. The Rumsen used the area for fishing, sea mammal and sea bird hunting, and shellfish gathering. The stories of the Portuguese whalers, the Chinese fishing village, Japanese abalone harvesters, and the quarry are also of prime interest.

## New State Park - Coastal Area

At the New State Park – Coastal Area, the lagoon, the Carmel River, and the associated wetlands are important for anadromous fish and the California red-legged frog. They are protected within the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve. This area is the second-richest coastal lagoon/riparian/wetland habitat for migratory songbirds in California, making the area renowned for birding. The sandy beaches, rocky bluffs, and adjacent uplands, including strand, coastal bluff, and coastal scrub communities, are important habitat. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve sub-unit is a protected area.

## New State Park - Inland Area

The New State Park – Inland Area contains the Gowen cypress pygmy forest and areas of the rare maritime chaparral plant community. Importantly, these public lands provide mountain lion habitat. The New State Park – Inland Area also contains significant archaeological resources, including village sites, and an early twentieth century complex of ranch buildings. The San Jose Creek buildings and landscape reflect the unique history and people of the area from Swiss dairymen, farmers, and a horse camp established by a female national polo player.

# Hatton Canyon Property

The Hatton Canyon story is an important modern example of differing viewpoints on the need for a highway bypass. The bypass proposed in Hatton Canyon was not built, and the lands became property of CSP.

The vegetation communities within Hatton Canyon include Monterey pine forest, coastal scrub, riparian forest, grassland, and wetlands. It is also an important wildlife corridor. Lower Hatton Canyon is used as a community gathering space and for special events, such as the Big Sur International Marathon.

# Park Interpretive Mission and Vision

# Interpretive Mission

The interpretive mission is to tell the story of the natural qualities of this dramatic marine and coastal setting and the people who lived and worked on the land and ocean. Interpretive programs help visitors learn more about, appreciate, and become inspired by the importance of protecting fragile marine, aquatic, and terrestrial resources and how traditional practices and later historic uses shaped this coastal landscape.

The park interpretive mission defines what is interpreted at the parks, why it is being interpreted, and for whom.

# Interpretive Vision

Interpretation will prompt visitors to connect their emotions, intellect, spirit, and physical presence with the qualities of the natural and cultural resources of this special coastal landscape and waterscape. Managed visitation, guided personal interactions, modern media, and inspirational messages allow visitors to establish a connection that elevates their sense of the value of this special place, influences their interaction with the sensitive resources, and promotes a continued sense of stewardship of these parks.

The interpretive vision is a short statement that conveys the ideal outcome of the park's interpretation in the future.

# **Themes**

An interpretive theme is a succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to an audience. Interpretation uses themes to connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. The unifying theme identifies the overall focus of the park's interpretive development and relates to the park's resources, the park's mission, and visitor interest. Primary themes speak to the most significant park resources. Secondary themes also relate to significant resources; however, secondary themes do not relate to the overall unifying and primary themes.

Interpretive themes connect visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the parks in personally meaningful ways.

# Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

# Unifying Theme

The oasis of biological diversity in the Reserve has provided livelihood, inspiration, and spiritual renewal to people throughout time.

# **Primary Theme**

#### Land and Water Intersection Theme

The Reserve has been called the "greatest meeting of land and water in the world" (originally noted by Francis McComas). The effects of the sea on the geological formation, on the climate, and on the biota of the Reserve are significant. This theme interprets the Point Lobos landscape, created by the interaction of the land and the ocean. The landscape is a mixture of landforms, such as rock outcrops, gently sloping hills, and sandy beaches. Waves and weather influenced the landforms along the coast and eroded and deposited sand and gravel. Terraces and beaches formed as sea levels changed. The geologic processes have provided a foundation of landforms and landscapes that support the diversity of flora and fauna at the Reserve.

## Human History Theme

The Reserve has a rich and diverse human history dating back more than 2,000 years.

This theme covers the human history of the lands in the Reserve, including the Rumsen and Esselen, the Chinese fishermen, the New England stonemasons, the Azorean/Portuguese shore whalers, and the Japanese abalone collectors.

# Nature as Inspiration Theme

The natural beauty of the Reserve has inspired naturalists, artists, authors, photographers, and others for many years, sparking early conservation efforts that led to establishment of the park and to the ongoing model of partnership that continues to care for the natural and cultural resources.

This theme interprets the story of the Save-the-Redwoods League's lobby in the late 1920s for the area to be set aside as a park. Point Lobos became a prime example of the need for a State Park System and was identified in the Olmsted Survey, funded by a bond act in 1928. Point Lobos itself was purchased in 1933. Since that time, the landscape has continued to inspire naturalists who enjoy the Reserve; artists who paint the landscape and wildlife; authors who write poetry; and photographers who take inspiring photos of the landscapes, plants, and animals.

#### Conservation and Protection Theme

Many of the resources at the Reserve are fragile and can easily be damaged or destroyed. Conserving this area for future generations to enjoy is a high priority.

This theme interprets the susceptibility of marine ecosystems to human impacts both through direct use, and through lifestyle, and how visitors can minimize negative impacts while recreating in this area, and how they can make lifestyle changes that support protection of aquatic ecosystems. Examples include avoiding the use of certain fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals if those pollutants are likely to contaminate local aquatic ecosystems, and avoiding the use of plastic bags, which cause injury to turtles that



Visitors wildlife-watching and appreciating nature at the Reserve

ingest them, because of their jellyfish-like appearance in the water. In this theme, emphasis is also placed in all interpretive media on the need for park visitors to help protect the Reserve through behaviors such as staying on trails, not collecting plants, animals, or rocks, and diving safely and responsibly.

# **Secondary Themes**

# Marine Mammal Diversity Theme

Marine mammals, such as sea lions, seals, and sea otters, are abundant at the Reserve, and whales can be seen during their migrations.

The Reserve has an amazing diversity of marine mammals. A favorite of park visitors is the southern sea otter, which can be found floating in the seaweed. They are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and there are about 2,700 otters in this area. The other abundant mammals are sea lions and harbor seals. The California sea lion is the noisy animal seen on the rocks offshore from Sea Lion Point. The name "Point Lobos," in fact, refers to sea lions. The earlier Spanish name was "Punta de los Lobos Marinos" which is translated to "Point of the Sea Wolves." Harbor seals are much smaller than sea lions, and they reside at Point Lobos year-round. Their pups are born on the shoreline rocks and beaches in April and May.

Gray whales can be seen between December and May, and the best places to see them are from Sea Lion Point and the headlands on the Cypress Grove Trail. The whales migrate between their northern summer feeding grounds in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas and the warm lagoons of western Baja, California.

## Marine Ecosystems Theme

Scuba divers discover the unique marine world on their trips beneath the sea, and visitors can observe the tidepools and intertidal zones along the shore at low tides throughout the year.

This theme covers what lives under the water. The Reserve has one of the richest, most biologically diverse, important and valuable aquatic reserves in the United States and perhaps the world. Divers will first swim through the red and brown seaweed, home to a great diversity of life. Red coralline seaweeds provide a home for smaller animals. Other organisms divers can view include yellow feather-duster worms, anemones, bat stars, lingcod, cabezon, and rockfish, with the latter three found around the coves.



Divers at Whalers Cove

## Geology Theme

The geology of Point Lobos is unique and appealing. The younger Carmelo Formation is rare and geologists from all parts of the world come to study these deposits.

The theme covers the two contrasting rock types found in the Reserve, the Carmelo Formation and the Santa Lucia granite. The granite can be found on the north shore and Hidden Beach. The Carmelo Formation is located at Sea Lion Point, the south shore, and Whalers and Moss coves.

#### Influence of Humans and Nature Theme

The landscape (flora and fauna) has changed over time due to natural and human causes, resulting in plant succession.

In this theme, the Monterey cypress is the most unique, and the Monterey area (in the Reserve and at Cypress Point in Pebble Beach) is the only location where this tree grows naturally. The exceedingly limited area of its natural home may have been caused by changes in climatic conditions. CSP staff are working with university interns to look at changes to flora and fauna caused by park visitors and natural causes.

## Park Beginnings Theme

In April of 1960, the State Lands Commission deeded to the State Park System 750 sub-tidal acres at Point Lobos, creating the nation's first Marine Protected Area. Additional Marine Protected Areas have been set aside to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitat.

In this theme, it is explained that the reason for creating this marine reserve was the dwindling of the rich intertidal animals and seaweed in the ocean and the tidepools. Scuba divers were spearing fish and collecting abalone, and park visitors were collecting sea stars and other animals in the tidepools. Park managers realized that they needed to protect the intertidal and sub-tidal lands and subsequently helped to create the underwater reserve.

# Community Stewardship Theme

The Reserve is a model of stewardship through community involvement.

This theme discusses the continuing support of park docents and other park partners. The park docents support the Reserve by donating thousands of hours leading public and school walks; staffing the Information Station, the mobile interpretive van, the Whalers Cabin Museum, and at special events; and providing other interpretive activities. PLF, the State Parks Cooperating Association for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, supports the docent program and funds interpretive projects. A new partnership is the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project, which supports collaborative projects.



Inside the Whalers Cabin Museum

## New State Park - Coastal Area

## Unifying Theme

Quality of life for all who have lived and continue to live in this area depends heavily on the natural resources, including the flora and fauna, beach, ocean, wetland, and aesthetic qualities.

## **Primary Theme**

#### Wetland Protection Theme

Due to past human activities that have damaged or eliminated more than half of the wetlands in the United States, it is important to protect and restore the remaining wetlands.

In this theme, the focus is on protecting wetlands and in particular, our local wetlands. The lagoon is a focal point to interpret the value of wetlands in general for supporting wildlife, improving water quality, and mitigating floods, as well as the negative effects from eliminating or polluting a high percentage of wetlands in California and the rest of the United States. The ways people can help protect wetlands through lifestyle changes in terms of landscaping and use of chemicals, donating time and/or money to restoration projects, and otherwise supporting wetland maintenance and restoration projects can be identified.

## Agricultural History Theme

Agriculture, particularly dairying and artichoke farming, was significant in the economic development of the Carmel area, but has nearly disappeared from this part of the county.

In this theme, this important story will be told through a variety of methods. The historic barns and other buildings at the Odello Farm complex are a reminder of this past agriculture use.

#### Rumsen and Esselen and Carmel River Theme

The Carmel River has been and continues to be important to the Rumsen and Esselen people, and their stories reflect this relationship.

In this theme, the Rumsen and Esselen descendants will have the opportunity to tell their important story in their voice.



Carmel River lagoon



Carmel River lagoon marsh

## **Secondary Themes**

# Special Status Species Habitat Theme

A wide variety of fish and wildlife depend on the Carmel River lagoon and associated wetland habitat for survival.

In this theme, interpretation will explain how the Carmel River, lagoon, and marsh provide important habitat for south-central California coast steelhead and several other special status species. The California red-legged frog, which is federally listed as threatened, lives in the Carmel River lagoon. Also found in the lagoon is a federal and California Species of Special Concern, the western pond turtle.

## Fish Migration Theme

For anadromous fish, the Carmel River estuary is a critical link between the Carmel River system and the ocean.

The south-central California coast steelhead travel through the Carmel River during their seasonal migrations and use the lagoon for juvenile rearing in the summer and fall. The south-central California coast steelhead is federally listed as endangered.

## Human-Floodplain Interaction Theme

Past practices that allowed development on a flood plain have resulted in the need for continued resource manipulation.

In this theme, topics consist of the impacts of homes built on an active flood plain and the impacts of how the river is managed when flooding is imminent.

New State Park - Inland Area

# **Unifying Theme**

The buildings and the landscape reflect the people who lived in the area.

## **Primary Theme**

# Native American Ways of Living Theme

The presence and abundance of key resources allowed the Rumsen and Esselen cultures to thrive for centuries, and dictated the lifestyle of the people who lived here.

# Allan Family Influence Theme

Alexander MacMillan (A.M.) Allan was a renaissance man who was an engineer, businessman, dairy farmer, and conservationist and his family helped him in all of these areas.

In this theme, A.M. Allan and the ranching history of the area are interpreted within the continuum of human use of the area and the impact of that use on native flora and fauna. The role that women played in the Carmel area will be another important subject. Eunice Allan Riley, A.M. Allan's daughter, played an important role in the dairy. Satie, Allan's wife, was influential in developing his conservation ethic.

# San Jose Creek History Theme

The San Jose Creek buildings and landscape reflect the unique history of the area from Swiss dairymen, farmers, a family-run flower bulb farm, and a horse camp established by a female national polo player.

In this theme, the story is told of the historic ranch complex, which consists of a portion of a dairy originally developed by A.M. Allan at the turn of the century. It contains most of the domestic and functional buildings associated with the dairy, including houses and barns. It also contains several of the main pastures used for the dairy cows, as well as roads, fences, and small-scale features.

The Silvears operated a flower and bulb farm on the property. Following their departure, a horse camp was established in the mid-1960s by Sue Sally Hale, who was an exceptional national polo player.

## Habitat and Protected Species Theme

This land was set aside to preserve mountain lion habitat and to provide wildlife corridors.

This theme addresses that the area is habitat to federally listed species: the south-central California coast steelhead trout and California red-legged frog, which live in the creek, and the Smith's blue butterfly which live in the canyon. The land also provides wildlife corridors for mountain lions and other animals. The connection between mountain lions and habitat, the impact of human development on wildlife habitat, and the resulting impact on mountain lion populations and behavior will be interpreted.

The federally listed Gowen cypress is also found here. This theme will interpret why native Gowen cypress, Monterey pine, and maritime chaparral plant communities are important, how they are being managed, the potential consequences of global climate change on these communities, and how visitors can help protect such communities.



Historic coast road in New State Park — Inland Area

# **Secondary Themes**

### Coast Road Theme

The intersection of the coast road and the road to Point Lobos within the A.M. Allan Ranch was the hub of the community of Carmelo and the industry that took place at Point Lobos during the latter half of the 19th century.

This theme expands on the interpretation of the primary theme and includes the importance of the road to the A.M. Allan Ranch and Point Lobos in the early years.

# New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area

# Unifying Theme

The Hatton Canyon story emphasizes how a community came together to protect the natural resources of this area in protest of a proposed highway bypass.

## **Primary Theme**

# Land Use History Theme

The property has a unique history and is also an important wildlife corridor.

This theme will tell the stories about the controversy about developing a highway bypass of SR I through Hatton Canyon. Explanation will include how this area is now used. The importance of the upper canyon as a wildlife corridor will be discussed.

# **Secondary Themes**

## Jose Bernabe Theme

The cabin site of Native American Jose Bernabe (El Sordo) is located within the boundaries of Hatton Canyon.

This theme will tell the story of Jose Bernabe, a Salinan whose mother was from Mission San Antonio. He lived for many years in Hatton Canyon, and was part of a larger community of former Mission Indians who continued to practice aspects of their traditional culture.



Multi-purpose trail at Hatton Canyon

### Coastal Creek Theme

Small coastal streams are vitally important to the environment and the economy.

Using San Jose Creek as an example, this theme interprets the contribution of small coastal streams to populations of environmentally and economically important fisheries, the connection between healthy riparian areas and healthy fish habitat, the impact of human activities on riparian areas and fish populations, as well as the importance of restoring and protecting that riparian habitat. This will be combined with information on how people can minimize impact to riparian areas and water courses through sustainable landscaping and eliminating use of some fertilizers and other chemicals.

# **Interpretive Periods**

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered by cultural history interpretation. A primary interpretive period focuses interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. The significance is determined by important events associated with the park site, or by notable existing historic or prehistoric resources at the site. Choosing the primary and secondary interpretive periods also involves considering what stories are best told in a particular park, the distinctiveness of the resources, the amount of information available to draw upon, and the physical evidence available for visitors to relate to. A secondary interpretive period designates a time period that is worthy of interpretation but that should receive less emphasis than the primary period. Except for major natural phenomena such as earthquakes or fires, interpretive periods generally are established only for cultural resource interpretation.

Interpretive periods define what spans of history will be covered. Primary interpretive periods focus interpretation on the time period of greatest significance in the park's cultural history. Secondary interpretive periods designate time periods that are worthy of interpretation, but should receive less emphasis.

# Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

### Primary Interpretive Period

Resource Extraction Economy Period: (mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century)

This period includes a time where fishing, rock quarrying, whaling, and abalone fishing were developed. Led by Quock Fook Loy, the Chinese arrived at Point Lobos in the early 1850s. They established the first known Chinese village in California and operated the Carmel Fishing Company. In 1854, New England stonemasons Abner Basset and Joseph Emery established the Carmelo Granite Quarry on the west side of Whalers Cove. In the early 1860s, Azorean/Portuguese whalers practiced shore whaling in the cove.

In 1898, A.M. Allan entered into a business partnership with Gennosuke Kodani, a Japanese marine biologist. They established and operated an abalone fishery and opened a cannery in 1902.

# Secondary Interpretive Period

Conservation Era: (early twentieth century through present)

This includes the efforts of the Save-the-Redwoods League lobbying to establish the area as a park in the late 1920s to the current conservation efforts. As a result of these efforts, legislation was passed for funding a state park survey by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Point Lobos was one of the prime locations identified by the Olmsted Survey that would become a State Park.

New State Park - Coastal Area

## **Primary Interpretive Period**

Prehistory through Spanish Exploration and Mission Period (pre-seventeenth to late-eighteenth century)
Native Americans have lived in the Point Lobos area for thousands of years with the Rumsen being the most recent group of indigenous people. The main village site was mapped along the Carmel River several miles from the coast line.

The Rumsen were the first Native American people in this area to be seen and documented by the Spanish explorers. In 1602, Spanish explorer Sebastian Viscaino landed at nearby Carmel Bay and his party explored Point Lobos. In 1769, the first overland party led by Don Gaspar de Portola arrived in the area, and it is speculated that they camped very near the Reserve. Two years later, Father Junipero Serra established Mission San Carlos de Borromeo de Carmelo located near the mouth of Rio Carmelo. During the Spanish era, the Rumsen and other native people's lives changed substantially with the building of Mission San Carlos Borromeo.

# Secondary Interpretive Period

Early American Settlement and Ranching (midnineteenth to early twentieth century)

The coastal area contains the Odello Farm complex, which was in use from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century and consists of four historic architectural resources. There is the historic Odello residence (a one-story wood frame building), creamery/cookhouse, barn, and blacksmith shed. The Odellos farmed artichokes in this area.

# New State Park - Inland Area

## Primary Interpretive Period

Rumsen Habitation (prehistory to first contact at the turn of the seventeenth century)

There is a large well developed archaeological site that is possibly the location of a portion of the Rumsen Ohlone village of Ishxenta. It comprises three distinct shell mounds, now known as the Hudson Mounds, and the adjacent San Jose Creek floodplain, previously also known as the Polo Field.

# Secondary Interpretive Period:

Dairying and Ranch Development (late nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century)

Dairying includes the important role the Portuguese settlers played in the development of this industry in the region. Later, ranch development by A.M. Allan and his family and his eventual role in preserving the land were important to the area.

# Hatton Canyon Property

# Primary Interpretive Period

The Flow of History (Post-Mission Period to present)

The property has a unique history from native people who continued living in the area after missions were established, the controversy over building a highway bypass through the canyon, and its use as an urban open space.

# Interpretive Collections

# Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum collection includes artifacts from groups representative of the human history of the area. The collection consists of fewer than 100 catalogued CSP museum objects and approximately 206 loaned objects. These museums will continue to be useful for interpretation of the Resource Extraction Economy Period and will speak to the primary theme of the Reserve's rich and diverse human history.

# New State Park - Coastal Area

A collection from the Coastal Area consists of a variety of items from testing and evaluation of a coastal shell midden site and is curated at the CSP Monterey District office. Resources from this collection may be used for interpretation of themes related to Native American culture, consistent with interpretive goals and guidelines.



Whalebone art inside the Whalers Cabin Museum

## New State Park - Inland Area

The Inland Area lacks interpretive collections at this time.

# Hatton Canyon Property

Hatton Canyon lacks interpretive collections at this time.

# Interpretive Goals and Guidelines

The interpretive goals and guidelines give broad guidance on how the park interpretation will attain the park interpretation vision. The interpretation goals and guidelines aim to facilitate activities that help to address the interpretation issues and constraints. A key goal is for interpretation resources and programs to serve multiple purposes - they should not only inform and inspire but can also help CSP manage the harmful effects of excessive visitation and deliver messages about visitor safety in the parks. Implementation of interpretation goals and guidelines would also result in preparation of an Interpretation Master Plan for the parks through a collaborative process and would require consideration of interpretive efforts on adjacent lands through working with other land management agencies and PLF. Goals and guidelines will continue to foster educational programs at the parks for school-aged children and will also bring focus to mindful and respectful interpretation of Native American culture.

Interpretive resources and programs should not only inform and inspire park visitors, they can also deliver messages about safety in the parks and help CSP manage harmful effects of visitation.

# **INTERPRET Goal 1**

Create an integrated Interpretation Master Plan to guide interpretation program development.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 1.1

Analyze existing conditions and examine opportunities and constraints for expanding interpretation and meeting visitor needs. Determine future planning activities, including preparation of an Interpretation Action Plan and Interpretive Services Plans.

### INTERPRET Guideline 1.2

Define how to integrate existing interpretation planning efforts for the Reserve into the Interpretation Master Plan to be prepared to include the New State Park.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 1.3

Involve the public in creation of the Interpretation Master Plan. Methods for involving the community can include workshops, visitor surveys, comment books, and public meetings. Consider input on type, location, and content of interpretation.

# INTERPRET Guideline 1.4

Collaborate with local Native American tribes during development of the Interpretation Master Plan. Consistent with the Department's guidance, consult with Native American tribes about interpretation of their heritage. Other topics of consultation should include sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, cultural traditions, and management of areas, locations, and items associated with the tribe's heritage.

### INTERPRET Guideline 1.5

Provide accessible interpretive resources. Consult with the District Accessibility Resource Group and members of the disabled community to ensure accessible interpretive opportunities.

### **INTERPRET Goal 2**

Interpretation will emphasize exemplary features of parkland and will contribute to the visitor's understanding of the regional context.

### INTERPRET Guideline 2.1

Collaborate with the land-owning agencies of the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project (MPRPD and BSLT) to ensure interpretive programs on public lands between Big Sur and Carmel tell a cohesive regional story of cultural and natural resources. Collaborate on interpretive programs that specifically invite the visitor to visit multiple public lands as part of the interpretation process.

### INTERPRET Guideline 2.2

Coordinate interpretation with goals and guidelines presented in MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 2.3

Continue working closely with PLF to maintain and/or upgrade interpretive opportunities, as necessary, such as the exhibits at the Whalers Cabin Museum and Whaling Station Museum, and personal interpretive services and programs provided by docents.



View to Palo Corona Regional Park

### **INTERPRET Goal 3**

New interpretive resources and programs will serve additional purposes beyond interpretation.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 3.1

Explore and develop interpretive opportunities that are also designed to alleviate adverse impacts from concentrated crowds. Encourage engagement in appropriate stewardship behaviors. Potential methods are placing fixed structures (e.g., visitor facilities) away from sensitive resources and including information about ways visitors can reduce impacts to sensitive resources during their visit, such as staying on trails, not collecting plants and animals, and adhering to park regulations regarding closures and limited access to areas with sensitive cultural and natural resources.

### INTERPRET Guideline 3.2

Explore and develop interpretive opportunities that reduce visual intrusion in visually sensitive areas. For example, new interpretation could focus on non-fixed interpretive resources, such as guided tours and informational brochures, instead of placement of new interpretive panels. In most instances, the location of new fixed resources should be in areas that are less visually sensitive, such as trailheads or staging areas.

#### **INTERPRET** Guideline 3.3

Use interpretation to deliver public safety messages. For example, a brochure for a walking tour along the coastline could include a message about undercurrents and water safety. Signage could include information about the presence of mountain lions and what to do if one is encountered.

# INTERPRET Guideline 3.4

Use interpretation methods that will assist with visitor management. Consider use of remote interpretation techniques, such as websites, to reach more people. The use of guided pre-reserved tours allow for visitation management in terms of number of people and time of visit. Identify elements that provide visitor orientation and wayfinding information while encouraging visitors to visit areas of the park that are not as heavily used.



Monastery Beach

### INTERPRET Guideline 3.5

Use interpretation methods to aid in visitor understanding of park management activities related to access and restoration. Interpret the need to restrict access and activities in specific sensitive habitat areas as a means to protect sensitive flora and/or fauna. Interpret management efforts to restore/maintain a diverse coastal habitat mosaic as a means of maintaining the flora and fauna that live in those habitats. Describe how visitors can become involved in such efforts.

### **INTERPRET Guideline 3.6**

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting the diversity of native wildlife and inspire wildlife stewardship.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 3.7

Use interpretive techniques to motivate people to identify and modify specific aspects of their lifestyle that will help protect natural resources. Examples include reducing their carbon footprint, recycling, and using native species when landscaping.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 3.8

Provide mobile interpretive strategies that could be used during special events and group gatherings, such as weddings and school field trips.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 3.9

Expand multi-lingual communication strategies to improve visitor outreach locally, regionally, and internationally.

### **INTERPRET Goal 4**

Provide respectful interpretation of Rumsen and Esselen culture associated with the parks, and ensure interpretation is mindful of the cultural preserves.

#### **INTERPRET** Guideline 4.1

Engage Rumsen and Esselen descendants in planning interpretation involving their cultures. Use a cultural specialist to facilitate open communication with Rumsen and Esselen descendants. Solicit and consider input on the location and content of interpretation.

### INTERPRET Guideline 4.2

Consider current Native American use of traditional lands so that interpretation does not interfere with current Native American uses. Consult descendants on ways to ensure that current practices can be continued without risking the feeling that aspects of Native American culture are being put "on display" or ended at contact.

#### **INTERPRET** Guideline 4.3

Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting Native American resources and increasing understanding of the role of original inhabitants in the region.

### INTERPRET Guideline 4.4

For interpretation of non-cultural resources, ensure the interpretation does not result in adverse impacts to the cultural preserves and other tribal cultural resources.

### INTERPRET Goal 5

Offer interpretive programs appropriate for school-aged children in coordination with local school districts.

### **INTERPRET** Guideline 5.1

Continue offering a suite of educational programs for school children of all levels. Examples include the Junior Ranger Program, natural history field trips, and Litter-Getter Programs. Coordinate with local school districts to share the interpretive content and available programs.

### INTERPRET Guideline 5.2

Develop interpretation for elementary school children that is tied to current educational standards, especially for science and history/social studies.

#### INTERPRET Guideline 5.3

Expand the Parks On-line Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) and add new innovative technology education programs like Skype in the Classroom.

### INTERPRET Guideline 5.4

Provide remote learning opportunities, such as curriculum that can be brought to the classroom.



# 4.4 Management Zones and Management Intent

Management zones spatially define the management concept for each CASP unit. They describe the management goals and intent of an area and show the relationships between distinct areas in terms of land use and management strategies. A total of 16 management zones have been identified and established based on the distinct features, resources, interpretive characteristics, or desired visitor experiences and uses for each particular area. The management zones are as follows:

### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

### New State Park - Coastal Area

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone
- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

### New State Park - Inland Area

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

## **New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area**

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

The management intent or vision for each management zone is described below, along with summaries of characteristics, cultural and natural resource values, desired visitor experiences, proposed facilities and intensity of uses, and public access opportunities. Approximate size, location, and extent are also provided. This section provides the foundation for the management zone goals and guidelines outlined in Section 4.5.

# 4.4.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The Reserve contains a unique combination of natural habitats, multiple protected species, striking marine and coastal scenery, and invaluable cultural resources. The high quality of visitor experiences is internationally recognized. However, the incredible natural, scenic, and cultural resources in the Reserve cannot sustain current levels of visitation without experiencing resource damage. If preventative actions are not taken, visitation levels would continue to increase with normal population growth and the growing popularity of this unit.

To implement the purposes identified in the PRC for a State Natural Reserve classification and to protect and preserve the Reserve's unique ecological, scenic, and cultural resource values, the Park Plan seeks to manage visitor use levels and resource impacts by implementing a variety of management strategies. A reservation system will be designed and implemented as an important tool for visitor capacity management and resource protection. By providing multimodal means of access to the Reserve from a transportation center, planned to be in the Lower Hatton Canyon area of the New

The Reserve, with its incredible natural, scenic, and cultural resources, cannot sustain current levels of visitation without experiencing resource damage.



Heavy trail use at the Reserve

State Park, the emphasis on personal auto access will be diminished. Reduction of general visitor parking spaces is planned in the Reserve for purposes of resource protection. By implementing a reservation system and reducing vehicle parking within the Reserve, sustainable visitation levels can be achieved. This will protect valuable resources from further damage and enhance the quality of visitor experiences. Strategies to accomplish this include applying a reservation system to day use visitation to address both peak-demand days and total annual visitation levels, removing vehicle parking from unpaved areas along coastal bluffs, supporting the efforts of local partners to eliminate or reduce on-highway parking along SR I near the Reserve, and working with local and regional partners to develop a multimodal transportation center to serve the Reserve (and all CASP units) by making land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a potential site.

Under this General Plan, the New State Park – Inland Area, across SR I from the Reserve, will be opened to the public and coordinated public access and parking strategies will be implemented between the Reserve and Inland Area. Public access features will include an upgraded intersection that provides access to both the Reserve and the Inland Area, a protected pedestrian crossing of SR I between the Reserve and Inland Area, and transit/shuttle drop-off/pick-up locations. A number of new visitor parking spaces will be added as needed in stages within the Inland Area to serve public access to the Reserve, coordinated with the removal of Reserve visitor parking. The Inland Area will function in tandem with the Reserve to help distribute visitors to park areas with recreation options, contributing to visitor management and reducing resource degradation from excessive visitation within the Reserve.

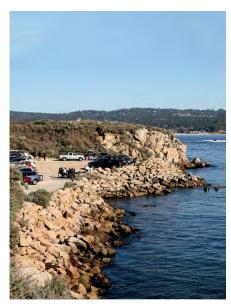
Reducing excessive visitor use is the most important strategy for protecting the Reserve's valuable resources. With achievement of a sustainable level of visitation, a variety of new ecological restoration and natural and cultural resource protection efforts will be implemented. Section 4.3 includes goals and guidelines that describe these strategies.

Figure 4-2 shows the Preferred Alternative for the Reserve, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. The Reserve is divided into three management zones: the Marine Zone, Coastal Bluff Zone, and Upland Reserve Zone. A brief description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of management intent.

# Marine Zone

The Marine Zone contains approximately 770 acres of tidal and subtidal marine and benthic habitat, including off-shore sea mount rocks, surrounding Point Lobos. The tidal and subtidal part of the

Section 4.3 Carmel Area State Parks
Goals and Guidelines describes how CASP
will achieve sustainable levels of
visitation and how a variety of natural
and cultural resources will be restored,
preserved, and protected.



View of Whalers Cove visitor parking



Coastal bluff restoration

existing boat launch/diver access ramp in Whalers Cove is the only constructed facility located within this zone with the remainder of the boat launch/diver access ramp in the Coastal Bluff Zone.

# Management Intent

The Marine Zone will be managed to preserve and protect marine resources and water quality and provide controlled, sustainable visitor access and water-dependent recreation and scientific study. This mostly underwater zone meets the coastline forming its edge with the Coastal Bluff Zone (described below). Divers accessing the Marine Zone enter through the Coastal Bluff Zone at the access ramp at Whalers Cove. Visitors can explore the marine resources through various forms of water-dependent recreation and interpretation. Specific recreation uses in the Marine Zone include scuba diving, non-motorized and motorized boating, snorkeling, and stand-up paddle boarding. Limited scientific research is also allowed by permit in this zone. Marine-related recreation and research activities will be monitored and assessed annually, and access to specific areas may be limited or prohibited during breeding seasons for marine mammals and marine birds. Visitors will experience minimal social contact in this zone because the number of users in the zone at one time is restricted by permits for diving or the requirement to make a reservation for a limited number of boat launches available per day.

# Coastal Bluff Zone

The Coastal Bluff Zone is approximately 245 acres and includes the bluff edge and adjacent land starting at the northern border adjacent to Monastery Beach and running south along the coastline to the Reserve's southern border at Gibson Creek. Rocky headlands and bluffs, coves, pocket beaches, a broad sandy beach, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub characterize this zone. This zone contains one of the two native Monterey cypress populations remaining in the world. Visitor parking, an information station, and hiking trails are located in this zone. Structures include the historic Whalers Cabin Museum, Whaling Station Museum, and Hudson House historic compound.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed with an emphasis on the protection of sensitive bluff resources, prevention of soil erosion and compaction, and restoration of native habitat and vegetation. Specific recreational uses within this zone include hiking/walking, guided tours, picnicking, wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, photography, painting, diving access, non-motorized boat launch, motorized boat launch (by permit), tidepooling, and interpretation.

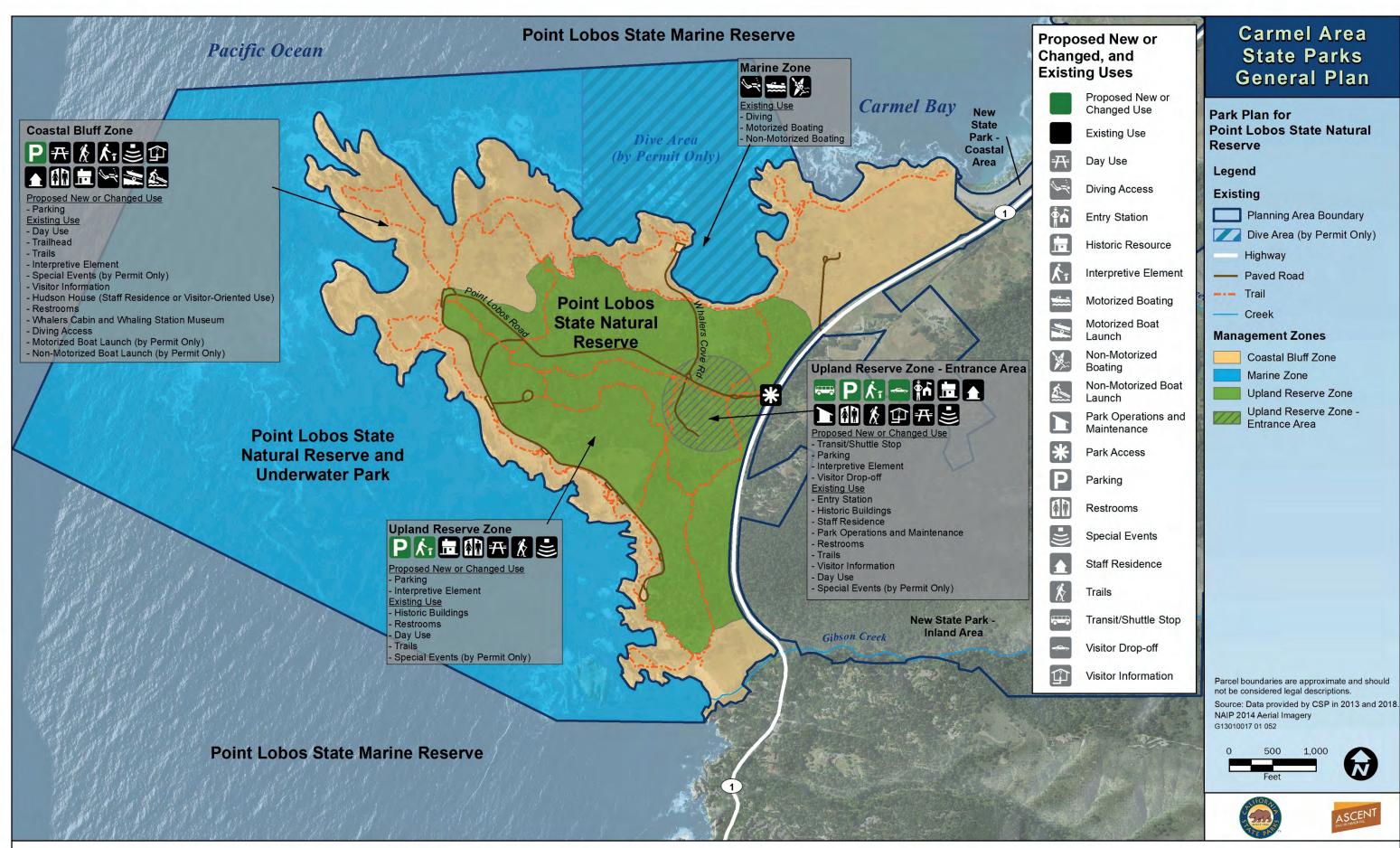


Figure 4-2 Park Plan for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Minimal facilities will be provided with the intent to guide visitor use to designated areas and authorized trails and to provide high quality visitor enjoyment while preserving the resources. Unpaved parking areas will be removed from this zone, where natural and/or cultural resource damage has occurred or may potentially occur. This will reduce erosion, improve nearshore marine water quality, restore coastal prairie habitat, and support alleviation of resource degradation from excessive visitor use. Removal of parking spaces in this zone will be coordinated as needed with development of parking in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone of New State Park – Inland Area. Diver access parking at Whalers Cove, accessible parking, and staff parking will be retained on paved lots. Monitoring and adaptive management strategies will help conserve and protect natural resources. Sensitive areas may be limited or closed to visitor access based on resource protection requirements.

Within this zone, visitors will experience dramatic scenic views of the coastal landscapes, ocean vistas, and close-by marine life using an interconnected trail network and viewing stations along the coastal cliffs. Coastal natural and cultural resources provide opportunities for scientific discovery and educational opportunities. Limited sandy beach access and tidepools provide shoreline recreation and interpretive opportunities. Visitors will typically experience a moderate to high level of social contact in this zone because of the Reserve's local, national, and international popularity and the ease of access provided to striking scenic beauty. This zone is connected via roads and trails to the Upland Reserve Zone and interfaces with the Marine Zone at the shoreline edge.

# **Upland Reserve Zone**

Located between SR I and the Coastal Bluff Zone, the Upland Reserve Zone constitutes approximately 185 acres of the Reserve. It is characterized by flat and rolling terrain dominated by Monterey pine forest—part of the Monterey Peninsula's core native population—with limited coastal prairie included within the western edges of the zone. Located within this zone will be the visitor entrance area, transit and/or shuttle stop, trails and roads, staff housing, operations and maintenance facilities, and limited parking.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed for natural resource protection and ecological restoration, visitor orientation, passive outdoor recreation (such as walking and nature appreciation), and interpretation. It will also serve as the primary arrival location for visitors to the Reserve.



Sea star in a tidepool at the Reserve



Entrance kiosk at the Reserve

The Upland Reserve Zone offers visitors a forested setting punctuated by views of the Pacific Ocean. Visitors will experience natural and cultural resources through nature hikes and guided tours within the zone and to the adjacent Coastal Bluff Zone. Trails will allow visitors to view plants, wildlife, landscapes, and historic features of the area. Visitors are likely to experience a high level of social contact in this zone because it will be a focal point of arrival and will have high activity levels.

To address natural and cultural resource degradation from visitor use, visitor parking is minimized and visitor management and alternative transportation strategies will be implemented. Visitor parking may be reduced and accessible parking and staff parking will be retained. Visitor management and public access features will include a reservation system and a shuttle/transit stop connected to a multimodal transportation center planned to be located in Lower Hatton Canyon to reduce reliance on personal autos and keep visitation at sustainable levels that help protect the Reserve's resources. Adaptive management strategies will help conserve and protect natural and cultural resources in response to ongoing monitoring.

This zone will serve as the public entrance to the Reserve with visitor orientation, wayfinding, education, and interpretation elements. The zone's entrance area will be the public access hub. Some historic structures may be adaptively re-used for visitor serving purposes. A transit/shuttle stop for visitor drop-off/pickup will be located in the entrance area, which will also be available for use with an alternate internal conveyance system (such as a tram or internal shuttle) to transport visitors throughout the Reserve and potentially to the Inland Area parking facilities. If the demand for parking to serve the Reserve needs, over time, to be relocated to the Inland Area, visitor parking spaces may be removed from the Reserve in stages (up to 150 spaces from the Upland Reserve and Coastal Bluff zones). If needed, visitor parking will be provided in stages in the New State Park - Inland Area, A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone. By diminishing the emphasis on personal autos to access the Reserve through use of alternative modes, management actions will help reduce traffic by diverting auto trips to transit and/or shuttles.

In cooperation with Caltrans, the public entrance and intersection with SR I will be improved. Innovative contemporary intersection design will be considered, potentially including a roundabout and/or a pedestrian underpass.



Visitor Information Station at Sea Lion Point

# 4.4.2 New State Park - Coastal Area

The New State Park combines the State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon into one State Park unit. These areas have distinct geology, topography, land cover, and habitat types and offer varied recreation opportunities and experiences. For this reason, the Plan addresses the three areas of this new State Park with distinct goals and guidelines.

The Coastal Area, west of SR I, includes beaches and shoreline with lagoon, wetland, coastal bluff edge, and upland habitat. The Coastal Area will provide a variety of high-quality visitor experiences, including beach-related recreation, hiking/walking, photography, and bird watching. The Coastal Area includes the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone, with a management focus on protecting significant resource values, including the wetland and lagoon and the associated special status species. The Coastal Area also includes the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone with a management focus on protecting significant resource values related to archaeological deposits. Within the Coastal Area's Odello Farm Zone, historic buildings may be adaptively re-used for visitor-serving facilities or staff residences. A native plant propagation shadehouse and native plant greenhouse facility located in this zone can augment habitat restoration efforts at the Reserve and other state parks in the area. A small parking and day use area will function as a trailhead for limited trails that are located and designed in an environmentally sensitive manner to provide access to the surrounding wetland, riverine, and lagoon habitat.

Figure 4-3 shows the Park Plan for the Coastal Area, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and activities. The Coastal Area is divided into six management zones: the Coastal Margin Zone, the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone, the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone, the Lagoon/Wetland Zone, the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone, and the Odello Farm Zone. A brief physical description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent.

# Coastal Margin Zone

This zone is approximately 70 acres and includes lands immediately bordering the ocean, at Monastery Beach east of the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve and north to Stewart's Cove. Open sandy beaches, coastal prairies, bluffs, coastal scrub, and riparian areas characterize this zone. Recreation facilities are limited to low-intensity, day use facilities and include one service road/trail providing beach access, other trails, parking areas,



Beachgoer at Monastery Beach

restrooms at Carmel River Beach and Monastery Beach, and interpretive displays.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed to protect and preserve terrestrial and marine wildlife and natural and cultural resources, while providing visitor access, with a particular focus on safety on beaches and near bluff edges, and coastal-oriented recreation and interpretation. Within this management zone, visitors will use an interconnected trail network to experience scenic views of the ocean and marine life and to access adjacent cultural and natural preserves, including the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone and the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone (described below). Coastal geophysical, natural, and cultural resources provide for scientific discovery and educational opportunities.

Carmel River Beach, Middle Beach, and Monastery Beach provide coastal recreation. Recreation and day use facilities include trailheads and trails, scenic viewpoints, interpretive elements, vehicular parking, restrooms, information station, picnic areas, and special event areas.

An access road to a parking area of up to 40 vehicles would be provided in the undeveloped area next to SR I near Bay School. This parking area would connect to existing trails leading to the coastal bluff, Middle Beach, and Wedding Rock. Visitor parking is also provided at Monastery Beach and Carmel River Beach.

Visitor uses will include wildlife tours, wildlife viewing, hiking, scientific research, beach/coastal-oriented activities, special events, contact with park staff and volunteers, photography, and painting. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.

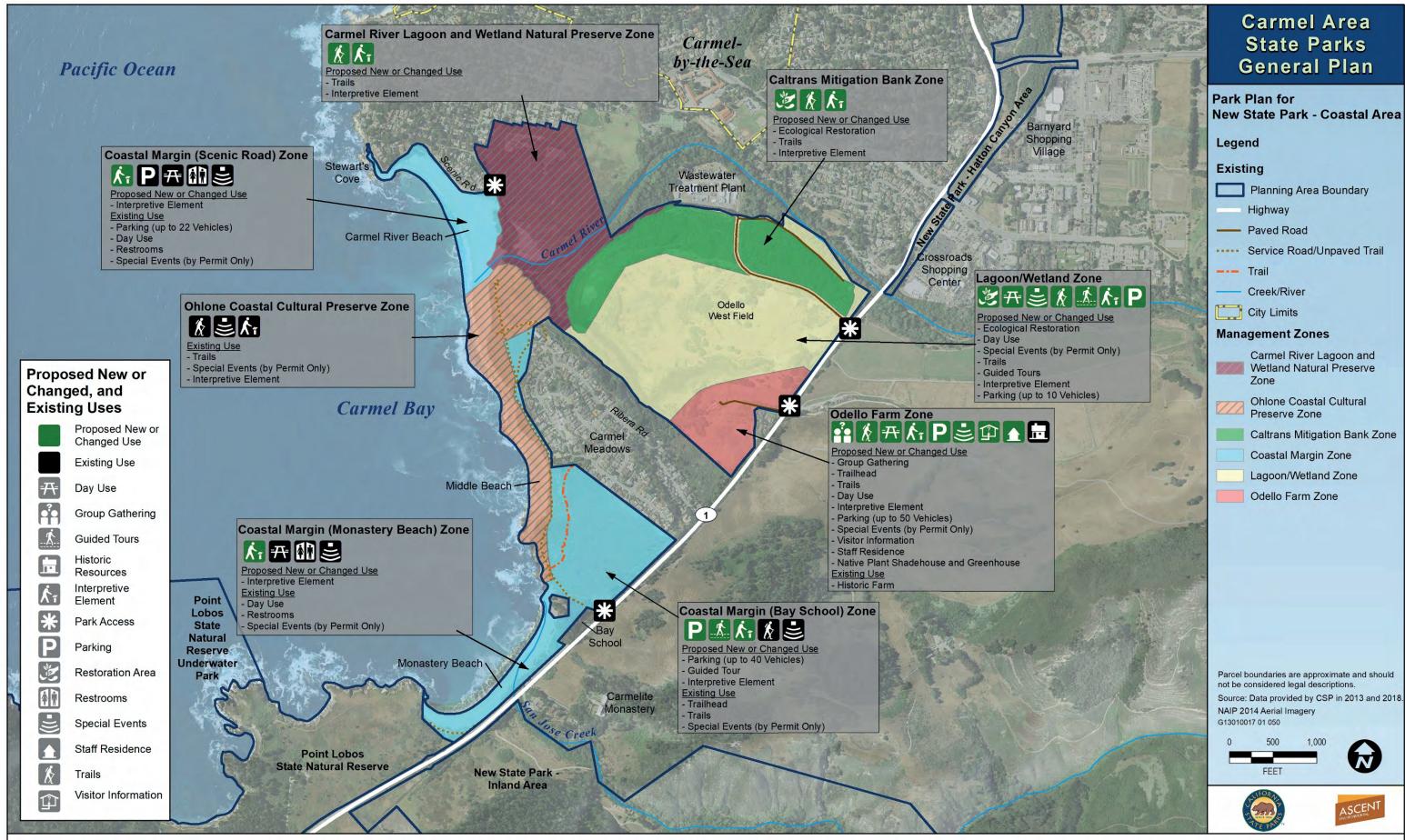


Figure 4-3 Park Plan for New State Park - Coastal Area

# Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

This zone is approximately 30 acres and is an existing cultural preserve. This linear preserve follows the shoreline north of Monastery Beach, adjacent to the Carmel Meadows residential development, to Carmel River Beach. This is a significant prehistoric Native American location of the Ohlone people, who are the indigenous people of the central California coast. As described in the Management Plan for the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve in Carmel River State Beach, the intent of the cultural preserve is to provide additional protection for the archaeological sites within the preserve.

# Management Intent

This zone is a cultural preserve and will be managed to protect existing subsurface archaeological resources and to provide appropriate interpretive opportunities. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve connects via trails to existing residential development and to the surrounding Coastal Margin Zone. Visitors experience cultural and natural resources through walks and guided tours; interpretive features connect visitors with the prehistoric use of the area and the land/water interface; and trails allow visitors to view the cultural features and coastal plants and wildlife. Specific visitor uses will include hiking (including guided tours), birding, wildlife viewing, interpretation, scientific research, photography, painting, and limited special events appropriate to a cultural preserve by permit only. Visitor facilities will be limited to trailheads, trails, and interpretive elements. Visitors will typically experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone, and uses are limited to day use only.

# Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone

This zone is approximately 50 acres and is an existing natural preserve. It consists of the Carmel River corridor and lagoon, with estuarine/wetland/riparian habitats to the north and south of the river that exhibit high ecological values. The lagoon serves as essential habitat for multiple threatened and protected species, including a distinct population segment of south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. It is also the second most significant coastal lagoon and wetland supporting over 300 species of migratory songbirds.

All or most of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone may be included in the adjacent Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone when the SR I/causeway and other infrastructure projects are completed.

# Management Intent

This zone is a natural preserve and will be managed to protect and enhance ecological conditions along the Carmel River and within the Carmel River lagoon, including habitat for threatened and protected species. Migratory songbird habitat will be managed to protect critical nesting and breeding habitat. Should visitor use negatively impact nesting migratory songbird habitat adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce or eliminate these impacts.

The zone is also managed to provide natural flood protection with consideration for sea level rise. This preserve will be expanded after the Carmel River FREE project and other CAWD infrastructure projects are complete. Visitors will experience scenic views of the wetlands and the lagoon area. Visitor uses are limited to day use and will include birding, wildlife viewing, hiking, scientific research, and photography. Visitors will learn about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland. Visitor facilities will be limited to trailheads, trails, viewing points with benches, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

# Lagoon/Wetland Zone

This zone is approximately 85 acres and includes the Carmel River lagoon and wetland complex and restored riparian and wetland area. The lagoon and wetland plant communities in this zone are an important refuge to migratory birds and are a critical overwintering site. With over 300 species recorded within this area, migratory bird diversity is among the highest in California (Bachman, pers. comm. 2016). This zone is dominated by coastal scrub habitat with a large area of wetlands in the west and south portions of the zone. Several wetland types are located within this zone, including riverine, estuarine and marine wetlands, freshwater emergent wetlands, and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands.

# Management Intent

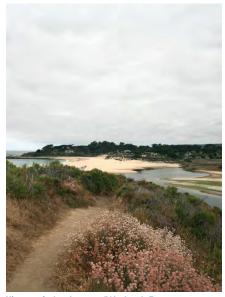
This zone will be managed to preserve its natural and scenic resources and ecosystem functions, allow a buffer for floodwaters, and provide an active wildlife corridor connection from the adjacent upland open space areas. The Lagoon/Wetland Zone is also managed for special status species protection. The Lagoon/Wetland Zone provides an important transition from the visitor use and historic buildings at the Odello Farm Zone and the sensitive habitats and restricted uses within the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and the Natural Preserve Zone. Migratory songbird habitat will be managed to protect important nesting and



Migratory bird diversity in the Lagoon/Wetland Zone is among the highest in California.

breeding habitat, as in the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone.

Visitors will experience expansive scenic views of the coast and riparian areas, and as the riparian trees mature, views may become more focused on the foreground riparian landscape. Visitors have opportunities to hike and learn about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland. Specific visitor uses will be non-intrusive day use activities, such as birding, walking/hiking (including guided walks), interpretation, scientific research, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. Visitor facilities will include trailheads and trails, parking for up to 10 vehicles, restrooms, bird watching, scenic viewpoints, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact. Design and location of facilities will minimize the potential for damage from flooding, because the zone is entirely in a flood hazard area. This zone will become part of the existing Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve in the future, after highway improvements and other planned infrastructure projects are completed.



Views of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone

# Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone

This zone is approximately 40 acres in size and is an arc-shaped area north of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone. Directly south of the Carmel River, this is restored riparian and wetland habitat and is used by Caltrans as mitigation credits for transportation project-related impacts in the region.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed for habitat and wetland protection and restoration. There is minimal development (i.e., limited trails and interpretive information) because of its role as a habitat mitigation area. This zone assists with buffering floodwaters during extreme storm events and serves as a wildlife corridor connecting upland areas east of SR I and the coastline. Visitors will experience scenic views of the wetlands and the lagoon area and will have opportunities for walking/hiking, bird watching, and learning about the important natural resources, ecosystems, and wildlife in the lagoon and wetland areas. Visitor uses include birding, hiking, interpretation, scientific research, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. Visitor facilities will include trailheads and trails, bird watching and scenic viewpoints, and interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

# Odello Farm Zone

This zone is approximately 20 acres and is adjacent to SR I. Its primary feature is the former Odello Farm complex with historic farm structures including a former residence, creamery/cookhouse, three-gabled barn, and blacksmith shed. It is characterized by non-native annual grasslands on flat terrain and riparian scrub adjacent to the Carmel River lagoon and wetlands. The zone is just outside the 100-year floodplain of the Carmel River.

# Management Intent

The Odello Farm Zone will be managed primarily for trail access, low-intensity visitor orientation and recreation, and natural and cultural resource protection. With direct vehicle access from SR I, the Odello Farm Zone would provide a small visitor parking area for using trails connected to this and other zones of the Coastal Area. An access road intersecting SR I will lead to a visitor parking area of up to 50 spaces that will be set back, away from adjacent residences, and appropriately screened with native vegetation. A trailhead will provide trail connections with the adjacent Lagoon/Wetland Zone, Palo Corona Regional Park, and the River Trail.

Within the Odello Farm Zone, visitors will experience a historic farm complex amidst the restored wetlands and lagoon with opportunities for information/interpretation, hiking, and birding. Visitor uses will include interpretation (including interpretive programs), small group gathering (focusing on coastal wetlands and the historic farm), trailhead staging, hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and painting. The historic farm will include adaptive reuse of existing buildings for visitor-serving facilities and a staff residence, vehicular parking, restrooms, native plant shadehouse and greenhouse, orientation, interpretive elements, trailheads, and trails. Northern portions of this zone outside of the protection of an earthen dike may be subject to flooding from the Carmel River during major storm events; therefore, management of the flood hazard portion will consider the flood risk by avoiding placement of permanent structures in the flood hazard part of the zone. Visitors will typically experience a low to moderate level of social contact in this zone.

# 4.4.3 New State Park - Inland Area

The Inland Area, east of SR I, includes primarily upland and forested hillsides, as well as the stream and riparian area associated with San Jose Creek. The Inland Area includes a cultural preserve and two natural preserves. The cultural preserve's management focus is on the preservation and interpretation of archaeological and culturally significant resources. Two natural preserves cover a majority of the Inland Area and focus on protecting the natural resource values of San Jose Creek and the associated riparian area and the expansive forested hillsides and ridgeline that include important mountain lion habitat and rare stands of Gowen cypress and maritime chaparral.

Visitor parking will be provided along San Jose Creek Canyon Road and within the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) complex area to serve trailheads and interpretive features. Trails will connect to regional trails and adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. Monitoring and evaluation of the reservation system's influence on parking demand, the phased removal of Reserve parking for resource protection purposes, the need for parking to support visitors to the Reserve, and the efficiency of multimodal transportation will guide parking improvements in this zone. The parking areas will be carefully located and designed to avoid adverse effects on historic structures and cultural resources associated with the former ranch complex.

Figure 4-4 shows the Park Plan for the Inland Area, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. The Inland Area is divided into the following management zones: the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone (north and south portions), the Backcountry Zone, the Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone, the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone, and the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone. A brief description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent for each zone.

# A.M. Allan Ranch Zone

This zone contains approximately 80 acres, with the south portion consisting of approximately 50 acres and the north portion consisting of approximately 30 acres. The south portion includes the historic ranch complex, which contains the former Point Lobos Ranch and Dairy structures and associated pasture lands. This lower elevation area is relatively flat to sloping with scattered vegetation, cultural resource sites, and historic ranch structures, including houses (currently used for staff residences), barns, and outbuildings used for park operations and maintenance



View of San Jose Creek Canyon

Decisions on the intersection and the pedestrian crossing of SR I will be coordinated to serve the needs of both the Reserve and New State Park — Inland Area.



Source: ©2012 Charles M. Bancroft
Sunset and silhouette

facilities. The zone also contains the road corridors encompassing Red Wolf Drive in the south portion and San Jose Creek Canyon Road in the north portion. The zone road corridors include the road surface and 20 feet from the road edge.

# Management Intent

The A.M. Allan Ranch Zone will be managed to protect and interpret its historic value and provide visitor access and orientation, trails, and compatible transportation/parking elements. Adaptive use of historic structures will provide for visitor orientation and park maintenance/operation support functions, including staff housing. Visitors can learn about the historic ranch and Native American heritage during special events, interpretive programs, and tours of historic structures and natural areas. Trails will extend into the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve and Backcountry zones, ultimately connecting to Palo Corona Regional Park. In coordination with CAL FIRE, protection from wildfires will be a priority. Visitor uses will include visitor orientation/information, picnicking, hiking, and interpretive programs and special events relating to the historic ranch and Native American heritage. Visitors will likely experience a moderate-to-high level of social contact in this zone.

The south portion of this zone will provide multimodal access for transit or shuttle stops, vehicle pick-up/drop-off facilities, and vehicle parking for visitors to this area. As the need for visitor parking for the Reserve is determined, limited additional parking will be provided in this zone. Visitor access to the south portion of the zone will be via a new visitor entrance and intersection improvements in proximity to the Reserve visitor entrance. Intersection improvements will provide safe access to this zone and to the Reserve in a configuration that also facilitates the flow of through traffic on SR I and creates a protected pedestrian crossing of the highway. Potential intersection concepts to be considered include a roundabout to maintain traffic flow and a pedestrian underpass to access the Reserve.

In the north portion of the zone, parking will provide access to the trails in the Backcountry and San Jose Creek Natural Preserve zones, and connecting trails to Palo Corona Regional Park. Staff housing will be retained. New facilities in the north portion of the zone will be limited, including a small parking area, trailhead, trails, restrooms, visitor information, and interpretive elements.

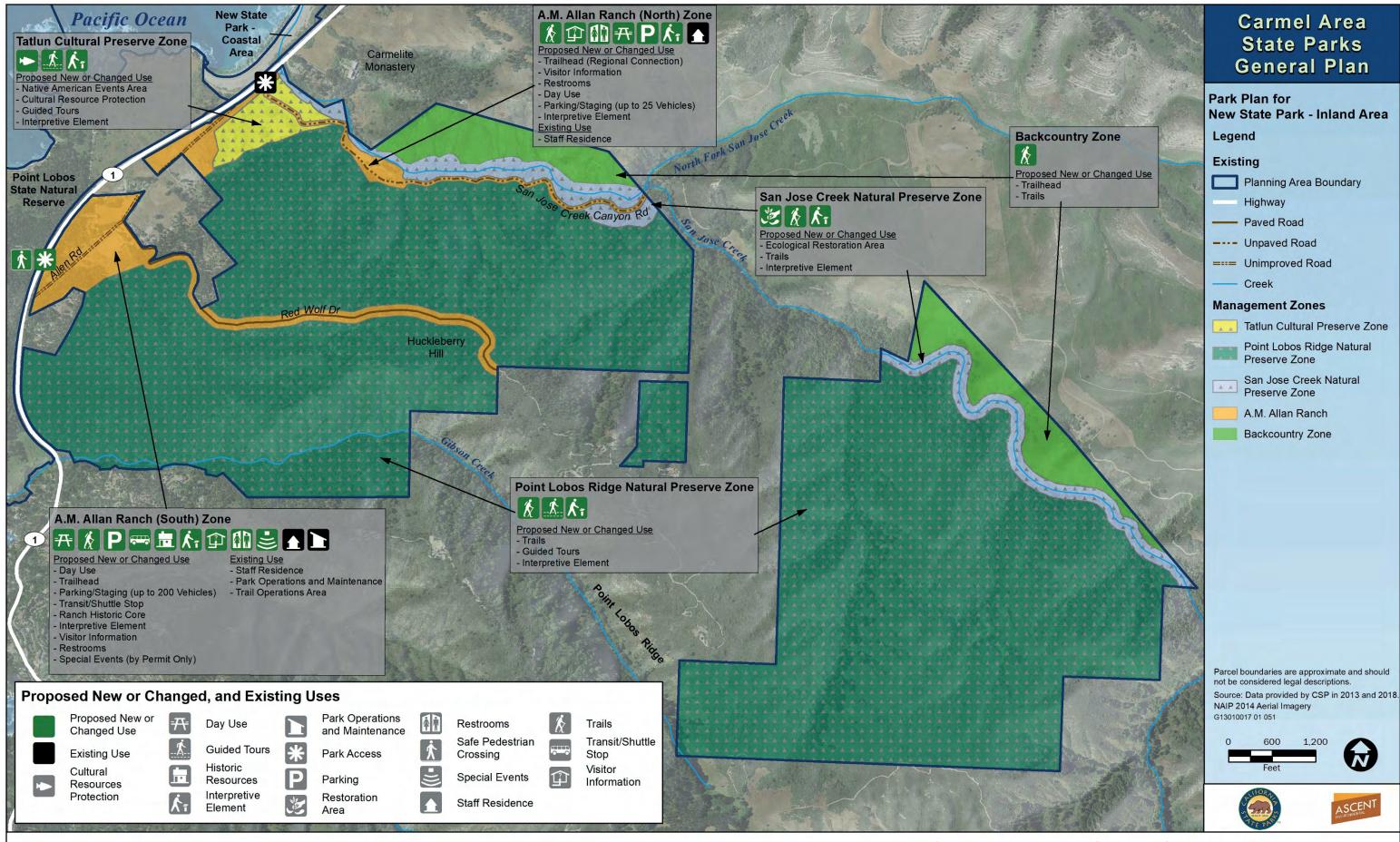


Figure 4-4 Park Plan for New State Park - Inland Area

# **Backcountry Zone**

The Backcountry Zone is approximately 80 acres and is between the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve and Palo Corona Regional Park. It is characterized by remote upland forests, maritime chaparral, steep topography, and riparian canyons.

# Management Intent

The zone is managed primarily to preserve natural, cultural, and scenic resources; maintain a sense of solitude; and provide access, resource connectivity, and management consistency with the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors can explore the zone on trails and venture into the surrounding regional park to connect with the region's network of trails. Visitors can learn about the special/unique native vegetation, wildlife habitats and cultural heritage through interpretive programs, including guided hikes. Specific visitor uses include low-impact uses of local and regional trails, such as hiking, wildlife/scenic viewing, and photography. Visitor facilities include scenic viewpoints, trailheads, and trails. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.

The Backcountry Zone will provide access and resource connectivity to the adjacent Palo Corona Regional Park. It will allow for management consistency between both parks, with an emphasis on low-impact trail uses.

# Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone

The preserve area is approximately 20 acres in size. It consists of three mound-like landforms (known as the Hudson Mound) varying up to approximately 100-feet above sea level and open grassland/shrub habitat in the San Jose Creek floodplain, part of which is known by some as the Polo Field. The land encompassed by this cultural preserve is considered sacred by the local Rumsen and Esselen people, and archaeologists consider it to be one of the most important sites in the county, dating back more than 2,000 years. This preserve is significant in its relationship to San Jose Creek and as the site of an important Native American village, the village of Ishxenta. The name Tatlun was chosen in consultation with Rumsen representatives. According to mission records, Tatlun, who was baptized in 1775, was chief of the Rumsen people and lived in the village of Ishxenta. The name honors an historical figure with a direct connection to the land – a man who was well respected by his own people and Spanish alike.

# Management Intent

This zone is managed to preserve and protect a sacred place with a diversity of prehistoric deposits and Native American cultural values in this multi-site complex and to provide limited interpretive opportunities. Visitors to the cultural preserve can view interpretive displays to learn about the importance of this preserve.

The Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone will protect special status species, including Gowen cypress and large contiguous areas of natural habitat.

Specific visitor uses in the cultural preserve include interpretive programs focused on Native American history, as well as potential opportunities for Native American ceremonial uses and associated special events. Visitor facilities include interpretive elements, limited trail/access points and potential Native American ceremonial facilities, as appropriate. Visitors will likely experience a low to moderate level of social contact in this zone.

# Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone

This natural preserve is approximately 1,200 acres and encompasses the majority of the Inland Area, including a large expanse of rare Monterey pine forest and mountain lion habitat. One of only two remaining native populations of Gowen cypress in the world occur in this zone. Other special status species/habitats include maritime chaparral, one of the two southernmost native populations of rare native rhododendron, sandmat and Hooker's manzanita, Smith's blue butterfly, Yadon's rein orchid, and California red-legged frog. This preserve contains the lower reaches of Gibson Creek, which follows part of the park's southern boundary. The more remote, inland portion of the preserve is located adjacent to Palo Corona Regional Park and would serve as part of a larger assemblage to protect mountain lion and other wildlife habitat and corridors. Steep slot canyons in the San Jose Creek drainage contain stands of coast redwood that are supported by fresh water springs. Gibson Creek also supports coast redwoods and large sword ferns. Both watersheds are relatively untouched by development. The inland forest stands include an abundance of mugworts, fungi, and lichen, which are of great interest to the scientific research community.

# Management Intent

The preserve will be managed to maintain and protect a large expanse of unfragmented Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, chaparral, and mountain lion habitat and important regional wildlife corridors. Visitors will access the zone via trails from the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone, San Jose Creek Natural Preserve, or Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors to Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve can explore the forest using a trail system, which would connect to the regional trail network through Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors can learn about the unique native vegetation and wildlife habitats through interpretive programs, including guided hikes. Specific visitor uses include hiking (guided and self-guided), birding, wildlife viewing, interpretation of rare maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, Gowen cypress, and mountain lion habitat, and scientific research. Visitor day use facilities would be limited to trails, scenic viewpoints, and minor interpretive elements. Visitors will likely experience a low level of social contact in this zone.

# San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

This preserve is approximately 60 acres and includes San Jose Creek and its associated riparian habitat from SR I east to the park boundary. The preserve encompasses San Jose Creek, which is dominated by riparian species including black cottonwood, white alder, and red willow. The riparian habitat supports a significant diversity of plant and wildlife species. South-central California coast steelhead has been observed in the creek, and San Jose Creek is designated as critical habitat for this special status species. The riverine and riparian habitats at San Jose Creek provide critical habitat for California red-legged frogs, which are found in this area. The area also has the second southernmost native population of native rhododendron.

The San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone is important habitat for several special status species, including southcentral California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog.

# Management Intent

This zone is managed to protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, and sensitive species of San Jose Creek, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. Protection and ecological restoration of San Jose Creek, its associated watershed, and riparian forest are priorities for the management of this preserve. Walking access to the preserve will be via San Jose Creek Canyon Road. Visitors will learn about the importance of the preserve for native south-central California coast steelhead and the preserve's importance in the local and regional watershed through interpretive information for self-guided hikers. Interpretive signage will allow visitors to experience the native vegetation and wildlife habitats. Trails will connect to higher elevations and to adjacent open space, including the surrounding Palo Corona Regional Park. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone.



View to Palo Corona Regional Park

# 4.4.4 Hatton Canyon Area

The Hatton Canyon Area is an approximately 130-acre urban open space. It includes a narrow strip of land with a utility service road/unpaved trail and multi-purpose trail. Hatton Canyon Area is divided into two areas: Lower Hatton Canyon and Upper Hatton Canyon. Lower Hatton Canyon includes Marathon Flats, named for the annual international marathon event staging area located here. It is adjacent to the Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers and is used to host special events. Marathon Flats is connected to the unpaved service road/trail in Upper Hatton Canyon by a short segment of paved multi-purpose trail. Hatton Canyon Area will be managed to focus on trail and special event use. Future use of Lower Hatton Canyon for a regional transportation center linking local and regional parks, including shuttle or bus services to other CASP units, is also supported in coordination with other partner transportation agencies.



Special events site in Lower Hatton Canyon

Figure 4-5 shows the Park Plan for the Hatton Canyon Area, which outlines management zones, park facilities, and uses. A brief physical description of each zone is provided below followed by an explanation of the management intent for each zone.

# **Upper Hatton Canyon Zone**

This zone is an approximately 108-acre linear corridor east of SR I and north of Carmel Valley Road. It is a vegetated canyon surrounded by residences and characterized by Monterey pine, coast live oak, and coastal scrub above the canyon floor, with some riparian vegetation associated with the intermittent creek through the canyon. An unpaved utility access/service road, which is also used for walking, traverses most of the upper canyon.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed for open space, trail use, and utility access purposes. Visitors can experience the natural habitats and wildlife while walking or jogging on the service road/trail. Visitor facilities are limited to the trail. Visitors will likely experience a low-to-moderate level of social contact in this zone.

# Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

This zone is an approximately 22-acre flat linear corridor east of SR I, south of Carmel Valley Road, and adjacent to commercial development. This zone is characterized primarily by non-native annual grassland with some riparian vegetation near Carmel Valley Road and the Carmel River. This zone includes a paved, multipurpose trail and an area used for special events.

# Management Intent

This zone will be managed for multi-purpose trail use, local and regional special events, and as a regional multimodal transportation center with potential for partnership opportunities with local transportation partner agencies (e.g. Monterey-Salinas Transit). Visitors can experience connector trails from urban areas to the north and south. The multimodal transportation center will provide visitors with alternative transportation modes, such as a shuttle system, to the Reserve and New State Park. As a transportation hub for other park units, comprehensive visitor information will be available addressing state, county, and local public parks and open spaces in the Monterey and Big Sur region. Specific visitor uses include hiking, running, bicycling, event staging, and a transportation center. Specific visitor facilities include a multi-purpose trail and event staging areas. Visitors will likely experience a moderate level of social contact in this zone, and a high level during special events.

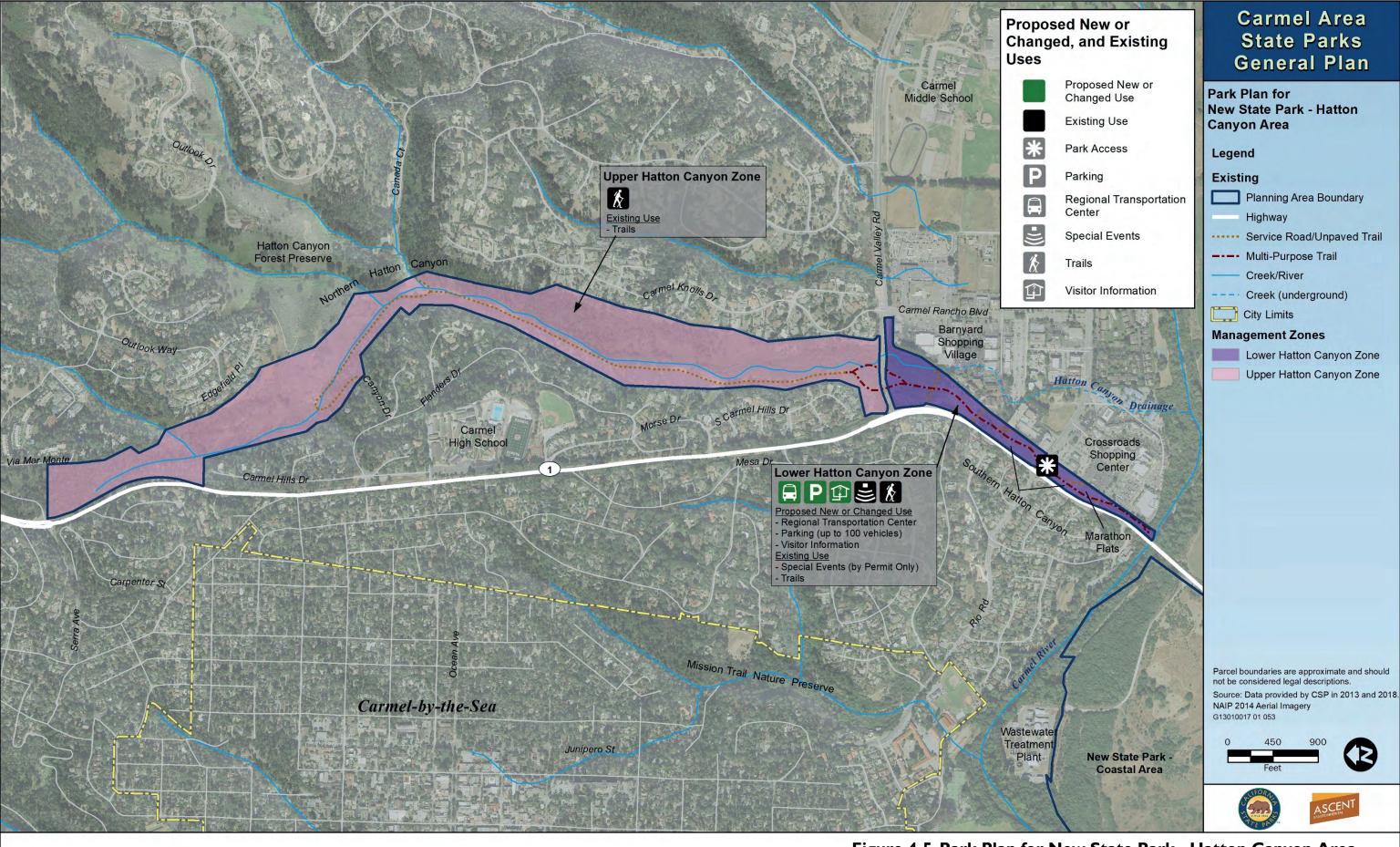


Figure 4-5 Park Plan for New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area



# 4.5 Management Zone Goals and Guidelines

The management zone goals and guidelines have been developed to guide the uses and achieve the management intent for each zone. Goals provide the overall purpose and the guidelines describe how the management intent and goals will be implemented. The management zones are as follows:

### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

### **New State Park - Coastal Area**

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone
- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone

- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

### New State Park - Inland Area

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

## **New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area**

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

# 4.5.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

The following Goals and Guidelines provide additional, more specific, direction to help achieve the purpose of the State Natural Reserve, which prioritizes the preservation of the unique ecology and natural qualities of Point Lobos.

# Marine Zone

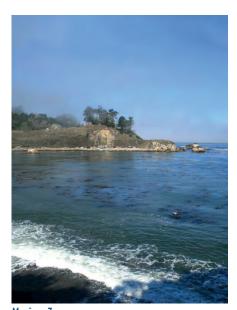
The focus in the Marine Zone is on preserving and protecting marine resources, natural processes, and ecosystems, while also providing scientific research opportunities, water-dependent recreation, and interpretation and education.

### MARINE ZONE Goal 1

Protect and conserve the biodiversity, water quality, and habitat functions of the marine mammal, seabird, benthic, and open water habitats. Allow for limited, low-impact, water-dependent visitor access and scientific research.

#### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.1

Monitor visitor access to shoreline, beach, and tidepool areas and limit or prohibit access to locations where visitors can disturb marine mammal haul-out, seabird/shorebird nesting, and sensitive intertidal habitat areas. Limit or restrict access in areas experiencing natural and cultural resource degradation. In areas where access is prohibited, provide clear and appropriate interpretive signage explaining to the public the need and the beneficial outcome of access restrictions, and interpret the goals of habitat restoration and what the public can do to help assist in this effort by staying on designated trail systems.



Marine Zone

#### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.2

Continue promoting research projects that study marine resources and threats. Increase effective communication with universities and research organizations to ensure researchers understand and implement best practices so that research activities do not adversely affect the marine and benthic environments.

#### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.3

Identify coastal trails and beaches that may be accessrestricted, identify sustainable alternative trail alignments where necessary, and identify specific trail alignments where management actions are needed to protect sensitive marine resources. Repair, close, or relocate trails that deliver sediment to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.4

Facilitate inter-agency coordination and collaborate with partner agencies responsible for protecting marine species and conducting scientific research to develop strategies for visitor access and management based on changing habitat requirements, including, but not limited to, marine mammal and seabird nesting and breeding seasons.

#### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.5

Collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management to develop a joint strategy for the conservation of offshore rock areas to protect marine mammals and nesting seabirds from human disturbance.

### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.6

Allow controlled access for divers and boaters. Use an adaptive management approach to manage use and avoid disturbance to wildlife and marine resources, implementing appropriate adaptive management strategies, if needed.

#### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.7

Promote marine mammal protection, consistent with the MMPA and NOAA's guidelines for responsible wildlife viewing, using visitor education and interpretation. Enforce regulations to keep visitors at a sufficient distance to not add stress to or alter the behavior of marine mammals or birds.



Looking outward towards Big Dome from along the North Shore Trail

### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.8

Collaborate with universities, agencies, and non-profit organizations to allow and support scientific research regarding climate change effects to the marine zone, such as changing ocean temperature and acidity, and inform adaptive management of the zone with the research results.

### MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.9

Enhance opportunities for visitor interpretation and education by bringing the underwater environment to visitors and the public on land through technology and other creative means.

# Coastal Bluff Zone

Day use activities include hiking/walking, guided tours, picnicking, wildlife viewing, tidepooling, and non-motorized and motorized boat launch (by permit only). The zone will be managed with an emphasis on protection of scenic qualities, sensitive bluff resources, paleontological resources, and restoration of native habitat. Minimal facilities will also provide visitor enjoyment and interpretation.

# COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 1

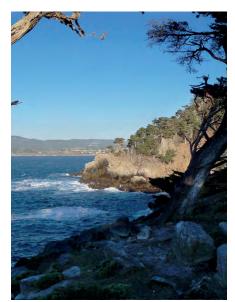
Preserve and protect the natural processes, ecosystem functions, and scenic qualities of the coastal bluff, cypress groves, and coastal prairie meadow habitats.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.1

Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a guided-tour visitor access system to manage visitor use and minimize resource degradation of coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats.

### COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 1.2

Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as the Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore bluffs. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts, e.g. boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.



Views from the shoreline of the Reserve

# COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.3

Prepare a forest management plan for the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove to monitor and evaluate forest health and tree mortality. Identify cypress revegetation needs with periodic forest assessments or as drought conditions warrant. Implement revegetation efforts as needed.

### **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 2**

Protect paleontological sites in the Carmelo Formation (Paleocene age), Chamisal Formation (Miocene age), and Santa Margarita Formation (white sandstone).

### COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 2.1

Continue to implement best practices to protect, preserve, and interpret paleontological resources in the Carmelo, Chamisal, and Santa Margarita formations. This includes inventorying, mapping, and monitoring resources, coordinating with qualified paleontologists on specific actions for protection and preservation, and developing interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting paleontological resources.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 3

Protect and enhance the exceptional scenic quality of the coast.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.1

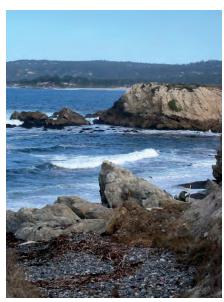
Improve the coastal viewshed by removing and restoring to native habitat unpaved parking areas that deliver sediment to the ASBS and have degraded coastal bluff habitat and scenic quality (as specified in ACCESS Goal 3).

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.2

Locate and design interpretive signs and displays to minimize or avoid obstructing scenic views. Avoid locating signs/displays in areas that diminish expansive ocean views, especially from designated scenic viewpoints or vistas.

### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3

Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR I or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.



Scenic views of the Reserve

Tidepools at the Reserve

Visitor parking lot and picnic area at Whalers Cove

#### **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 4**

Protect, restore, and minimize degradation of environmentally sensitive resources to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.1

Monitor visitor access to the tidepools at Weston Beach and implement adaptive management strategies to protect species diversity and abundance and prevent habitat damage. Adaptive management strategies may include limiting access to areas that experience excessive visitor use and trampling and providing guided tours to minimize impacts. Consider setting daily sustainable use numbers at tidepool areas and scientifically monitor the Weston Beach tidepools long-term to document changes in species abundance and diversity over time.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.2

Prepare a habitat restoration plan for Lower Sea Lion Point to revegetate coastal bluff areas and cultural sites damaged by human-caused disturbance, protect steep bluffs from slope failure by restoring local hydrology, and to protect marine mammals that have re-occupied the site.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.3

Revegetate unstable slopes adjacent to China Cove Beach. Protect underlying cultural features by revegetating the China Cove bluffs using native plants. Install a permanent and aesthetically pleasing barrier preventing visitors from walking down the natural bluff to China Cove Beach. Prevent visitors from accessing China Cove Beach to protect harbor seals and their pups during birthing and rearing season.

#### **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 5**

To retain important near-shore parking for divers and achieve water quality objectives, modify the drainage infrastructure of the parking area at Whalers Cove to include improved drainage controls.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 5.1

Improve the parking lot and boat launch ramp at Whalers Cove. Retain diver-support parking and implement design changes for drainage infrastructure that will improve water quality, prevent adverse water quality effects from storm water runoff discharge, and protect the ASBS. In coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, evaluate and develop parking lot design

modifications and implement them as a high-priority marine water quality protection action. Improvements will be consistent with the State Water Quality Control Board mandate to eliminate adverse water quality effects of storm water runoff entering the ocean and ASBS.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 6

Remove unpaved parking where existing natural habitat and/or cultural resource damage has occurred, and where risk of future resource damage is substantial, beginning with the most severely damaged natural habitats or cultural resources.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.1

Remove visitor parking from unpaved areas on the coastal bluff. Restore these areas with local collected native vegetation to stabilize soils and reestablish coastal bluff habitat, improve water quality, and protect the ASBS. See ACCESS Goal 3 and associated guidelines for a detailed discussion of parking removal and phasing.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.2

Allow accessible parking, staff parking, and special use parking on paved lots outside ecologically sensitive areas and at strategic locations, including Whalers Cove (for diver access), Sea Lion Point, Bird Island, and at other areas deemed necessary for accessibility and service needs.



Restored habitat on coastal bluffs

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Goal 7

Re-evaluate the historic significance of Hudson House.

#### COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 7.1

Prepare a historic structure report (HSR) for the Hudson House. The HSR should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. The HSR will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of this building should it be determined significant.

## **Upland Reserve Zone**

The Upland Reserve Zone contains important natural resources and also serves as the main point of visitor entry and orientation into the Reserve. Intended to serve as the primary arrival location for visitors, goals and guidelines address a spectrum of access and parking, visitor management, natural and cultural resources protection, and operational issues.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Redesign vehicular access and parking facilities to complement and support other travel modes, such as transit, shuttle, and/or internal shuttle, as defined by the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan. Facility changes will include removal of general visitor parking spaces if deemed necessary because of resource degradation from overuse; development of an improved entrance/intersection with SR 1; development of a safe SR 1 pedestrian crossing, if needed; and multimodal facilities, such as facilities to support transit, shuttle, and/or internal shuttle.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1

If general visitor parking is removed from this zone, coordinate the removal with the development of visitor parking in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone east of SR I from the Reserve. Maintain visitor access using other travel modes that facilitate resource protection, as defined by the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan (See ACCESS Guideline 3.4).

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2

Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control, along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users. Design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and a transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors).

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3

If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR I into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR I crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Inland Area, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.



Entrance kiosk at the Reserve

#### **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 2**

Evaluate, design, and implement the infrastructure components of a visitor reservation system and fee collection system necessary at the entrance area, which is the portion of the zone surrounding the main visitor entrance to the Reserve. These would include physical improvements for effectively managing visitor arrival and collection of entrance fees.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

Evaluate and design infrastructure components needed for a visitor reservation system that is coordinated with the statewide CSP reservation system and consistent with parkwide goals (ACCESS Goals I and 2). Determine the needed facilities for the entrance area. Evaluate how visitor arrival management for a reservation system would influence the design of visitor parking facilities, transit or shuttle arrivals, alternate conveyance systems, and the main entrance. When a reservation system is approved, prioritize the funding of infrastructure improvements needed for its implementation. Implement the infrastructure elements of the reservation system in coordination with improvements needed for a walk-in fee collection system.

UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2

Prepare a feasibility assessment and design study of the infrastructure elements of a walk-in entry fee system in the entrance area, consistent with ACCESS Goal 2 to determine what system would be feasible and effective to manage walk-in access. Evaluate how a walk-in entry system and its physical improvements would integrate with main entrance design and operation. When a walk-in entry fee system is approved, prioritize the funding of infrastructure improvements for implementation.

These may include electronic approaches, such as kiosks that print wearable badges (stickers) and wristbands or mobile phone applications. The number, type, and placement of these fee collection facilities will depend on the type of fee collection system implemented, the specific location/layout and use of transit or drop-off area, and staffing for monitoring and enforcement.

ACCESS Goals 1 and 2, and their associated guidelines, focus on evaluating, designing, and implementing a coordinated day use reservation system and park entry fee system.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3

Design the entrance area to include features to separate, to the extent feasible, park operations structures and facilities (including staff housing) from visitor-serving facilities. Design features may include, but should not be limited to, specific siting of pedestrian facilities to provide a physical buffer between operations facilities, native tree and other planting to screen operations facilities, orientation of operations buildings and accessory structures to minimize interaction between operations activities and visitors.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4

Consider adaptive reuse of the Gatehouse at the entrance as a visitor-serving facility for orientation, information, reservations, and fee collection, consistent with MAINTAIN Guideline 2.2.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.5

Promote visitor orientation at the entrance area that includes information and explanation of the Reserve's unique and sensitive resources and the special regulations and visitor use restrictions of a Reserve classification.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.6

Conduct public education and engagement regarding the need for a reservation system and fee collection for visitors prior to implementing new infrastructure and systems.

#### **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 3**

Conserve the coastal forest and prairie habitats, including restoration of damaged areas.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1

Manage forest succession for the restoration, protection, and conservation of coastal prairie/grasslands, Monterey pine forest, and transitional habitats to maintain a diverse range of native coastal plant community types and enhance a more diverse wildlife habitat mosaic. Management actions should include, but should not be limited to, invasive plant removal and control, monitoring the spread of diseases like pitch canker in the Monterey pine forest, protection from visitor intrusion into sensitive areas, and habitat restoration including native plant revegetation.

#### **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 4**

Evaluate the significance and prioritize the preservation of historic structures, historic landscapes, prehistoric sites, and paleontological resources.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.1

Evaluate and record Residences 4, 5, their associated garages, Rat Hill Residence, and the Shed in an intensive-level survey, consistent with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources, and conducted by a historian or architectural historian who meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for those respective disciplines. The evaluations should identify the character-defining features of the buildings. Submit the evaluations to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.

UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.2

Prepare Historic Structure Reports (HSR) for the Whalers Cabin, Shop Building, and Custodian's Lodge. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Should Residences 4, 5, their associated garages, the Rat Hill Residence and the Shed be determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR through intensive-level survey and evaluation, HSRs should be prepared for those buildings as well. The HSR will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of these buildings should they be determined significant.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 4.3

Prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) to inventory cultural landscapes within the Reserve and to identify the character-defining features that convey the significance of the landscape. The CLR should be prepared by a team that includes a qualified historic landscape architect, a historian, or architectural historian. The CLR will evaluate cultural landscapes consistent with the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (part of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties).

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.



Rat Hill operations and maintenance area

#### **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 5**

Repair, upgrade, and install infrastructure where it is failing or new infrastructure is needed to support planned operations.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1

Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements. Consider:

- Restroom and utility infrastructure;
- New restroom at the entrance station:
- Electricity to group gathering and other applicable areas in the Reserve (such as Piney Woods);
- Phone lines where hard-wire phone service is needed;
- Additional storage for rescue equipment and boats; and
- New Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) sewer pumping stations.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 6

Make necessary improvements and repairs to existing facilities to improve visitor use and operations.

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 6.1

Redesign the existing Information Station to provide shelter for visitors and staff during inclement weather and to create a facility with increased storage capacity. The design should blend with the surrounding natural environment, consistent with Aesthetic Resources goals and guidelines (see MANAGE 10.2 and 10.3).

#### UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 6.2

Reconfigure the Piney Woods picnic area for more efficient visitor use and vehicle parking. Restore areas to native habitat as appropriate.

## 4.5.2 New State Park - Coastal Area

This area is distinct with its beaches and shoreline, lagoon, wetland, coastal bluff edge, and upland habitat. Goals and guidelines for the management zones provide direction to continue to provide high-quality visitor experiences, while also focusing on protecting significant coastal resource values in environmentally sensitive lagoon and wetland areas. Specific management focus is also provided to protect significant resource values related to archaeological resources and historic buildings.

## Coastal Margin Zone

The focus is to protect and preserve terrestrial and marine habitats, while also providing safe visitor access for low-intensity recreation.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Goal 1

Protect the marine and terrestrial habitats including open sandy beaches and shorelines while allowing coastaloriented recreation.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.1

Provide opportunities for wildlife viewing, self-guided trails, and guided wildlife tours.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.2

Provide a restroom, interpretive elements, and up to 40 parking spaces at the property near Bay School. Treat storm water runoff on site to prevent runoff from being concentrated and conveyed to the sensitive coastal bluff area.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.3

Design ingress/egress of public access and internal circulation to provide safe visitor access. Provide visual screening using existing topography and existing or new vegetation to screen views of the parking area near Bay School from the surrounding neighborhood and SR I.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.4

Improve fencing and signage prohibiting access to the Reserve from Monastery Beach to prevent resource damage from unsanctioned use of the area.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5

Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.6

Replace the propane generator at Monastery Beach with an electric connection to reduce maintenance issues with the sewage pumping system. Work with CAWD on a solution to the pumping station needs.



Broad beach in the coastal area

#### **COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Goal 2**

Promote visitor awareness and understanding of the drowning hazard at Monastery Beach to reduce drowning accidents.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide more visible warning signage with clear messaging at the beach.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.2

Provide public information online and in park interpretive displays to increase public awareness of the hazardous surf conditions at the beach.

#### COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.3

Improve lifeguard staffing levels to provide adequate coverage.

## Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone

Home to significant archaeological and tribal cultural resources, the focus in the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone is to protect these resources and allow visitors to experience cultural and natural resources through trails and guided tours. Interpretation in this zone is important and will connect visitors with the prehistoric use of the area.





Monitor important cultural features and, as needed, restrict visitor access to prevent resource degradation.

# OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2

Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.



Waves and steep-sloped beach at Monastery Beach

# OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3

Update the existing Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures used to guide management. Identify and evaluate all cultural resources within the preserve. Implement procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources.

#### OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Recognizing the special cultural importance of the preserve, help visitors understand the Ohlone lifestyle and integral connection to the resources of the area, as well as the importance of this area from an archaeological perspective.

# OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

Work with appropriate tribal representatives to develop culturally respectful interpretation with educational and interpretive elements in the vicinity of the preserve.

## Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone

The Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone will focus on protecting and enhancing ecological conditions along the Carmel River and within the Carmel River lagoon. Goals and guidelines seek to protect threatened and endangered species in the zone and also provide limited day use activities.

#### <u>CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL</u> PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Maintain and protect the riverine and tidal wetland system for natural flood protection and important native species habitat, including south-central California coast steelhead, red-legged frog, western pond turtle, over 300 species of birds, Smith's blue butterfly, and other special status plant and wildlife species.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1

Consider expanding the natural preserve to include the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone when partner agency adjacent construction and Caltrans mitigation projects and mitigation credits associated with the mitigation bank are completed. See CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 2.1.

MANAGE Goal 4, and its associated guidelines, describe additional ways to protect, restore, and preserve wetland and natural hydrologic processes and functions in the parks.



Water quality monitoring station at Carmel River lagoon



View of Carmel River lagoon looking east to Palo Corona Regional Park

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2

Continue to collaborate with local regional water quality agencies and nonprofit partners to monitor river and lagoon water quality through ongoing research and documentation. Implement appropriate adaptive management strategies when monitoring results show water quality degradation. Consider the effects of barrier beach berm height management on the freshwater lagoon and exposure to salt water from natural winter flows or manual breaching. Implement adaptive management strategies that retain fresh water in the lagoon during critical seasonal timeframes, including severe to moderate drought conditions. Implement lagoon protection measures, such as posting informational signs and other public outreach, to help prevent unauthorized manual breaching of the Carmel River lagoon.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3

Restrict development of any features that could substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4

Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.5

Prohibit watercraft use to protect sensitive species and habitat. Provide public information about resource sensitivities at visitor access points around the lagoon.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.6

Prohibit development of flood control structures within the public land of the natural preserve that cause significant adverse environmental effects and are designed to benefit private parties.

#### <u>CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL</u> PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Provide trails for birding and wildlife viewing and allow limited visitor access.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide a loop trail with overlooks, birding stations, and interpretive elements. Monitor use and implement adaptive management strategies to reduce and/or eliminate any negative impacts to resources.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2

Design and locate trails to allow observation of bird habitat while minimizing adverse effects to sensitive habitat and species, such as migratory songbird nesting/breeding habitat and Monterey dusky-footed woodrat habitat.

# <u>CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3</u>

Help visitors understand the importance and functional role of estuaries and wetlands to native flora and fauna, and the importance of this local wetland.

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1.

Interpret the importance of this type of habitat to special status species of flora and fauna supported by the riverine and associated tidal wetland ecosystems, such as the California red-legged frog, juvenile south-central California coast steelhead, western pond turtle, and Smith's blue butterfly. If birding stations are placed in this area, provide identification tools for commonly seen species with supporting information on how these species use this type of ecosystem.



Carmel River State Beach and Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

# CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.2.

Provide interpretive facilities, such as overlooks and interpretive panels, along the margin of the lagoon and wetland to minimize trail development within the most ecologically sensitive areas. Locate facilities in the least sensitive areas.

## Lagoon/Wetland Zone

The Lagoon/Wetland Zone provides an important transition from the Carmel River and Wetland Natural Preserve to the Odello Farm Zone. The focus in this zone is to preserve the natural and scenic resources of the area and to provide buffer areas for floodwaters and wildlife habitat. Coordination with partner agencies on neighboring restoration projects is crucial to maintaining the natural features of this zone.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 1

Protect wetland habitat and buffer areas, including critical bird nesting and foraging habitat that constitutes one of the State's richest migratory songbird habitat areas.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.1

Coordinate with partner agencies on the Carmel River restoration projects occurring on adjacent lands (Carmel River FREE project) to ensure consideration of all ecological, hydrological, and visitor use-related interests and to provide CSP input into the restoration planning process (as specified in PLAN Guideline 1.2).

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2

Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate, or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.3

Consider adding the land within this zone to the existing Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve, after partner-agency construction projects are complete, to provide a contiguous wetland-based natural preserve for the Carmel River and adjacent habitat.

PLAN Guidelines 1.2 and 1.3 describe how CSP will work in partnerships with other agencies and organizations to coordinate projects and planning efforts.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 2

Provide non-intrusive day use activities, and limited staging/parking that preserve the riparian landscape, wildlife, and are compatible with environmental conditions.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide small-scale day use, special event staging, parking (up to 10 vehicles), trails, and interpretive facilities that are designed to be consistent with the natural setting and habitat for special status species, and sized appropriately to encourage low level visitor use.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Goal 3

Collaborate with CAWD on partner-agency construction projects to coordinate planning processes, protect natural and cultural resources, and minimize impacts to visitors.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.1

Coordinate with CAWD to establish a plan for maintaining maintenance access and utilities easements and to minimize resource impacts.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.2

Work with CAWD to prepare a maintenance and access plan to clearly identify and/or to consolidate CAWD utilities easements and to establish protocol for accessing and maintaining their facilities in and across CSP property.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.3

Coordinate with CAWD early in the planning process for proposed improvements to or expansion of CAWD facilities to identify any issues related to visitors or natural resources. Continue to collaborate regarding solutions.

#### LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 3.4

Coordinate with CAWD on potential land exchange opportunities to expand the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve in exchange for existing CAWD sewer line easement lands.

## Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone

Because this zone provides wildlife habitat and natural flood protection, management of the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone focuses on coordinating with Caltrans to protect and restore the area. Minimal facilities, such as a hiking trail, will allow visitors to experience scenic views of the wetlands and lagoon area.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 1

Collaborate with Caltrans in the near term to protect wetland and riparian habitat associated with the Carmel River and allow interpretation and limited visitor access.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.1

Recognize the natural flood protection function of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of features that would substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow. Identify strategies that accommodate the potential for increased flood frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.2

Coordinate with Caltrans to identify appropriate locations for and design of visitor access, trailheads, and trail connections that would not diminish the flood flow function of the zone.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 1.3

Identify and monitor areas that have been disturbed and are experiencing impaired hydrologic/ecologic function. Coordinate with Caltrans to plan and implement appropriate restoration.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 2

Provide minimal day use facilities that are compatible with a habitat restoration area and that will preserve and protect wetlands.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide limited trails and interpretive facilities that are designed to offer visitors opportunities to appreciate the natural setting and protect the area's natural functions, habitat values, and role as a mitigation bank.

#### **CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Goal 3**

Consider future inclusion to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve.

#### CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 3.1

Evaluate and consider adding this land to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve after Caltrans construction projects and mitigation credits are complete, to provide a contiguous wetland-based natural preserve for the Carmel River and adjacent habitat. See also LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.3.

## Odello Farm Zone

The Odello Farm Zone will focus on protecting natural and cultural resources while also providing low-intensity visitor orientation and recreation. Limited visitor parking will lead to trail access to the adjacent Lagoon/Wetland Zone, and potentially to trail connections to Palo Corona Regional Park and the River Trail.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 1

Stabilize, maintain, and protect the existing historic farm structures and provide interpretive elements.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.1

Develop a preservation plan to protect the historic buildings and landscapes of the Odello Farm complex. The plan should focus on stabilizing existing structures and protecting and preserving the historic character of the Odello Farm.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.2

Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming and ranching activities and architecture.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.3

Record the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources. Submit evaluations to the SHPO for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.4

Evaluate the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed for inclusion in the National and California historic registers. Prepare HSRs for the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed if determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR to provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of historic buildings and structures.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.5

Update condition assessments for the Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed. The condition assessments should provide information to help determine protection measures for rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation.

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.6

Stabilize the Barn and treat for weathering, water infiltration, and pest infestation. Reconstruct the Barn's north bay and south elevation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.7

Stabilize the Blacksmith Shed to prevent it from collapsing further and treat the structure for the extensive weathering, dry rot and pest infestation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.8

Conduct engineering evaluations to determine the risk of flood damage to historic structures and implement feasible measures identified to reduce risk of flood damage.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 2

Provide small-scale visitor information and orientation facilities, visitor and group day use facilities, and limited staging/parking that preserve and protect the historic ranch setting and that are compatible with environmental conditions and nearby residential uses.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide small-scale day use, group gathering, restroom, parking (up to 50 vehicles), and interpretive facilities that are designed to be consistent with the natural and historic setting and sized appropriately to accommodate visitor use.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.2

Evaluate options, develop plans, and prioritize implementation of adaptive reuse of the historic farm for visitor-serving facilities, park programs, and operations.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 2.3

Work with Carmel River FREE (Caltrans, Monterey County, MPRPD, BSLT) to explore opportunities to realign the entrance road to the Odelllo Farm complex.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Goal 3

Help visitors experience the riverine and tidal wetland ecosystems using all of their senses, while promoting understanding of the critical connection between wildlife species and their habitats, as well as the need to protect, restore, and manage habitat in order to protect wildlife.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 3.1

Use the Odello Farm Zone as an interpretive gateway to the adjacent wetlands and lagoon. See CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1.

#### ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 3.2

Develop a self-guided or guided multi-sensory interpretive loop trail. Design the trail and use materials to minimize negative impacts to wetlands, wildlife habitat, and native vegetation and to promote the feeling of immersion in this unique environment.

4.5.3 New State Park - Inland Area

The Inland Area of New State Park provides a new area of publicly accessible land. Visitor facilities will be provided to offer high-quality visitor experiences and to preserve sensitive natural resources and important cultural resources. New trails will be developed to provide access to interpret and appreciate natural areas and historic resources.

## A.M. Allan Ranch Zone

The A.M. Allan Ranch Zone includes an historic ranch complex, roads, visitor access and orientation facilities, staff housing, park trail program operational headquarters, maintenance and operations facilities. The north portion of the zone is adjacent to the San Jose Creek and riparian corridor, San Jose Creek Canyon Road access, staff residences, a trailhead, and trails connecting to the backcountry and adjacent public open space. The south portion of the zone contains several historic buildings associated with the area's ranching and dairy heritage. Adaptive reuse of some of these buildings will serve as visitor orientation, staff residence, and park maintenance and operations facilities. The area will also provide visitor parking and access to trails leading to the ridges of the Santa Lucia Range.

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3, and its associated guidelines, focus on helping visitors understand, through interpretation, the importance of estuaries and wetlands.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 1

Identify, preserve, reuse, and maintain the historic buildings and landscapes.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.1

Continue to provide staff housing and allow adaptive use for park operations, visitor facilities, and interpretation.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.2

Determine the primary contributing structures, features, and cultural landscape and pursue historic district nominations for areas that are potentially eligible for the state or national registers.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.3

Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming, ranching, and architecture. Use the historic context in the evaluation of a historic district nomination for the north and south areas.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.4

Prepare HSRs for those eligible properties that contribute to the potential historic districts. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team and will provide the baseline for the rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of these buildings should they be determined significant. The HSRs will follow the format prescribed by the Office of Historic Preservation.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.5

Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 1.6

Protect the historic viewshed. Locate parking areas and other facilities to minimize adverse effects to significant historic structures and contributing features of the cultural landscape.

See MANAGE Goal 9 for additional strategies and procedures to identify, protect, maintain, and preserve significant historic resources.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 2

Provide low-intensity staging areas, small-scale visitor information facilities, orientation, and wayfinding. Develop trail access and connections to adjacent regional parklands.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.1

Create primary visitor entry, day use parking, and visitor orientation facilities in locations that do not adversely affect natural and cultural resources.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.2

Provide new interpretive elements, day use/special event areas, restrooms, and visitor information as part of the visitor entry and arrival sequence.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.3

In the A.M. Allan Ranch (North) Zone, develop a trailhead and staging area to provide visitor access to the San Jose Creek Trail, in cooperation with MPRPD and BSLT, consistent with the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.4

Provide information on where visitors can go within the parks to learn more about different eras of human history and the important regional natural resources. Consider a self-guided interpretive trail of the ranch and implement the use of volunteers.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Goal 4

Provide multimodal access for transit or shuttle stops, vehicle pick-up/drop-off facilities, and vehicle parking to serve new day use and trail access.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.1

Develop a limited amount of parking (up to 50 parking spaces) in the south portion of this zone for visitor day use and trail access to the inland area.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.2

If visitor parking is removed from the Reserve and additional Reserve visitor parking is needed, develop up to 150 parking spaces in stages in the south portion to serve visitors to the Reserve. Locate the parking areas to avoid damage to natural and cultural resources and develop facilities using low-impact design with drainage best management practices and minimum landscape disturbance.

Access and parking in this zone supports ACCESS Goal 3, which seeks to reduce reliance on personal auto use for park arrival and provide multimodal options. Coordination with the Reserve's UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal 1 is also important, which outlines how vehicular access and parking facilities will complement and support other travel modes.

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.3

Establish vehicle access at a new SR I intersection located in proximity to the Reserve entrance. Design and implement the intersection in coordination with Caltrans. Consider innovative, contemporary intersection design, potentially including a roundabout and/or a pedestrian underpass. (see ACCESS Goal 3 and UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Goal I).

#### A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 4.4

Develop a limited amount of parking in the north portion of this zone for day use and trail access (up to 25 parking spaces). Develop the parking facilities using low-impact design with drainage best management practices and minimum feasible area of landscape disturbance.

## Backcountry Zone

The Backcountry Zone will focus on providing limited visitor access and maintaining the area's sense of remoteness and solitude. Limited backcountry trails will connect to the region's network of trails and provide continuity with Palo Corona Regional Park.

#### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Goal 1

Provide limited visitor access to remote areas of the park to promote a sense of solitude.

#### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 1.1

Limit the number and location of backcountry trails to protect the natural environment and promote the remote character and sense of solitude in the backcountry.

#### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 1.2

Provide information about the natural and cultural history of the area at trailheads and include interpretive features in trail guides.

#### **BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Goal 2**

Provide management continuity with Palo Corona Regional Park.

#### BACKCOUNTRY ZONE Guideline 2.1

Collaborate with MPRPD, BSLT, and other park partners to coordinate access, trail connections, and visitor use in backcountry areas and adjacent regional parks and open space lands.

## Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone

The Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone focuses on preserving and protecting an area that is considered sacred by the local Rumsen and Esselen people, and is one of the most important archaeological sites in the region. Interpretation will provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the importance of the preserve. Native American visitors will experience the preserve for ceremonial and special events.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Establish a cultural preserve of approximately 20 acres to preserve and protect an area of cultural and archaeological significance.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1

In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, develop a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources. Record, describe, and map existing cultural resources. Inventory and evaluate cultural resources for inclusion on the National and California registers.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2

In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, prepare a Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide cultural resource management. This includes a plan for identification and evaluation of all cultural resources within the area and procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources through a review process and the application of standards.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2

Protect the important site of the local Rumsen and Esselen people and promote use of the preserve for traditional Native American activities. Provide respectful interpretive elements and limit visitor access.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

In collaboration with appropriate local tribal representatives, develop a joint-use agreement to facilitate Native American traditional use, ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the cultural preserve classification. Allow guided visitor access when the area is not being used for traditional purposes.



Source: ©2002-2018 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project

Tatlun Cultural Preserve

See MANAGE Goal 8 for additional strategies and procedures to protect, document, and interpret significant prehistoric archaeological and cultural resources.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2

In collaboration with local tribal representatives, design and develop interpretive features that educate the public regarding local tribal lifeways.

#### TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3

Monitor and document important cultural features and, if necessary, limit or discontinue non-tribal visitor access to prevent resource degradation.

## Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone

The focus in the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone is to protect and preserve the area's expanse of rare Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, maritime chaparral, and mountain lion habitat. Visitors will access the zone through a sensitively designed trail system that will connect to the regional trail network through Palo Corona Regional Park. Interpretive programs and guided hikes will allow visitors to learn about the unique native vegetation and wildlife habitats.

<u>POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1</u> Establish a natural preserve of approximately 1,200 acres to preserve and protect an area of outstanding natural significance.

#### POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1

Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.

# POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2 Protect the globally rare native Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, as well as central maritime chaparral and other rare and special status plant communities. Protect wildlife habitat and maintain regional wildlife corridor connectivity.



Point Lobos Ridge maritime chaparral

# POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

Provide self-guided and volunteer-guided nature hikes and interpretive elements to educate visitors about the unique resources in the preserve and the importance of conservation.

POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2

Develop strategies to address mushroom poaching and protect the fungal biodiversity. Promote research to identify and evaluate species of fungi, liverworts, lichens and mosses in the preserve.

POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3

Study mountain lion movement and identify approximate home range within the preserve. Locate trails away from primary movement corridors, to the extent feasible, to minimize potential conflicts between mountain lion and park visitors for public safety and to reduce wildlife disturbance. Conduct periodic monitoring to estimate mountain lion population size and health within the preserve.

POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4

Allow minimum-necessary day use visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and limited public access and activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.

POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.5

Assess and restore unsustainable road/trail alignments that result in soil loss and erosion. Locate trails on sustainable routes that do not impact sensitive species such as Gowen cypress or maritime chaparral.

## San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

Creation of the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone will provide increased management to protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, and sensitive species of San Jose Creek, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. Goals and guidelines in this zone focus on protection and ecological restoration of San Jose Creek, its associated watershed, and riparian forests.

See MANAGE Goals I and 2 for additional strategies and procedures to protect, maintain, and restore special status plants and wildlife, respectively.

MANAGE Guideline 4.3 describes how measures and adaptive management strategies will be implemented to preserve sensitive riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and important wildlife habitat.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 1

Establish a natural preserve of approximately 60 acres adjacent to and including San Jose Creek to preserve and protect an area of outstanding riparian and aquatic habitat quality and importance.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1

Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, conservation measures, and procedures that will be used to guide natural resource management. Include habitat restoration, prioritize areas to be restored, identify specific (quantitative, if feasible) water quality, habitat, and species conservation objectives, and develop location-specific implementation measures.

### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 2 Protect San Jose Creek, south-central California coast steelhead, and California red-legged frog habitat, the associated riparian corridor, and watershed.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1

Monitor water quality through ongoing research and documentation, and identify adaptive management strategies to implement when monitoring results show poor water quality. Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to observe sensitive riparian habitat, identify human-caused impacts to riparian and instream habitat, and develop conservation measures that benefit water quality and critical habitat for California redlegged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2

Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3

Study and preserve the native rhododendron population to ensure its protection and avoid human-induced impacts to this second most southern population in California.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4

Establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing riparian habitat.

<u>SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Goal 3</u> Include visitor-serving uses that are appropriate to a preserve.

#### SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1

Consider visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and day use activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.

## 4.5.4 New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area

The upper and lower zones of the Hatton Canyon Area will contain a multi-purpose trail, unpaved trail/sewer utility access, and use for special events. In addition, the lower zone can be made available for a multimodal transportation center that would improve access to the state and regional parks.

## **Upper Hatton Canyon Zone**

In Upper Hatton Canyon, the focus is on maintaining wildlife habitat, public access, and utility access and facilities.

# <u>UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 1</u> Maintain the natural habitats and existing facilities.

#### UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.1

Continue to maintain the natural conditions of the urban open space by landscape maintenance that supports native vegetation and controls invasive vegetation.

#### UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.2

Maintain the existing trail and service road in good condition suitable for both recreational use and utility access.



Vegetation in the Hatton Canyon area

#### UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3

Pursue and execute lease agreement(s) with a local or regional agency(ies) to maintain the upper canyon for public access, utility access, and natural landscape management, while fee title is retained by CSP.

#### UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.4

Coordinate with CAWD early in the planning process to identify any potential park visitor or natural resources issues related to the CAWD sewer line maintenance, proposed upgrade, or replacement. Continue to collaborate regarding solutions. Locate the gravity force main sewer line in the least sensitive areas and assure construction does not lead to slope instability or erosion.

## Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

Lower Hatton Canyon is strategically located near the interface between the urban community and other CASP units. It can continue to serve as a community gathering space and special event area, as well as support an important multimodal transportation center that would help alleviate park access and congestion issues.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 1

Make land in the zone available for a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with other local/regional transportation agencies and organizations, which would offer a variety of travel modes to visitors of CASP units and regional destinations.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.1

Partner with local transportation agencies, including Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel, Transportation Agency of Monterey County, Caltrans, and MPRPD to develop and operate a regional multimodal transportation center.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.2

Provide visitors with multimodal alternatives for access to the Reserve and New State Park in a manner that reduces reliance on personal autos and avoids additional contributions to local traffic congestion.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3

Coordinate with MPRPD to evaluate shared visitor parking opportunities related to the regional multimodal transportation center to serve park visitors.



Paved multi-purpose trail at Hatton Canyon

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.4

Consider options to collaborate with nearby property owners (e.g., The Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers) to assess if sharing parking spaces for vehicles belonging to transit or shuttle riders is feasible.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 2

Maintain facilities for recreation use and special events.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 2.1

Continue to operate and maintain the existing paved multipurpose trail. Continue to allow local and regional special events.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Goal 3

Provide visitor facilities and information about regional park and open space opportunities, including the CASP units, at the regional transportation center.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 3.1

Provide comprehensive visitor information on regional state parks, public parks, and open space, including transit routes, schedules, park operational hours, park rules and regulations, and park contact phone numbers.

#### LOWER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 3.2

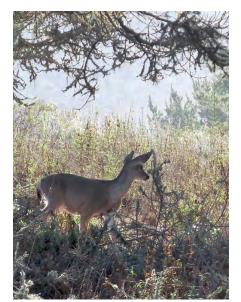
Provide up to 100 parking spaces for visitors using multimodal park access.

# 4.6 Visitor Capacity Management

## 4.6.1 Visitor Management Methods

CSP defines visitor capacity management as, "a methodology used to determine and maintain the desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park. It includes establishing initial visitor capacities, then monitoring key indicators to identify appropriate management actions in response to unacceptable conditions" (CSP 2010). This approach to visitor capacity management is based on adaptive management, which defines key desired resource conditions and describes management strategies for monitoring those conditions and modifying actions in response to changes.

Visitor capacity management is a methodology used to determine and maintain desired resource and social conditions that fulfill the purpose and mission of a park.



Upland wildlife habitat of the Reserve

Adaptive management is a strategic approach to achieving sustainable use of park resources and protection of a high-quality visitor experience. A common early definition of sustainability is from the U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development's 1987 report, "Our Common Future": "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In the context of visitor use of ecologically or culturally sensitive public park settings, such as CASP, sustainable use can be viewed as visitation that is managed to achieve high-quality visitor experiences in harmony with the processes, sensitivities, and qualities of the natural world, protecting them from damage or destruction. The visitor management approach described here uses CSP's methods for determining desired outcomes for visitor experience and resource conservation, developing measurable or observable indicators to evaluate their condition, monitoring of conditions, and adaptively adjusting management in response to changing resource conditions and visitor experiences. This method complies with PRC Section 5019.5 by identifying the approach CSP will use to survey, evaluate, and manage visitor capacity to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions and visitor experiences (i.e., social conditions).

This General Plan identifies sensitive natural and cultural resources, outdoor recreation opportunities and physical constraints, and it includes guidelines for managing resources and desired visitor experiences. Using the adaptive management process described in this section, park managers can monitor visitor use and take the appropriate actions to reduce or limit negative impacts. Sensitive natural resources have been subjected to high volumes of visitors for many years, resulting in degraded conditions for habitat quality, native plants, and native wildlife in both terrestrial and marine settings. Damage to important cultural resources has also occurred from unrestricted access to areas resulting in erosion. Desired conditions include the sustainability, conservation and enhancement of natural resources, which allows for resource protection and restoration as well as enjoyment by visitors, and avoidance of further loss or damage to important cultural resources.

The type, quality, and character of visitors' outdoor recreation experiences are influenced by visitor origin, demographics, diversity, and statewide or nationwide recreation trends. These dynamic influences contribute to defining the nature of desirable park experiences and conditions. For instance, as a place where a dramatic rocky coastline and marine water and life connect, desired visitor experience includes the opportunity to see, hear, smell, and feel the coastal/marine dynamics that are new or rarely



Parking on unpaved coastal bluffs at the Reserve

perceived by long-distance visitors and revered by regular, local and regional visitors. Degradation of visitor experience can occur due to the increased total visitor use currently experienced by the Reserve and New State Park Coastal Area (e.g., overcrowding). In the Reserve, because of its national and international reputation, social factors include its recognition as an interstate and international tourism destination. These population trends and social factors have an influence on park management and can be viewed as opportunities for cultural awareness and exchange.

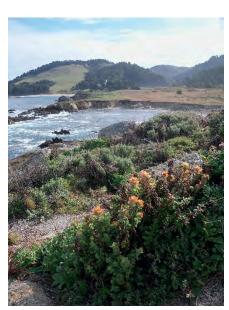
CSP's method focuses on desired resource and social conditions. Subsequent surveys, analysis, and monitoring programs are necessary to make final determinations and adjustments in visitor capacity through future adaptive management actions. The methods used in this process are described below.

# 4.6.2 Monitoring of Desired Outcomes and Adaptive Management Process

CSP uses an adaptive management methodology that involves research, planning, monitoring, and management actions to achieve sustainable resources and visitor experience (i.e., social conditions). This method was initiated during this general planning effort with assessments of existing conditions and applied with the level of detail commensurate with the conceptual nature of this plan. This includes the identification of existing opportunities and constraints and the description of desired resources and visitor experience.

An adaptive management process recognizes that CSP management actions have intended outcomes and it is important to monitor and adjust management and research decisions as appropriate to achieve management objectives. The steps that typically make up an adaptive management process for CSP are presented below. These steps are presented here for an understanding of the iterative process that is considered from the programmatic planning stages of the General Plan through the project implementation and monitoring phases.

 Identify Existing Opportunities and Constraints: Through ongoing research, surveys, and site investigations CSP is able to document existing resources and social conditions. This data helps identify opportunities and constraints, and establishes the baseline condition for natural, cultural, and recreational resource condition. In the CASP units, research and site investigations will document and Adaptive management allows CSP to monitor outcomes and, if needed, adjust management and research decisions to better achieve management objectives in the future.



Vegetation on coastal bluffs at the Reserve

- prioritize the most fragile and/or sensitive natural and cultural resources, such as vegetation loss, coastal bluff erosion, locations with special status plants, and damaged Native American middens.
- 2. Determine Vision and Desired Conditions: The analysis of current uses and condition assessments begin to shape the types of activities and experiences that are desired. This increases CSP's ability to determine the resource conditions that are desired and the protective measures, including thresholds (standards) of acceptable resource conditions that are necessary to maintain those resource conditions. Desired conditions in the CASP units includes: avoiding degradation to marine, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats; avoiding damage to cultural resources; minimizing the establishment or expansion of invasive species; and implementing measures to eradicate invasive species. Desired conditions also address preserving high quality visitor experiences by protecting scenic vistas, preserving natural or cultural features important for user appreciation, and providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation access to the parks.
- 3. Identify Issues and Evaluate Alternatives: The analysis of resource and social impacts related to current use helps identify the issues, problems, and thresholds that shape the vision or desired conditions of the parks. Additional surveys, studies, or site analysis may be necessary to understand the full effects of existing uses, potential alternatives, or feasibility of desired improvements. It is at this stage that the objectives of visitor use and capacity for specific units are determined, which may include quantitative limits on certain park uses. For instance, the reservation system will be used to manage peak-period and total visitation for purposes of resource protection and quality visitor experiences. Distribution of visitor parking will help reduce crowding and overuse of resources at specific locations.
- 4. Develop Measurable Indicators and Thresholds: Key indicators are identified that can diagnose whether the desired conditions for a park are being met. These indicators must be measurable and have a direct relationship to at least one desired condition (e.g., the number of exposed tree roots per mile of trail). Thresholds that reflect desired conditions are then identified for each indicator. Through research and monitoring processes, CSP management is alerted when conditions exceed a

- determined threshold or deviate outside the acceptable range. A sample of conditions and representative key indicators is presented in Table 4-2 below.
- 5. Establish Initial Visitor Capacities: Initial visitor capacities are formulated based on the analysis of existing conditions, alternative considerations, desired future conditions, and prescribed goals and objectives. Implementation occurs when sufficient knowledge is gained and plans are finalized. As environmental impact assessments and monitoring programs are initiated, plans are implemented and new patterns of use are generated. The visitor capacities will be used as input to decisions about the number of reservations to make available in a particular season or peak-demand period.
- 6. Monitor Use and Identify Changing Conditions: Through monitoring and further study CSP can assess the degree of impact or changing conditions that occur over a specified period of time. Thresholds and indicators are used in the monitoring process to determine when an unacceptable condition exists. Unacceptable conditions trigger management action(s) appropriate to correct the unacceptable condition. District staff will be trained to include monitoring of visitor use and environmental conditions during the course of their routine patrols or maintenance and operational activities.
- 7. Adjust Environmental Conditions or Visitor Experience (Social Conditions): As monitoring efforts reveal that conditions may be approaching or exceeding thresholds, management must consider alternatives and take appropriate action. The analysis of impacts and their causes should direct management toward actions that adjust resource/experience conditions to a desired state. For instance, with the planned reservation system, analysis will help refine the number and timing of reservation visits allowed. This may include further studies, new project design, and stronger enforcement of rules and regulations, which may also require adjustments to the initial visitor capacities.

Data from research, management/staff observations, pre-project site investigations, visitor impact assessments, post-project evaluations, and baseline resource monitoring can be captured and used to attain and maintain the desired condition of the park. A program of continued research, staff monitoring, and site investigations provides information and documents updated data on resource conditions

and new problems as they may occur. Periodic surveys provide a measure of visitor satisfaction and identify recreation trends and public opinions on the types of activities and experiences people are seeking. These ongoing efforts build the unit data file for subsequent planning and analysis, and monitoring programs ensure that development actions achieve the desired outcomes.

Table 4-2 contains examples of indicators that could be developed based on the management goals and guidelines in the General Plan. These indicators may be regularly modified based on site-specific knowledge, ongoing field observations, and updates in scientific understanding to achieve the desired outcome.

Table 4-2 Sample of Potential Desired Conditions and Indicators							
Topic	Guideline	Management Zone	Desired Condition	Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition	Potential Monitoring and Management Actions		
Native Vegetation	COASTAL BLUFF Zone Guideline 1.2 - Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts, e.g., boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.	Coastal Bluff Zone	Healthy populations of native coastal bluff plant communities as part of restoration, coastal bluff stabilization and decrease in sediment reaching the ASBS	Decrease in extent of native plant coverage with an increase in extent of denuded soils leading to bluff loss and sediment continuing to impact the adjacent ASBS	<ul> <li>GPS definition of native plant community coverage of target plants and habitat</li> <li>Research to define plant restoration methods</li> <li>Limit public access</li> <li>Restore habitat/stabilize soils</li> </ul>		
Cultural Resources	OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 – Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.	Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve	Preservation of midden strata with prevention of additional damage	Increased area of midden damage from non-natural processes	<ul> <li>GPS definition of damaged edge of strata</li> <li>Restrict public access, if necessary, to avoid further damage</li> </ul>		
Trail Condition	POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4 – Allow minimum-necessary day use visitor facilities, including trails and interpretive elements, and limited public access and activities appropriate to maintain the natural setting and to protect the existing habitat.	Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve	Sustainably designed and constructed hillside trails that maintain slope stability without erosion	Evidence of erosion on trails, e.g., turbid runoff, gullies, or exposed roots, altered hydrology	<ul> <li>Regular condition surveys of hillside trails by staff</li> <li>Repair of observed eroded slopes and erosion gullies</li> </ul>		
Visitor Experience	VISIT Guideline 1.2 - Evaluate new technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would costeffectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.	All Zones	Satisfaction with the enjoyment of the visit, natural and cultural resources appreciation, and park access and facilities	Complaints about the visiting experience, resource condition, or adequacy of facilities	<ul> <li>Regular visitor satisfaction surveys</li> <li>Improved public information, resource condition, or facilities in response to complaints</li> </ul>		
Utility Systems	MAINTAIN Guideline I.I – Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.	All Zones	Fully functioning water, power, and sanitary systems sufficient capacity to meet visitor demand	Inadequacy of utilities capacity or maintenance that hinders visitor satisfaction, causes environmental degradation, or	<ul> <li>Monitor visitor use and condition of utilities</li> <li>Repair utilities, where needed</li> </ul>		

Topic	Guideline	Management Zone	Desired Condition	Indicators of Not Achieving Desired Condition	Potential Monitoring and Management Actions
				interferes with park management	Consider utility expansion as a park facility project, if needed
Visitor Access	ACCESS Guideline 1.1 - Evaluate how to most effectively implement a reservation system to apply to day use first in the Reserve. Consider various reservation options for walk-ins, visitors using alternative modes of transportation, and those arriving by vehicle.	All Zones	Management of visitor numbers within limits established for the reservation system	District staff identify visitors that did not use authorized entrances or otherwise do not have evidence of possessing a reservation	<ul> <li>Identify and resolve unauthorized access locations</li> <li>Modify reservation system to make easier the ability to monitor whether visitors have a reservation</li> <li>Establish and enforce a citation for visiting without a reservation</li> </ul>
Circulation/ Parking	ACCESS Guideline 3.1 - Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.	All Zones	Established percentage goals for visitors using non-personal auto travel modes to arrive at the parks  Established incentives for using shuttles, such as partnering with local commercial operators	A substantial number of personal autos need to be turned away at the park entrance. Transit shuttle ridership is below target	<ul> <li>Review website and public outreach that informs visitors about travel options and restrictions</li> <li>Consult with transit agency partners about actions to improve shuttle ridership</li> </ul>
Climate Change – Sea Level Rise	MANAGE Guideline 7.1 - Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents, prepared specifically for climate risk adaptation, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.	Coastal Bluff and Coastal Margin Zones	Visitor facilities are not located where vulnerable to damage from storm wave runup, based on projected sea level over the next decade	Storm wave damage affects unexpected facilities  State supported sea level rise predictions are revised upward to encompass more areas of the zone	Evaluate and install storm wave run-up protection, if feasible, or plan for relocation or abandonment of the facilities, as soon as feasible





Chapter 5
ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS

# 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

# 5.1 Introduction

The environmental analysis in the General Plan has been prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines requirement to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed action. The environmental analysis is programmatic in scope and serves as a program EIR, pursuant to Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The environmental analysis in this document evaluates broad environmental matters and does not contain project-specific analysis for the facilities that would implement the General Plan. The program EIR is a reference for future environmental reviews of implementation actions. If a later activity is consistent with the General Plan and program environmental impact report (EIR), in its CEQA review it may only need to demonstrate that it is "within the scope" of the EIR, and could therefore rely on this EIR for compliance. If needed, a later CEQA review can also provide more detailed information and analysis for site-specific developments and projects. The General Plan includes guidelines that direct future project-level environmental review of site-specific projects to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to resources during construction or operation of the facilities and improvements. Because the General Plan contains guidelines that avoid or minimize potential adverse environmental effects and because Department Operations Manual (DOM) policies and Standard Project Requirements would be implemented, no significant environmental impacts were identified in this EIR.

# 5.1.1 Purpose

This General Plan/EIR constitutes an Environmental Impact Report, as required by the Public Resources Code (PRC; Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq.). The General Plan/EIR is subject to approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission, which has sole authority for the plan's approval and adoption. Following certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and as staff and funding becomes available, CSP will prepare specific management plans and development plans described herein. Future projects within the Reserve and New State Park, based on the proposals in this General Plan, are subject to further environmental reviews, permitting requirements, and approval by other agencies such as Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The potential for significant environmental effects of all phases of the General Plan implementation, including construction and operation, are evaluated in the analysis (consistent with Guidelines Section 15126.2). A significant effect is defined in CEQA as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change to the physical environment resulting from implementation of the project. If significant effects on the environment were identified, this document would describe all feasible mitigation measures; however, environmental analysis did not identify significant effects. Mitigation measures may avoid, minimize, or compensate for significant adverse impacts, and need to be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding means (Guidelines Section 15126.4[a]). Mitigation measures are not required for effects that are less than significant.

## 5.1.2 Focus of the EIR

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this General Plan and EIR was circulated to the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies on April 4, 2012. Based on known issues affecting the long-term management of the parks and on comments received during the planning process, this General Plan/Draft EIR was prepared to address potential environmental impacts that may result from implementation of the Park Plan and its goals and guidelines.

# 5.1.3 Subsequent Environmental Review Process

The program EIR is used for evaluating the potential effects of the CASP General Plan (Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines). A program EIR considers broad environmental issues at the General Plan stage. When projects implementing the General Plan are proposed at a later date (called "later activities" in the State CEQA Guidelines), a project-specific environmental review is conducted. These environmental reviews of the later activities consider environmental effects of the project in light of the analysis and findings in the program EIR. Later activities consistent with the General Plan may be "within the scope" of the program EIR if the project-specific impacts have been considered in this EIR. If so, CSP needs to demonstrate, typically using a checklist, that all potential environmental effects have been considered in the program EIR, and if needed, incorporate by reference the relevant discussions from the broader EIR in the General Plan. In some cases, a new significant environmental impact may arise at the project-specific CEQA review. In that situation, the appropriate documentation is determined following the procedures and criteria in State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164, and either an addendum, mitigated negative declaration, supplement to an EIR, or subsequent EIR may be required.

# 5.1.4 Contents of the Environmental Impact Sections

Discussion of each technical environmental topic is contained in Sections 5.6.1 through 5.6.12. Sections 5.6.1 through 5.6.12 include the evaluation of all environmental topics originally identified for review in the NOP. The Public Scoping Meeting Summary and NOP can be found in Appendices A and H, respectively.

In accordance with CEQA requirements, this environmental analysis examines 12 technical topics in detail. Technical topic areas consist of the following:

- Section 5.6.1, Aesthetics
- Section 5.6.2, Air Quality
- Section 5.6.3, Biological Resources
- Section 5.6.4, Cultural Resources
- Section 5.6.5, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity
- Section 5.6.6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
- Section 5.6.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Section 5.6.8, Hydrology and Water Quality
- Section 5.6.9, Noise

- Section 5.6.10, Public Services and Utilities
- Section 5.6.11, Recreation
- Section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation

The technical chapters of this EIR are organized into the following major sections:

**Introduction:** This section provides introductory text pertaining to each technical topic. The environmental setting and regulatory setting for each topic is included in Chapter 2, which describe baseline setting information for local and regional conditions. This section refers the reader to the applicable section(s) in Chapter 2 containing setting information relevant to the resource topic.

**Analysis Methodology:** This section describes the methods, process, procedures, and/or assumptions used to formulate and conduct the impact analysis.

**Significance Criteria**: This section provides the criteria by which an impact is considered significant, in accordance with CEQA. Significance criteria used in this EIR are based on the environmental checklist in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**Environmental Impacts:** Environmental effects are listed numerically and sequentially throughout each section. Project impacts are arranged to address individual CEQA checklist questions, or multiple checklist questions that address the same topic. A summary impact statement precedes a more detailed discussion of the environmental effects of General Plan implementation. The level of significance of the impact is also defined. The discussion includes the analysis, rationale, and substantial evidence upon which conclusions are drawn. Impact conclusions are made using the significance criteria described above and include consideration of the "context" of the action and the "intensity" (severity) of its effects.

The level of impact is determined by comparing estimated effects with baseline conditions. Under CEQA, the existing setting normally constitutes the baseline point of comparison against which a significance determination is made. This assessment also specifies why impacts are found to be significant, potentially significant, or less than significant. The significance of impacts is determined after consideration of implementation of the proposed General Plan goals and guidelines and established Department Operations Manual (DOM) policies, Departmental Notice policies, and Standard Project Requirements that would avoid, minimize, or reduce the severity of the impact. Impacts identified as significant or potentially significant would require feasible mitigation to reduce the impact. A less-than-significant impact is one that would not result in a substantial adverse change in the physical environment.

Both direct and indirect effects of plan implementation are evaluated for each environmental resource area. Direct effects are those that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are reasonably foreseeable consequences that may occur at a later time or at a distance that is removed from the Plan area, such as growth-inducing effects and other effects related to changes in land use patterns, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on the physical environment.

**Mitigation Measures:** Mitigation measures would be identified for significant or potentially significant impacts of the proposed project, in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.4). No significant or potentially significant environmental effects were found as a result of this environmental review.

# 5.2 EIR Summary

# 5.2.1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in significant impacts on the environment. Implementation of the guidelines contained in Chapter 4, along with compliance with DOM policies, Departmental Notices, and Standard Project Requirements, would avoid potential significant effects or maintain them at a less-than-significant level. Mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary. Table ES-I in the Executive Summary provides a summary of environmental impact topics, significance conclusions, and the General Plan guidelines that influence the environmental significance conclusion.

# 5.2.2 Summary of Alternatives Considered

Four alternatives are considered in this EIR, including the Park Plan (the proposed project, addressed in detail in Section 5.6), a No Project Alternative, and two plan alternatives. Descriptions of the No Project and two plan alternatives are provided in Section 5.8.

# 5.3 Project Description

Chapter 4 of this General Plan represents the project description and establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for the parks. Management goals and supporting guidelines in Chapter 4 are designed to address the currently identified critical planning issues and to avoid or minimize the adverse environmental effects of uses, facilities, and management actions that would be permitted. This Environmental Analysis focuses on the environmental effects of the Park Plan, as described in Chapter 4 and summarized, below.

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands and underwater park west of State Route I (SR I) will continue in this classification, because the vision and purpose of the unit are specifically to preserve the terrestrial and marine habitats, ecological processes, sensitive species, and scenic qualities exemplified by the unique land and waterscape of Point Lobos. A Declaration of Purpose was adopted for the Reserve as part of the original 1979 General Plan. In developing the current purpose statement, the themes articulated in the original plan have been updated to reflect contemporary resource conditions, management needs, and planning issues.

Carmel River State Beach and the eastern parcel of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve will be reclassified and combined with the Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property, which will together become classified as a State Park. Management zones, identified for each CASP unit, are established based on the distinct features, resources, geographic location, interpretive characteristics, and the desired visitor experiences and uses of each zone. The management zones are as follows:

#### **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

- Marine Zone
- Coastal Bluff Zone
- Upland Reserve Zone

#### New State Park - Coastal Area

- Coastal Margin Zone
- Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone
- Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve Zone
- Lagoon/Wetland Zone
- Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone
- Odello Farm Zone

#### New State Park - Inland Area

- A.M. Allan Ranch Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone
- Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve Zone
- San Jose Creek Natural Preserve Zone

#### New State Park - Hatton Canyon Area

- Upper Hatton Canyon Zone
- Lower Hatton Canyon Zone

Each management zone is described in Chapter 4, with summaries of characteristics, cultural and natural resource values, desired visitor experiences, proposed facilities and uses, and public access opportunities. Approximate size, location, and extent are also provided, along with the management intent for each zone.

# 5.3.1 Visitor Use Management, Sustainable Use, and Resource Protection

The appropriate visitor capacity of the Reserve has been a topic of both CSP management focus and public input for decades, because of the national and international renown of the Reserve, large number of annual visitors, and many peak-visitation days. The high level of visitor use continues to have a negative impact on sensitive natural resources in the Reserve and within the New State Park — Coastal Area as a part of existing conditions. This high level of use needs to be balanced with the protection of natural and cultural resources. Reducing resource degradation from overuse continues to be a critical issue for agencies, stakeholders, and the public.

The strategy proposed to maintain sustainable levels of use is implementation of a day use reservation system. Day use reservation requirements will be implemented at one or more units (initially at the Reserve with others evaluated, as needed), operated continuously or at peak-use periods (seasonally), coordinated with volunteer-guided tours or self-guided visits, and implemented with digital and internet applications for convenience. Opening New State Park – Inland Area to sustainable levels of public use offers another part of the solution to provide additional recreation opportunities in other areas with the opportunity to redistribute visitors away from high intensity use areas. The Park Plan proposes a follow-up evaluation to determine the most effective reservation approach and identification of appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities.

# 5.3.2 Traffic Congestion, Parking Issues, and Multimodal Solutions

While not an issue limited just to CASP as a destination, transportation and parking issues have become more urgent as the popularity of tourist attractions such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, downtown Carmel and Carmel Valley, public parks, reserves, National Forest lands, and other public open space in the Monterey/Big Sur region has grown. Interrelated issues include traffic congestion, vehicle circulation, parking adequacy, and pedestrian access and safety. Currently, the vast majority of visitors rely on personal autos as the primary transportation mode to reach CASP units and other similar destinations in the region. SR I becomes heavily congested during periods of substantial visitation, causing mobility issues for local residents and visitors. The on-highway SR I parking contributes to the overuse issue by adding up to 400,000 walk-in users to the Reserve each year. Parking on the shoulders within the Caltrans right-of-way of SR I near the Reserve and New State Park – Coastal Area contributes to traffic congestion and pedestrian safety.

The addition of the Inland Area and Hatton Canyon Area of New State Park to the CASP units provides opportunities to develop solutions to current vehicular access, congestion, and parking problems and, in doing so, enhance visitors' experiences. In the Inland Area, sites may be suitable to redistribute parking eliminated in the Reserve through a process of evaluation and staged parking removal and replacement; however, care in locating facilities is important because the Inland Area contains significant cultural and natural resources. Lower Hatton Canyon has potential to be the site of a multimodal transportation center, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies and organizations. With such a center, transit and/or shuttle operations may be able to link to multiple park units and destination points in the region, including CASP units, providing important alternative travel modes and reducing the need for visitors to use personal autos.

## 5.3.3 Protection of Natural Resources

CSP takes into full account the stewardship and management of the native flora and fauna, rare and endangered species, sensitive habitats, the natural processes, and functions that support sensitive aquatic and terrestrial communities, when defining approaches to manage the recreational uses and operations of CASP. The many special natural resources of the CASP units include, but are not limited to, marine mammals and shore birds, underwater kelp forest, freshwater lagoon and wetland of the Carmel River, south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog habitat of San Jose Creek, one of the world's largest native Monterey pine forests, one of only two places supporting the rare Gowen cypress, maritime chaparral habitat, and broad areas of mountain lion habitat.

Protection of these natural resources is a critical issue. Natural resource protection strategies begin with the appropriate classification of the CASP units and designation of natural preserves. The Reserve will retain its State Natural Reserve classification with a continued emphasis on resource protection. Within New State Park, existing and new natural preserve subclassifications will protect sensitive resources within this unit classified as a State Park, including the Carmel River lagoon and wetland, San Jose Creek riparian corridor, and broad expanse of coastal terrace and mountain slopes within the Inland Area. In addition, a series of goals and guidelines focus on identifying, protecting, restoring, monitoring, and managing visitor use around sensitive natural resources. The Park Plan is designed to

achieve protection of these natural resources, while providing for high-quality outdoor recreation experiences, interpretation, and education for visitors.

# 5.4 Environmental Setting

Existing conditions that characterize CASP units, including descriptions of the important resources within the Reserve and New State Park and the regional planning context, are described in Chapter 2 of this document.

# 5.5 Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis

The following topics were eliminated for future analysis in the EIR because there is no potential for significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the General Plan. A brief reason for their elimination is provided for each respective topic.

# 5.5.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), there are no lands considered to be important farmland on the project site (DOC 2017) or lands subject to Williamson Act contracts (DOC 2015). Thus, General Plan implementation would not convert important farmland, conflict with Williamson Act contracts, or otherwise affect agricultural land. There would be no impacts related to these types of agricultural resources. Plan implementation would not include changes to existing zoning or have any effect on land use designations outside the State-owned CSP properties; therefore, impacts related to conflicts with existing zoning or rezoning of forest land, or timberland are not discussed further.

While historic uses in the Coastal Area (e.g., Odello Farm Zone) and Inland Area (e.g., A.M. Allan Ranch Zone) included farming operations, no active farming remains on these properties and the park units are not used for agricultural purposes. Therefore, implementation of the General Plan would have no effect on existing agriculture within the parks. Land uses within the Reserve and New State Park would focus on natural and cultural resources protection and outdoor recreation uses, supported by operational activities. Plan implementation would not include changes to these primary land uses, so there would be no land use influence effect on agriculture on nearby lands. Forests in the CASP units are protected as natural habitats and are not subject to harvest. General Plan goals and guidelines describe an array of natural resources protection and management strategies that would sustain existing forest resources with the CASP units. Numerous other management zone-specific guidelines oriented to natural resources protection and management would also contribute to the protection of forest resources in the CASP units. Management strategies in the General Plan would not result in the loss or conversion of agricultural or forest land to other uses. Forests within the park units would be protected by General Plan guidelines. Therefore, no significant effect would occur and no further environmental analysis is necessary.

# 5.5.2 Land Use and Planning

The General Plan proposals would not result in the division of an established community or conflict with applicable land use plans, habitat conservation plans, or the policies or regulations of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. See discussions under Coordinated Planning and Partnerships in Chapter 4 and Regional Recreational Facilities in Chapter 2, for descriptions of coordination with other agencies with jurisdiction over adjacent areas and facilities. Portions of the Park interface with nearby suburban or urban uses, such as Carmel Highlands, a low-density residential development located south of the Reserve; Carmel Meadows, a medium-density residential area located adjacent to the State Beach; and the commercial, residential, and visitor-serving facilities adjacent to the Hatton Canyon property. In some CASP locations adjacent to existing development, unauthorized usercreated trails have been established and private landscaping and backyard improvements have encroached onto State land. Implementation of the General Plan would not change the locations of the existing urban-park interface areas, but would result in guidelines to decrease the effects of unauthorized uses on natural resources (Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.4, Identify locations where decommissioning and restoration of unauthorized trails are needed, including but not limited to, the North Shore Trail in the Reserve and non-designated trails in the coastal areas, to decrease erosion, soil compaction, and degradation of cultural and natural resources and wildlife habitats. Prioritize actions to address first the most degraded and sensitive resource locations.). Therefore, no significant land use and planning effects would occur and no further environmental analysis on the effects on land use and planning is necessary.

## 5.5.3 Mineral Resources

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources that are or would be of value to the region and residents of the State, or are a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, no further environmental analysis on the effects on mineral resources is necessary.

# 5.5.4 Population and Housing

The administration and operation of the CASP units includes visitor services, public safety, facility maintenance, utilities and infrastructure maintenance, and visitor interaction as performed by maintenance staff, rangers, resource specialists, interpreters, and other administrative personnel. Volunteers and participating partner groups also play an important role in the park operations by providing additional services. On-site staff are needed to create safe environments, manage operations of the units, and keep facilities clean and well maintained. CASP staff primarily live throughout Monterey County. CASP has a long history of partnering with volunteers and local organizations to increase its capacity. Plan implementation would not change the availability of housing in the County. Staffing could be supplemented with volunteers (see **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guidelines 9.4, 9.5, and 9.8**). Plan implementation would not result in substantial population growth such that construction of additional housing would be required. Plan implementation would not result in direct or indirect population growth. Furthermore, the project is located on public land that contains recreation facilities and some staff housing. Plan implementation could result in adaptive reuse of historic structures that would provide for visitor orientation and park maintenance/operation support

functions, including staff housing. Thus, plan implementation would not displace any people or housing. Therefore, no significant effect would occur and no further environmental analysis is necessary.

# 5.6 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

The purpose of this section is to identify potential impacts of plan implementation that may be considered significant. This analysis uses criteria from the Initial Study Checklist (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines) and CEQA's mandatory findings of significance (PRC sec. 21083, Guidelines sec. 15065 and sec. 15064.5) as tools for determining the potential for significant environmental effects. A significant effect on the environment is generally defined as a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical environment.

General Plan proposals include development and maintenance of day use facilities, parking areas, trails, multimodal transportation facilities, and natural resource management activities. The general plan defines the purpose, vision, and long-term goals and guidelines for park management and facility enhancement for the next 20 years or more. Typically, a general plan provides guidelines for future land management and for the facilities required to accommodate expected visitation. Because a general plan is likely to be in effect for many years, it must be flexible enough to accommodate expected future changes while clearly guiding decision-making consistent with the adopted park vision. Thus, the general plan provides broad guidelines for future operation of the CASP units, but does not prescribe specific operational strategies that may need to be adjusted over time. Construction and operation of future activities could create adverse impacts. The impacts are considered potential because the actual size, location, and design of the proposed facilities have not been determined. Throughout preparation of the General Plan, CSP assessed the existing setting, the purpose and long-range vision for the parks, and the potential impacts and refined the goals and guidelines accordingly. The resultant Park Plan (see Chapter 4) is analyzed in this chapter.

All park plans and projects are required to be in compliance with state and federal permitting and regulatory requirements. Projects would also implement the policies in the DOM, the CSP Standard Project Requirements, and Departmental Notice policies. Any potential impacts at this programmatic level would be avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant effect by implementing the General Plan guidelines, DOM policies, Standard Project Requirements, and Departmental Notices, as described in the following analysis for each topic. Following certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and as staff and funding become available, CSP will prepare specific management plans and development plans described herein. Future projects within the Reserve and New State Park, based on the proposals in this General Plan, are subject to further environmental reviews, permitting requirements, and approval by other agencies such as Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

### 5.6.1 Aesthetics

This section analyzes impacts related to aesthetics and scenic resources that could result from implementation of the General Plan.

# **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Aesthetic Resources in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for descriptions of the existing conditions related to scenic resources. Scenic resources can provide a unique sense of place to an individual park or to specific areas within a park unit. As noted in Chapter 2, scenic quality is an important and valuable resource, especially on public lands. Many people value the quality of the scenery and have high expectations of scenic quality when visiting California State Parks.

# **Analysis Methodology**

The methods of analyzing impacts on scenic resources consist of assessing visual characteristics under pre- and post-plan implementation scenarios to provide an understanding of the status of scenic quality and the visual effect of physical changes occurring in compliance with the General Plan. Scenery can be defined as the general appearance of a place and the features that contribute to the qualities of its views, landscapes, and waterscapes. Scenery consists of biophysical elements (landforms, water, and vegetation, as well as kinetic features, like crashing waves) and cultural or human-made elements (structures, water features, and managed landscapes).

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to scenic resources would be significant if the project would:

- have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista:
- substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; or
- create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

## **Environmental Impacts**

AESTHETICS-1: Effect on a scenic vista, scenic resources, or the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings

General Plan goals and guidelines emphasize ongoing protection of public scenic resources in the Reserve and New State Park. Strategies to manage visitor use levels and limit or restore resources degradation would assist CSP in protecting valuable resources, which have scenic quality as well as natural or cultural importance, from further damage, and preserving the quality of visitor experiences related to scenic appreciation. Plan implementation would also emphasize preservation of the most outstanding scenic qualities of the parks. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to scenic resources and the visual character of the park units.

Preservation of public scenic resources is a guiding principal for the management of the State Park System. The values of coastal views and scenic quality are important and require protection in compliance with the California Coastal Act. Within the vicinity of the parks, SR I is a Caltrans-designated scenic highway, and protecting public scenic corridor views from the scenic highway is important.

The value of scenic resources in the State Park System is reflected in the management intent for the units by noting the priority assigned to preserving scenic resources. Plan implementation would result in the ongoing management of park uses to preserve natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Plan implementation would also introduce recreation uses and facilities to previously inaccessible portions of the park units in New State Park – Inland and Coastal areas. Public accessibility via new trails to higher elevation viewpoints closer to the Santa Lucia Mountains ridgeline would offer new visual access to striking coastal, ocean, and forest views that change with the seasons and over time.

The physical effects of plan implementation could include construction for the removal or introduction of parking lots and trails, restrooms, interpretive elements, and the renovation of existing buildings for use as visitor facilities, park operations, or staff residences. New facilities within the majority of the park units would be small in scale, such as restrooms or interpretive signage, or would not have a substantial vertical physical profile, so they would not be visible from mid- or long-distance viewpoints, such as trails. Plan implementation would also make land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a multimodal transportation center. CSP would work with local and regional partners to develop the multimodal transportation center to serve the park units. The multimodal transportation center would include up to 100 parking spaces and structures to provide a transportation hub for other regional park units and comprehensive visitor information. The main viewer groups in Lower Hatton Canyon are motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists using SR I, Rio Road, and Carmel Valley Road; residents; and patrons of the commercial areas east of SR I. Views from the southern portion include SR land commercial development fringed with narrow patches of undeveloped land with native vegetation, including the riparian area along the Carmel River. The multimodal transportation center would be located within the flat linear corridor that includes a mix of undeveloped and developed areas. Lower Hatton Canyon is used as a community gathering space and for special events, such as the Big Sur International Marathon. Because the area includes existing commercial development, the transportation center would introduce structures that would be compatible with existing uses in the area and would not substantially alter the existing views from SR 1.

Infrastructure such as trails, restrooms, and interpretive elements would be designed to integrate scenic quality protection and to maintain important views, including publicly accessible coastal views, consistent with the California Coastal Act, and to minimize the visibility of facilities from SR I (see **Parkwide MANAGE Guidelines 10.2 and 10.4**). Additional structures associated with the transportation center would be compatible with existing commercial structures adjacent to Lower Hatton Canyon. In addition, all construction and development of facilities would comply with CSP Standard Project Requirements for aesthetics, which include the following:

- Projects will be designed to incorporate appropriate park scenic and aesthetic values including the
  choices for: specific building sites, scope and scale; building and fencing materials and colors; use of
  compatible aesthetic treatments on pathways, retaining walls or other ancillary structures; location
  of and materials used in parking areas, campsites and picnic areas; development of appropriate
  landscaping. The park scenic and aesthetic values will also consider views into the park from
  neighboring properties.
- All project-related materials will be stored outside of the viewshed.

Any permanent structure will be equipped with outdoor light shields that concentrate the
illumination downward to reduce direct and reflected light pollution. The direct source of the
lighting (bulb, lens, filament, tube, etc.) will not be visible off site and the lighting will be installed as
low as possible on poles and/or structures to minimize light pollution of the night sky. The candle
power of the illumination at ground level will not exceed what is required by any safety or security
regulations of any government agency with regulatory oversight.

Strategies to manage visitor use levels, such as implementing a reservation system, and limit or restore resource degradation, would assist CSP in achieving sustainable visitation levels and protecting valuable natural and cultural resources from damage. Protection of natural and cultural resources would help preserve the scenic quality of the parks and enhance visitor experiences regarding scenic appreciation, because recreation user appreciation of scenic quality is typically linked to the visible functions of natural areas, such as wildlife within view, and interpretation of known cultural resources.

The following General Plan guidelines would maintain protection of the aesthetic character of the park units and its scenic resources, including scenic views and the State-designated scenic highway: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.1 (Remove or screen from view built elements that have negative aesthetic qualities.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.2 (Design infrastructure, use areas, and facilities to integrate scenic quality protection, to maintain important views (including publicly accessible coastal views, consistent with the California Coastal Act), and to be visually compatible with the existing natural landscape or historic character of the location. To the extent feasible, new structures will be sited in currently developed areas near other existing structures and facilities to avoid adding intrusive structural elements into important views or vistas.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.3 (Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.4 (Minimize visibility of new structures or other facilities to travelers on SR I, a State Scenic Highway. Use distance, buffering with existing topography and vegetation, planted vegetation screening, low-profile design, appropriate colors that blend with surroundings, and natural appearing non-reflective materials as strategies to protect scenic highway views.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.5 (Design signs and interpretive displays to appear consistent with the surrounding natural environment, using low-profile design and natural-appearing materials that are consistent in color and texture to the natural environment.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.6 (Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.9 (Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to preserve, protect, and enhance positive aesthetic features and viewsheds. Consider the Carmel Area Land Use Plan/Local Coastal Program and other applicable standards for scenic resources.), Parkwide PLAN Guideline 1.1 (Coordinate natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource management, interpretation, operations, staff housing, emergency services, and facility development programs with other regional parks to promote healthy ecosystems, protected cultural and aesthetic resources, and operational efficiencies.).

In addition, the following guidelines would apply to the Reserve to protect and enhance existing scenic views and qualities: **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.1** (Improve the coastal viewshed by removing and restoring to native habitat unpaved parking areas that deliver sediment to the ASBS and

which have degraded coastal bluff habitat and scenic quality (as specified in the Parkwide ACCESS Goal 3.), **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.2** (Locate and design interpretive signs and displays to minimize or avoid obstructing scenic views. Avoid locating signs/displays in areas that diminish expansive ocean views, especially from designated scenic viewpoints or vistas.), and **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3** (Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR I or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.).

#### Conclusion

General Plan guidelines emphasize ongoing preservation of scenic resources, consistent with CSP's mission and with the California Coastal Act. Management strategies that protect natural and cultural resources would also help preserve scenic qualities of the parks, and CSP Standard Project Requirements for aesthetics would be implemented for facility development. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to scenic resources and the visual character of the CASP units. No mitigation measures are required.

### AESTHETICS-2: New Sources of Light or Glare

With plan implementation, any new outdoor light sources would comply with guidelines that limit the amount, direction, wattage, and spectrum of lighting. In addition, nearby commercial and residential development already contains outdoor lighting that is more intense than lighting that would occur within the CASP units. General Plan implementation would have a **less-than-significant** effect on light and glare.

Plan implementation could include additional sources of outdoor lighting where new public access is provided or new facilities are developed. This could include exterior lighting on restrooms, staff residences, or transit stops, along with low-level pedestrian lights along walkways or new parking areas. Any new outdoor light sources would comply with guidelines that limit the amount, direction, wattage, and spectrum of lighting, including CSP Standard Project Requirements for minimizing light impacts (e.g., permanent structures would be equipped with outdoor light shields that concentrate the illumination downward). Plan implementation could also result in new sources of glare from parked vehicles in proposed parking lots. While the use of a reservation system, visitor entry management and fee system, and multimodal transportation center would reduce reliance on personal autos for arrival to the parks, new parking areas would be introduced at the Coastal Margin (Bay School) Zone, Odello Farm Zone, Lagoon/Wetland Zone, and the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone. Additionally, new structures and up to 100 parking spaces would be introduced in Lower Hatton Canyon as part of the future multimodal transportation center, as noted under Impact AESTHETICS-I. All new lighting and facilities would comply with the following General Plan guidelines, which would prohibit the use of reflective materials that could cause excessive daytime glare: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.3 (Integrate positive aesthetic features into the design of new park facilities and in appropriate renovation and maintenance programs. Integrate built facilities into the park's natural setting through the use of appropriate siting techniques and building form, scale, materials, and colors. Preserve and showcase scenic views, use native (or replicated) building materials, use muted colors that reflect the natural surroundings, and take advantage of (or screen) ephemeral conditions (weather, wind, sunlight, etc.), as appropriate.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.7 (Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards.), and COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 3.3

(Review any future improvement plans to Hudson House to ensure that structural repairs/improvements or new accessory facilities do not substantially affect views from SR I or impair the historic integrity of the structure. Any structural repairs or new accessory facilities must not substantially increase the current height or mass of the existing structure and must use non-reflective materials and colors that blend with the surrounding natural setting.). In addition, the following guideline would be implemented to reduce potential light and glare effects from parking lots, including proposed lots in new locations.

Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.6 (Where appropriate, visually screen parking lots, roads, operations facilities, and storage areas from primary public use areas. Use native vegetation, rocks, elevation change, berms, and other methods that either use or mimic natural elements to minimize negative visual impacts from these facilities.)

#### **Conclusion**

Plan implementation would not create new sources of light or glare that are more substantial than other light or glare in the area, cause exterior light to be cast off-site, or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the CASP units. General Plan goals and guidelines would provide for vegetative and natural screening of parking lots, emphasize ongoing protection of scenic resources and preservation of the quality of visitor experiences. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to light or glare. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.6.2 Air Quality

This section describes whether potentially significant impacts to local and regional air quality would occur with plan implementation. The analysis includes an evaluation of construction- and operational-generated emissions of criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and toxic air contaminants (TACs) related to the General Plan.

Continuation of park management, operations, and visitor use would not create new sources of odors, and the General Plan would result in minimal additional facilities. Planned facilities would be similar to existing structures and uses in the parks, such as restrooms, transit shelters, and the renovation of existing buildings for use as a staff residence. While construction of facilities could result in temporary emissions of odorous diesel exhaust, it would not be excessive, nor would it affect a substantial number of receptors. Operational stationary sources of odors would continue to be minimal and not include new substantial sources. This issue is dismissed from additional analysis. The potential impact from operational mobile sources of pollutants is discussed below under Impact AIR-2.

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in additional new sensitive receptors, such as residential land uses, schools, hospitals, or transient lodging. Plan implementation would include continued visitation to the parks and renovation of existing buildings as staff residences (a sensitive receptor); these are both existing uses within the CASP units. For these reasons, substantial air pollutant exposure to sensitive receptors would not be an impact. This topic is dismissed from additional analysis.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to the air quality and climate discussions in Section 2.3.1, Physical Resources, in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to air quality.

# Analysis Methodology

Construction- and operational-generated emissions of criteria air pollutants and TACs are described in relation to the existing air quality in the CASP vicinity. Construction and operational emissions would be similar in character throughout the CASP units and are, therefore, described together. Where appropriate, applicable parkwide and zone-specific guidelines are identified that serve to minimize air pollutant emissions from General Plan implementation.

## Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to air quality would be significant if the project would:

- conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan;
- violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under any applicable National or State ambient air quality standards (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative standards for ozone precursors); or
- expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (including TACs).

# **Environmental Impacts**

AIR-1: Short-term construction-generated emissions of ROG,  $NO_x$ , and PM that could conflict with or obstruct an air quality management plan or violate an air quality standard

Construction-generated emissions of ROG,  $NO_X$ , and PM would not be substantial and would not violate air quality standards. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Implementation of the General Plan would occur over time with the development of small-scale facilities and improvement projects. Projects would require minor construction activity, such as paving of parking facilities, trail construction, restroom installation, and vegetation management. Construction activities of this small magnitude would not result in a substantial amount of criteria air pollutants or precursor emissions.

In addition, construction of projects implementing the General Plan would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for construction air quality. These include the following:

- During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with dust suppressant to reduce dust without causing runoff.
- All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Paved streets adjacent to the Park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from project-related activities.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph), instantaneous gusts exceed 25 mph, or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls. (see also Appendix G, CSP Standard Project Requirements).

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would not result in construction activities that would produce substantial amounts of air pollutant emissions. Project construction would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for construction air quality and would not result in the exceedance of an air quality standard, nor would it obstruct an air quality plan. For these reasons, air quality effects of implementation of the General Plan would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

AIR-2: Long-term operations- and visitor-related emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and PM that could conflict with or obstruct an air quality management plan or violate an air quality standard

Operations- and visitor-related emissions of ROG,  $NO_X$ , and PM would not be substantially changed and would not violate air quality standards. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Plan implementation would encourage stable levels of park visitation and would not contribute to substantial increases in vehicular traffic, because of visitor use management strategies (such as a reservation system) and opportunities for enhanced multimodal transportation access (shuttle system), which would reduce reliance on personal autos to access the parks. The innovative entry and reservation system will improve visitor experience, park operations, safety, and accessibility while also helping to protect natural and cultural resources. The performance goals of the reservation system and vehicular access and parking system are to manage access to CASP units so that reliance on personal autos is reduced for arrival at the parks and the overall vehicular trips by visitors are not increased because of Park Plan implementation. By diverting visitor access from personal auto trips to transit or shuttle trips, and by placing the Reserve on a reservation system, the total number of trips to the parks would experience an overall net decrease after the transit options are activated. Park operational activities would be expanded as New State Park - Inland Area is opened to public access, but with the limited planned facilities (parking area, trails, two restrooms, interpretive features) operations would be the same type as currently conducted, and the magnitude of increased daily emissions would be minimal. Sources of emissions could include maintenance vehicles, landscaping equipment, soil disturbance from trail maintenance, and indirect energy-related sources associated with electricity use and natural gas combustion. The proposed changes to CASP units would not generate sufficient traffic to alter general traffic patterns on SR I such that mobile-source emissions of CAPs and precursors would contribute to a violation of an ambient air quality standard or air quality management plan. The addition of a transportation center planned to be in the New State Park – Hatton Canyon Area could result in an increase in nearby short-term driving as cars drive to and park at the transportation center. A redistribution of existing visitor use and vehicle trips would occur by opening New State Park - Inland Area and developing new or relocated parking facilities there, as well as the development of new parking lot locations, but these changes would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. As explained in section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation, plan implementation would not result in substantial additional delay of motor vehicle trips. Therefore, plan implementation would not result in a significant increase in pollutant emissions related to automobile use.

In addition, General Plan-related operational emissions would be reduced through the implementation of **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1** (Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED], for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials.) and **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2** (Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emissions ground maintenance equipment such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers.). Further, the use of low- or zero-emissions vehicles and maintenance equipment (e.g., chain saws, electric trimmers, and mowers) for park operations would also reduce emissions of CAPs and precursors from minimizing the amount of gasoline combusted during the use of these equipment. Implementation of these guidelines would reduce operational emissions of air pollutants from the area and mobile sectors and would serve to mitigate long-term operational-related emissions of air pollutants such as PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> during operational activity such as trail maintenance and use.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would not result in substantial changes to operational activities and would continue stable levels of visitation, so neither source of air pollutant emissions would change substantially. Adherence to the CSP Standard Project Requirements and General Plan guidelines described above would maintain these emissions to a less-than-significant level. For this reason, implementation of the General Plan would not result in the exceedance of an air quality standard or obstruction of an air quality plan, and this impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

#### AIR-3: Mobile source emissions of carbon monoxide

Implementation of the General Plan would not introduce substantial traffic such that a localized carbon monoxide impact would occur. Additionally, implementation of guidelines in the General Plan would mitigate emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) as compared to current conditions. As such, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Adverse change in local mobile-source CO emissions near roadway intersections is a direct function of growth in traffic volume, exacerbated congestion, slowed speeds, and increased delay. CO disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions; however, under certain specific meteorological conditions, CO concentrations near roadways and/or intersections may reach unhealthy levels at nearby sensitive land uses, such as residential units, hospitals, schools, and childcare facilities.

As explained in Impact AIR-2, the addition of a transportation center planned to be in the New State Park – Hatton Canyon Area could result in an increase in nearby short-term driving as cars drive to and park at the transportation center. Redistribution of existing visitor use could occur by opening New State Park – Inland Area and developing new parking facilities there, but these changes would not involve a substantial change in the number of vehicle trips on any public roadway. As explained in section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation, plan implementation would not result in substantial additional daily vehicle trips. Therefore, plan implementation would not result in a significant increase in CO emissions related to automobile use.

As discussed in Section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation, of this document, implementation of the General Plan would not result in substantial increases in daily vehicle trips. Furthermore, implementation of **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2** (Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment, when possible, such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers.) would reduce localized emissions of CO. As such, General Plan-related emissions of CO would not be substantial.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would result in small changes to operational activities and visitation that could produce minor changes in emissions of air pollutants, including CO. Adherence to the General Plan guidelines described above would minimize these emissions. For this reason, CO emissions related to implementation of the General Plan would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# AIR-4: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial toxic air contaminant (TAC) pollutant concentrations

Implementation of the General Plan could result in short-term construction-related TACs associated with the use of heavy-duty diesel construction equipment. Construction of projects implementing the General Plan would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for air quality, and TAC emissions would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Construction-related activities would result in temporary, intermittent emissions of diesel PM from the exhaust of off-road, heavy-duty diesel construction equipment typically used for site preparation. For construction activities, diesel PM is the primary TAC of concern. Construction of projects implementing the General Plan would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for air quality (see Impact AIR-I, above), which would minimize TAC emissions. Construction activities would occur infrequently over the lifetime of the project and would not be substantial such that sensitive receptors would be exposed to adverse concentrations of TACs.

In accordance with available guidance from California Air Resources Board (CARB), rural roadways exceeding 50,000 vehicles per day or freeways or urban roadways experiencing 100,000 or more vehicles per day could expose sensitive receptors to adverse health risks. The General Plan is accessed via SR I, which is a rural roadway according to CARB guidance. In 2014, the annual average daily traffic just north of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve at Carmel River State Beach was 14,200 vehicles, which is under CARB's 50,000 or more vehicles per day threshold for rural roadways (Fehr & Peers 2018). As stated above, plan implementation would not result in a substantial contribution of daily trips, because it would not contribute to an overall increase in park visitation. As such, SR I would not experience an increase in vehicles daily trips such that CARB's thresholds of 50,000 vehicles per day for rural roadways would be reached. Further, the project does not include any additional stationary sources of TACs and, therefore, would not contribute substantially to existing health risk levels in the area.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would involve construction that could result in the emissions of TACs; however, construction of projects implementing the General Plan would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements for air quality such that it would not generate substantial emissions of TACs. Ongoing operations under the General Plan would not result in substantial emissions of TACs. For these reasons, this impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.6.3 Biological Resources

This section analyzes whether impacts related to biological resources could result from implementation of the General Plan, recognizing that the plan includes numerous goals and guidelines designed to protect sensitive natural resources and sustain natural processes and habitat values.

The CASP units are not within the boundaries of a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. The General Plan calls for coordination with federal, state, local agencies, and open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional wildlife resource management (**Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.5**). Therefore, implementation of the General Plan would not conflict with plans intended to protect natural resources in the region or with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources; therefore, this topic is not addressed further in this analysis.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to the Natural Resources discussions under Section 2.3, Important Resource Values, in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to biological resources.

# **Analysis Methodology**

This analysis considers existing vegetation communities, special status species, and sensitive biological resources, and evaluates whether reasonably expected physical changes to those conditions from implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines would cause significant impacts. In determining the level of significance of potential environmental impacts, the analysis recognizes that plan implementation would comply with all relevant federal and state laws and regulations. In particular, plan implementation would comply with Chapter 0300, Natural Resources, of the DOM, which includes policies relevant to management of CASP.

The following DOM policies are applicable to the management of natural resources in the CASP units:

0306.1 0306.2 0306.3	Water Resources Planning and Management Policy Watershed Management Policy Street Management Policy	0311.4.3.1	Habitat Enhancement Policy
0306.3	Stream Management Policy Watershed and Stream Protection Policy	0311.5.1.1	,
0306.4	Stream Restoration Policy		Animal Feeding Policy
0306.6	Floodplain Management Policy		Animal-Proof Food Storage and
0306.7	Wetlands Management Policy	0311.3.3.2.1	Garbage Management Policy
0306.8.1	Coastal Lagoon and Breaching Policy	0311.5.3.3.1	Supplemental Feeding Policy
0306.9.1	Water Quality and Quantity Policy	0311.5.4.1	Injured, Sick or Dead Animal Policy
0306.10.1	Water Rights Policy	0311.5.4.2.1	Stranded, Injured or Dead Marine
0307.3.1.1	Siting Facilities to Avoid Natural Hazards Policy		Animal Policy
0307.3.1.2	Siting Structures in Seismic Hazard Zones	0311.5.5.1	Animal Reintroduction Policy
0307.3.2.1	Coastal Development Siting Policy	0311.5.5.4.1	Non-Native Animal Release Policy
0308.1	Soil Protection Policy	0311.5.6.1	Native Animal Control Policy
0309.1	Site Development Policy	0311.5.7	Non-Native Animal Control Policy
0309.2	Paleontological Resource Protection Policy	0311.6.1.1	Anadromous Fish Policy
0310.1.1	Plant Management Policy	0312.2.1	Scenic Protection Policy
0310.2.1	Natural Succession Policy	0312.3.1	Lightscape Protection Policy
0310.4.1	Genetic Integrity Policy	0312.4.1	Soundscape Protection Policy
0310.5.1	Protection of Rare, Threatened and Endangered	0312.5.1	Odor Policy
	(RTE) Plants and Their Habitats Policy	0313.2.1.1.	Wildfire Management Planning Policy

0310.5.3 Park Projects and Plant Species of Concern Policy	03132.2.2.1 Flammable Vegetation/Fuel Modification
0310.5.3.1 Use of Plant Species of Concern Policy	Policy
0310.6 Plant Protection Policy	03132.2.1 Prescribed Fire Management Policy
0310.6.1.1 Emergency Tree Felling Policy	0313.2.2.13 Cooperative Burn Policy
0310.7.1 Exotic Plant Landscaping Policy	0313.3.1 Information and Data Management Policy
0310.8.1 Woody Plant Material and Debris Removal	0313.4.1.1 Scientific Information and Collection
Policy	Policy
0310.8.2 Wood Removal Resource Protection Policy	0314.2.2 Tree Appraisal Policy
0311.2 General Animal Management Policy	0315.3.1 Habitat Conservation Plan Approval Policy
0311.3 Genetic Diversity Preservation Policy	0316.1.1 Off-Site Mitigation Policy
0311.4.1 General Habitat Management Policy	0317.1.1 Visitor Recreational Uses Policy
0311.4.2.1 Beach Grooming Policy	0320.1 Cooperation Policy

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to biological resources would be significant if the project would:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species
  identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or
  regulations, or by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Department of Fish
  and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected waters of the United States, including wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- 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; or
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

## **Environmental Impacts**

## BIO-1: Adverse effects on special status species

While plan implementation could result in direct or indirect impacts to special status species, goals and guidelines within the General Plan and CSP Standard Project Requirements would protect these species. This impact would be **less than significant**.

#### Parkwide

As discussed in Chapter 2, the CASP units support different climatic, topographic, and soil conditions, resulting in a wide variety of habitats. This diversity of habitats supports many native plant and wildlife species, including many special status species. Ongoing public use within the CASP units, as well as park operations, construction of new facilities, and introduction of visitors into new locations could result in direct or indirect impacts to special status species, such as removal of or damage to habitat.

Implementation of several Parkwide MANAGE guidelines would prevent future adverse impacts to special status species. These include Parkwide MANAGE Guidelines 1.1-1.4 that propose preparing an inventory and monitoring natural resources, including natural communities and special status plants on a periodic basis to document their abundance and distribution; protecting special status plant species to maintain or enhance populations through management actions; protecting and restoring natural areas and native plant communities; and identifying locations that are heavily degraded from past management practices and implementing appropriate vegetation and habitat restoration programs. The General Plan also includes Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.1 (Inventory and monitor native wildlife, including conducting small mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile surveys, to identify existing habitats and population trends, and to develop and implement visitor management strategies for the protection and perpetuation of wildlife.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.2 (Identify and limit visitor access to important breeding and rearing areas, including visitor exclusion during marine mammal and shore bird breeding and rearing periods, and aquatic habitat occupied by special status fish and amphibians.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.3 (Locate new facilities to minimize encroachment into native wildlife feeding, resting, breeding, and rearing habitats.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.4 (Reduce and eliminate wildlife access to human food and garbage by using wildlife-proof trash containers and dumpsters and educating visitors about the detrimental effects of human food on wildlife.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.5 (Protect common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats to establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in a natural ecological setting. Minimize human-induced disturbance and degradation of natural areas and restore wildlife habitat.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.6 (Use sound ecological principals to protect and rehabilitate special status animal populations and their habitats, including professionally accepted methods, such as considering the needs of special status species in the timing and implementation of any activity that would result in disturbance to their habitat and minimizing trail and facility building and park maintenance activities in or near breeding and rearing areas during breeding seasons.), and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.9 (Control and/or eradicate non-native animal species, such as bullfrogs and feral pigs, which may create stresses or threats to special status wildlife species. Priority for control efforts will be given to those species most detrimental to the environment.). In addition, during construction activities, CSP and its contractors would implement the CSP Standard Project Requirements. These include the General Biological Resource Standard Project Requirements that would result in surveys for special status species, monitoring of project activities to ensure that impacts to specific species are minimized, and requirements that on-site construction activities determine the minimum area required to complete the work and define the boundaries of the work area on the project drawings with flagging or fencing on the ground, as appropriate. Additional Standard Project Requirements for Plants require that no rare or endangered species will be cut, pruned, pulled back, removed, or damaged; that protected plant species be fenced off prior to the start of on-site construction; and that BMPs are employed during construction to avoid creation of dust. Standard Project Requirements related to wildlife would require similar measures for surveying and monitoring; would require that construction work be scheduled to avoid breeding, maternity, nesting, and flight periods; would result in training for on-site construction personnel on the life history of protected species; and would require work to stop in the vicinity of an identified protected species until it moves out of the site on its own accord or is temporarily relocated by a qualified biologist (see Appendix G for the full text of the Standard Project Requirements related to special status species).

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Special status plant species known to occur within the Reserve include Monterey manzanita, pink Johnnynip, Jolon clarkia, marsh microseris, Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, Hickman's cinquefoil, small-leaved lomatium, Pacific Grove clover, and possibly Gairdner's yampah. In addition, special status wildlife known to occur in the Reserve includes black swift, southern sea otter, hoary bat, monarch butterfly, Monterey

dusky-footed woodrat, and Smith's blue butterfly. As described above, ongoing use of the Reserve has the potential to directly or indirectly affect special status plant and wildlife species. However, implementation of guidelines developed for the Reserve would protect sensitive areas that provide habitat for special status species. Implementation of the following guidelines developed for the Reserve, including MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.1 (Monitor visitor access to shoreline, beach, and tidepool areas and limit or prohibit access to locations where visitors can disturb marine mammal haul-out, seabird/shorebird nesting, and sensitive intertidal habitat areas. Limit or restrict access in areas experiencing natural and cultural resource degradation. In areas where access is prohibited, provide clear and appropriate interpretive signage explaining to the public the need and the beneficial outcome of access restrictions, and interpret the goals of habitat restoration and what the public can do to help assist in this effort by staying on designated trail systems.), MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.4 (Facilitate interagency coordination and collaborate with partner agencies responsible for protecting marine species and conducting scientific research to develop strategies for visitor access and management based on changing habitat requirements, including, but not limited to, marine mammal and seabird nesting and breeding seasons.), MARINE ZONE Guideline I.5 (Collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management to develop a joint strategy for the conservation of offshore rock areas to protect marine mammals and nesting seabirds from human disturbance.), MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.6 (Allow controlled access for divers and boaters. Use an adaptive management approach to manage use and avoid disturbance to wildlife and marine resources, implementing appropriate adaptive management strategies, if needed.), MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.7 (Promote marine mammal protection, consistent with the MMPA and NOAA's guidelines for responsible wildlife viewing, using visitor education and interpretation. Enforce regulations to keep visitors at a sufficient distance to not add stress to or alter the behavior of marine mammals or birds.), UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 3.1 (Manage forest succession for the restoration, protection, and conservation of coastal prairie/grasslands, Monterey pine forest, and transitional habitats to maintain a diverse range of coastal plant community types and enhance a more diverse wildlife habitat mosaic. Management actions should include, but should not be limited to, invasive plant removal and control, monitoring the spread of diseases like pitch canker in the Monterey pine forest, protection from visitor intrusion into sensitive areas, and habitat restoration including native plant revegetation.), COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.3 (Prepare a Forest Management Plan for the Allan Memorial Cypress Grove to monitor and evaluate forest health and tree mortality. Identify cypress revegetation needs with periodic forest assessments or as drought conditions warrant, implement revegetation efforts as needed.), would protect special status species by monitoring visitor access to shoreline, beach, tidepool, and meadow areas and then limiting or prohibiting access to locations where monitoring shows that visitors are disturbing sensitive species and habitats or areas experiencing moderate to severe natural and cultural resources degradation; managing forest succession for the restoration and conservation of coastal prairie/grasslands and transitional habitats to maintain a diverse coastal plant and wildlife mosaic; and restoring degraded areas, such as Sea Lion Point Trail.

#### New State Park

Special status plant species known to occur within the Coastal Area include Monterey Indian paintbrush, branching beach aster, and Hutchinson's larkspur, and special status wildlife species known to occur within the Coastal Area include south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, western snowy plover, Smith's blue butterfly, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, western pond turtle, southern sea otter, and black legless lizard. Implementation of CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 (Consider expanding the natural preserve to include the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone when partner agency adjacent construction and Caltrans mitigation projects and mitigation credits associated with the mitigation bank are completed. See CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline 2.1.), CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 (Continue

to collaborate with local regional water quality agencies and nonprofit partners to monitor river and lagoon water quality through ongoing research and documentation. Implement appropriate adaptive management strategies when monitoring results show water quality degradation. Consider the effects of barrier beach berm height management on the freshwater lagoon and exposure to salt water from natural winter flows or manual breaching. Implement adaptive management strategies that retain fresh water in the lagoon during critical seasonal timeframes, including severe to moderate drought conditions. Implement lagoon protection measures, such as posting informational signs and other public outreach, to help prevent unauthorized manual breaching of the Carmel River lagoon.), CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 (Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California redlegged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.), and CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.5 (Prohibit watercraft use to protect sensitive species and habitat. Provide public information about resource sensitivities at visitor access points around the lagoon.), which consider expanding the natural preserve to include the Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone, continuing collaboration with local regional water quality agencies and nonprofit partners to monitor river and lagoon water quality, preserving sensitive wetland habitat, and prohibiting watercraft use to protect sensitive species and habitat, would avoid or minimize impacts to special status species. In addition, LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.1 (Coordinate with partner agencies on the Carmel River restoration projects occurring on adjacent lands (Carmel River FREE project) to ensure consideration of all ecological, hydrological, and visitor use-related interests and to provide CSP input into the restoration planning process (as specified in PLAN Guideline 1.2).) and LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2 (Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate, or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.), would restore wetland and upland habitats and monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands, and would prevent potential impacts to special status species associated with the lagoon.

Special status plant species within the Inland Area include Hutchinson's larkspur, Hooker's manzanita, sand mat manzanita, Monterey ceanothus, Douglas' spineflower, Gowen cypress, Monterey pine, Yadon's rein orchid, pine rose, and Pacific Grove clover. Critical habitat for Yadon's rein orchid has been designated by the USFWS within the Gowen cypress forest east of SR 1. Special status animal species include south-central California coast steelhead, Smith's blue butterfly, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, and California red-legged frog. Implementation of SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE **ZONE Guideline 1.1** (Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, conservation measures, and procedures that will be used to guide natural resource management. Include habitat restoration, prioritize areas to be restored, identify specific (quantitative, if feasible) water quality, habitat, and species conservation objectives, and develop location-specific implementation measures.) would protect special status species in the Inland Area of the New State Park. Implementation of SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2. I (Monitor water quality through ongoing research and documentation, and identify adaptive management strategies to implement when monitoring results show poor water quality. Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to observe sensitive riparian habitat, identify human-caused impacts to riparian and instream habitat, and develop conservation measures that benefit water quality and critical habitat for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.), SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2 (Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.), SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3 (Study and preserve the rhododendron population to ensure its protection and avoid human-induced impacts to this second most southern population in California.), and SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.4 (Establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing riparian habitat.), which include preparing a natural preserve management plan to identify specific water quality, habitat, and species conservation objectives and location-specific implementation measures; and monitoring water quality and implementing measures and adaptive management strategies to preserve sensitive riparian habitat, to benefit water quality and critical habitat for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, would protect special status species associated with the San Jose Creek portion of the Inland Area. POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE **ZONE Guideline 1.1** (Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.), would result in the development of a comprehensive inventory to identify natural resources of the area including rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems; and preparation of a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. Additionally, POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1 (Provide self-guided and volunteer-guided nature hikes and interpretive elements to educate visitors about the unique resources in the preserve and the importance of conservation.) would implement Goal 2, to protect the globally rare native Monterey pine and Gowen cypress forests, as well as central maritime chaparral and other rare and special status plant communities). Special status plant species within the Hatton Canyon Area include Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, marsh microseris, and Hickman's onion, and special status wildlife species include California red-legged frog and Monterey dusky-footed woodrat. Implementation of UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline I.I (Continue to maintain the natural conditions of the urban open space by landscape maintenance that supports native vegetation and controls invasive vegetation.) and UPPER HATTON CANYON ZONE Guideline 1.3 (Pursue and execute lease agreement(s) with a local or regional agency(ies) to maintain the upper canyon for public access, utility access, and natural landscape management, while fee title is retained by CSP.) would include native vegetation management and would include pursuing and executing lease agreements with other local or regional agency(ies) to manage the unit and protect natural resources. In addition to the parkwide guidelines discussed above, implementation of these guidelines would maintain protection of special status species within the New State Park.

#### Conclusion

With implementation of General Plan guidelines and CSP Standard Project Requirements, impacts related to special status plant and wildlife species would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## BIO-2: Adverse effects on riparian habitat, wetlands, other waters of the United States, or other sensitive natural communities

Plan implementation could result in adverse effects to sensitive habitats including riparian areas and wetlands; however, guidelines within the General Plan would protect the integrity, habitat qualities, and natural processes of sensitive habitats. This impact would be **less than significant**.

#### Parkwide

As discussed in Chapter 2, the CASP units include sensitive habitats, including riparian areas and wetlands. The General Plan includes facilities and improvements that could potentially affect the shoreline, wetlands, or other waters of the United States, which are subject to jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CDFW. Impacts to the bed and banks of tidal marsh and wetland habitat would be considered significant. CSP would obtain necessary permits, including a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act, for any new facilities that would result in fill of wetlands or other waters, prior to implementing park improvements that may affect wetlands or other waters of the United States. In addition, CSP would coordinate with CDFW regarding the need for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement and abide by any permit conditions.

In addition to obtaining any applicable permits, implementation of Parkwide MANAGE Guidelines 1.1, 1.3, 2.5, and 2.6, which would include preparing an inventory and monitoring natural resources on a periodic basis, including natural communities; protecting and/or restoring natural areas and native plant communities; protecting common and sensitive wildlife and their habitats; and protecting and rehabilitating special status animal populations and their habitats; would further avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats. In addition, during construction activities, CSP and its contractors would implement the CSP Standard Project Requirements. These include the General Biological Resource Standard Project Requirements that would result in surveys for special status species or habitat, monitoring of project activities to ensure that impacts to specific species are minimized, and requirements that on-site construction activities determine the minimum area required to complete the work and define the boundaries of the work area on the project drawings with flagging or fencing on the ground, as appropriate. Additional Standard Project Requirements for Plants require that no rare or endangered species will be cut, pruned, pulled back, removed, or damaged; that protected plant species by fenced off prior to the start of on-site construction; and that BMPs are employed during construction to avoid creation of dust. Standard Project Requirements related to wildlife would require similar measures for surveying and monitoring; would require that construction work be scheduled to avoid breeding, maternity, nesting, and flight periods; would result in training for on-site construction personnel on the life history of protected species; and would require work to stop in the vicinity of an identified protected species until it moves out of the site on its own accord or is temporarily relocated by a qualified biologist (see Appendix G for the full text of the Standard Project Requirements).

#### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Sensitive communities within the Reserve include Monterey cypress forest, Monterey pine forest, coastal prairie, riparian, freshwater seeps, the giant kelp submarine forest, and submarine canyon habitat. New facilities and ongoing recreation could result in direct or indirect impacts to these sensitive natural communities. However, as discussed above, obtaining applicable permits and complying with permit conditions would avoid and minimize impacts to the sensitive habitats. In addition, the guidelines listed above for the Reserve under Impact BIO-I, as well as **MARINE ZONE Guideline I.2** (Continue promoting research projects that study marine resources and threats. Increase effective communication with universities and research organizations to ensure researchers understand and implement best practices so that research activities do not adversely affect the marine and benthic

environments.) and MARINE ZONE Guideline 1.3 (Identify coastal trails and beaches that may be access-restricted, identify sustainable alternative trail alignments where necessary, and identify specific trail alignments where management actions are needed to protect sensitive marine resources. Repair, close, or relocate trails that deliver sediment to Areas of Special Biological Significance.), which would continue promoting research projects that study marine resources and threats; and identify coastal trails and beaches where management actions are needed to protect sensitive marine resources; and **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.2** (Prepare a habitat restoration plan for Lower Sea Lion Point to revegetate coastal bluff areas and cultural sites damaged by human-caused disturbance, protect steep bluffs from slope failure by restoring local hydrology, and to protect marine mammals that have re-occupied the site.) and COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 4.3 (Revegetate unstable slopes adjacent to China Cove Beach. Protect underlying cultural features by revegetating the China Cove bluffs using native plants. Install a permanent and aesthetically pleasing barrier preventing visitors from walking down the natural bluff to China Cove Beach. Prevent visitors from accessing China Cove Beach to protect harbor seals and their pups during birthing and rearing season.), which would restore vegetative buffers adjacent to trails and unpaved parking areas to reduce sediment transport into surface waters, monitor visitor access to tidepool areas and implement adaptive management strategies for areas experiencing excessive visitor-related damage, and revegetate unstable slopes adjacent to China Cove Beach, would further avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats within the Reserve.

#### New State Park

Sensitive communities within the Coastal Area include riparian areas along the Carmel River and San Jose Creek, wetlands, and marine communities. In addition to the goals and guidelines listed for New State Park - Coastal Area under Impact BIO-1, the General Plan would also include implementation of CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 (Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.), CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.6 (Prohibit development of flood control structures within the public land of the natural preserve that cause significant adverse environmental effects and are designed to benefit private parties.), which would prohibit development of flood control structures within the natural preserve that cause significant adverse environmental effects, and LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline 1.2 (Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate, or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.); which would recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow. These guidelines would further avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats within the coastal area.

Sensitive communities within Inland Area include central maritime chaparral, Monterey pine forest, Monterey pygmy cypress forest (Gowen cypress dwarf woodland), wetlands, and riparian habitat along San Jose and Gibson creeks. The second southernmost native population of rhododendron is also found in the eastern parcel of Point Lobos Ranch. As discussed above under Impact BIO-1, implementation of guidelines for the Inland Area would avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats within the Inland Area of the new State Park.

Sensitive communities present in the Hatton Canyon Area include Monterey pine forest, riparian forests, and wetlands. As discussed above under Impact BIO-1, implementation of guidelines for the Hatton Canyon Area would avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats within the Hatton Canyon Area of the new State Park.

#### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines and CSP Standard Project Requirements, impacts related to sensitive habitats would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

### BIO-3: Interfere with movement of resident or migratory species.

While plan implementation could result in interference with movement of resident or migratory species, guidelines within the General Plan would preserve movement corridors and avoid potential impacts to species movement. This impact would be **less than significant**.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the CASP units provide important habitat linkages for wildlife. Together with other protected public lands in the area, the CASP units form an important regional network of wildland habitats. Palo Corona Regional Park provides a critical link for a wildlife corridor that now extends from the Carmel River to San Luis Obispo County. San Jose Creek is also a wildlife corridor for California redlegged frog, as well as other reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds. Construction of new facilities within the CASP units could affect wildlife corridors. However, plan implementation would avoid and minimze potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors. Trails would be designed and located to allow observation of bird habitat while minimizing adverse effects to sensitive habitat and species, such as migratory songbird nesting/breeding habitat. Plan implementation would include Parkwide MANAGE Guidelines 2.7 and 2.8; New State Park Inland SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE **ZONE Guidelines 2.1 and 2.4; and POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE** Guideline 1.1, which would avoid and minimize potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors, because they would identify, maintain, and protect wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages to permit movement of wildlife and to increase species abundance and diversity; avoid placing visitor facilities in movement corridors; continue cooperation with federal, state, local agencies, and open space organizations to promote effective and efficient park and regional wildlife resource management, including coordinating efforts to identify and preserve habitat linkages; establish an appropriate buffer area of approximately 100 feet between the natural preserve and zone boundary, roads, and any existing development to protect the existing habitat; develop a natural preserve/habitat management plan for the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve, including studying mountain lion movement to identify approximate home range within the preserve; and minimize potential conflicts between mountain lion and park visitors, would further avoid and minimize potential impacts to wildlife movement corridors. Creation of the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve will protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, and sensitive species of San Jose Creek, including south-central California coast steelhead and California red-legged frog. Protection and ecological restoration of San Jose Creek, its associated watershed, and riparian forest are priorities for the management of the preserve. Walking access to the preserve will be via San lose Creek Canyon Road. Visitors will learn about the importance of the preserve for native southcentral California coast steelhead and the preserve's importance in the local and regional watershed through interpretive information for self-guided hikers. Plan guidelines to protect south-central California coast steelhead habitat include CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4 (Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands. If wetland habitat degradation occurs, implement adaptive management strategies, such as habitat restoration with locally native plant species, and temporary reduction of public access to wetland restoration areas. Monitor south-central California coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, and western pond turtle

populations in coordination with large-scale monitoring efforts throughout the range of these species.) and **SAN JOSE CREEK NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.2** (Continue monitoring efforts to document population size and health for California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts throughout the species' ranges. Establish research partnership opportunities for ecological and habitat monitoring with local universities and research institutions to inform park managers.).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines, impacts related to interference with wildlife movement would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## 5.6.4 Cultural Resources

This section analyzes whether impacts related to cultural resources could result from implementation of the General Plan, recognizing that the plan includes numerous goals and guidelines designed to protect sensitive cultural resources and culturally important sites.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 (Statutes of 2014), establishes a class of resources under CEQA called "tribal cultural resources." It requires that lead agencies undertaking CEQA review must, upon written request of a California Native American tribe, begin consultation once the lead agency determines that the application for the project is complete, before the issuance of an NOP of an EIR or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration. The procedural requirements for tribal consultation in AB 52 applies to those projects for which a lead agency has issued an NOP of an EIR or notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration on or after July 1, 2015. Because the NOP for the General Plan was issued on April 4, 2012, the consultation requirements of AB 52 do not apply. Nonetheless, as described in Chapter 1, the General Plan process included comprehensive public involvement, including outreach to Native American tribes, with a goal of the planning process that facilitates respectful decision making regarding resources with cultural importance to indigenous peoples. Impact CULTURE-1, discussed below, addresses the preservation and protection of Native American archaeological resources.

Paleontological resources are discussed in Section 5.6.5, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Cultural Resources discussions in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing conditions related to cultural resources.

# Analysis Methodology

The impact analysis considers the known cultural resource environmental setting in the vicinity, the potential for previously undocumented resources, including human remains, and physical effects (i.e., disturbance, material alteration, destruction) to known and previously undocumented cultural resources that could result from plan implementation. The analysis is also informed by the provisions and requirements of federal, state, and local laws and regulations that apply to cultural resources.

CSP Departmental Notices also provide guidance on the management of natural and cultural resources. Applicable Departmental Notices include the following:

DN 2007-05	Native American Consultation Policy and Implementation Procedures
DN 2004-02	Cultural Resource Review and Related Procedures
DN 2002-04	Fuel Modification Policy
DN 1994-13	Application and Permit to Conduct Archeological Investigations/Collections

## Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to cultural resources would be significant if the project would:

• cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in Section 15064.5;

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5; or
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

# **Environmental Impacts**

## CULTURE-1: Disturb unique archaeological resources

Plan implementation would include excavation and other ground-disturbing activities, which could result in adverse physical effects to known and unknown archaeological resources. However, implementation of General Plan guidelines would avoid disturbance, disruption, or destruction of archaeological resources in compliance with the Public Resources Code and other relevant laws and regulations. This impact would be **less than significant**.

As discussed in Chapter 4, the parkwide vision statement for CASP is comprehensive and addresses the provision of a world-class natural environment and recreational experience in a way that is compatible with the parks' unique ecosystems and resources. Park visitation is managed to protect sensitive resources and preserve cultural resources. The vision for the Reserve includes a recognition that many aspects of the Reserve's resources are scientifically important, including sensitive archaeological sites and unique geological formations, and each will be maintained in a state of undisturbed integrity for future generations to enjoy.

Similarly, the New State Park declaration of purpose recognizes that important cultural resources include Native American archaeological resources and culturally important sites. The natural, cultural, and scenic resources, features, and values will be preserved, protected, interpreted, and managed, making them available to the public for their education, inspiration, and recreation. The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve is located within the Coastal Area of New State Park. The Coastal Area includes several archaeological sites. The area designated as the preserve includes the archaeological sites located entirely within the Coastal Area. The vision of the New State Park includes "adaptive management strategies to help protect the sensitive archaeological resources associated with Native American lifeways found in the cultural preserves. The cultural preserves will also provide a place for Native American traditional, ceremonial, and special events. These exceptional resources will be protected and preserved for future generations." In addition, the Inland Area, east of SR I, includes important Native American archaeological resources and culturally important sites. Under plan implementation, the cultural resources, features, and values will continue to be preserved, protected, interpreted, evaluated, and managed.

As described in Chapter 4, CASP units are distinctive in that they contain a diverse combination of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and places, exemplifying the importance of the region for both its Native American heritage and historic significance. CSP has a mandate to protect the prehistoric and historic record in the State Park System, including archaeological evidence. Goals and guidelines focus on this protection, along with preservation of Native American culture, scientific study, and interpretation of resources.

With plan implementation, project construction could encounter previously undiscovered or unrecorded archaeological sites and materials during project-related preconstruction or construction-related ground-disturbing activities. In addition, ongoing use of the CASP units could lead to disturbance of cultural resources; however, significant effects would be avoided by adherence to the

CSP Standard Project Requirements for cultural resources related to construction activity. These include the following General Cultural Standard Requirements:

- If forest thinning activities are required within a culturally sensitive area, downed timber and other forest debris will be removed by aerial suspension; no portion of logs, slash or debris will be dragged across the surface.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction work, the [insert who] will notify the Cultural Resources
  Supervisor, unless other arrangements are made in advance, a minimum of three weeks to schedule
  a Cultural Resource Specialist to monitor work, as necessary, to ensure that removal and
  reconstruction of historic fabric will occur in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the
  Interior's Standards.
- Before, during, and after construction, a [Insert who] will photo-document all aspects of the project and will add the photos to the historical records (archives) for the park.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction work, and to the extent not already completed, a [insert who] will map and record all cultural features within the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) to a level appropriate to the Secretary of Interior Standards.

To address natural and cultural resource degradation from excessive visitor use in the Reserve, existing visitor parking would be reduced in this unit and visitor management and alternative transportation strategies would be implemented. Adaptive management strategies would help conserve and protect cultural resources in response to ongoing monitoring. Additionally, as described in Chapter 2, Section 0400 of the Department Operations Manual, currently under revision, will provide cultural resource management guidance. Until it is complete, Section 1832 of the Resource Management Directives, the Cultural Resources Management Handbook, and the Departmental Notice describing Native American consultation provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures to guide the management of cultural resources under the jurisdiction of CSP.

The Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone has a management focus on protecting significant resource values related to archaeological deposits. It would be managed to protect existing subsurface archaeological resources and to provide appropriate interpretive opportunities. Specific visitor uses would include hiking (including guided tours), birding, wildlife viewing, interpretation, scientific research, photography, painting, and limited special events by permit only. Visitor facilities would be limited to trailheads, trails, and interpretive elements. The following guidelines would be implemented to continue to protect archaeological resources within the Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve Zone:

OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 (Monitor important cultural features and, as needed, restrict visitor access to prevent resource degradation.), OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 (Identify resource damage and implement strategies to prevent continuing damage, such as restricted access, repair, and restoration.), and OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3 (Update the existing Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures used to guide management. Identify and evaluate all cultural resources within the preserve. Implement procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources.).

The Backcountry Zone, located in the New State Park – Inland Area between the San Jose Creek Natural Preserve and Palo Corona Regional Park, would be managed primarily to preserve natural,

cultural, and scenic resources. Specific visitor uses include low-impact uses of local and regional trails, such as hiking, wildlife/scenic viewing, and photography.

The Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone is within New State Park – Inland Area; it is approximately 20 acres in size and consists of three mound-like landforms (known as the Hudson Mound) and the adjacent area known as the Polo Field. This cultural preserve is considered sacred by the local Rumsen and Esselen people, and archaeologists consider it to be one of the most important sites in the county, dating back more than 2,000 years. This zone would be managed to preserve and protect a sacred place with a diversity of prehistoric deposits and remains and the Native American cultural values in this multi-site complex and to provide limited interpretive opportunities. The following guidelines would be implemented to continue to protect archaeological resources within the Tatlun Cultural Preserve Zone: TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline I.I (In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, develop a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources. Record, describe, and map existing cultural resources. Inventory and evaluate cultural resources for inclusion on the National and California registers.) and TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2 (In collaboration with the Rumsen and other tribal representatives, prepare a Cultural Preserve Management Plan to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide cultural resource management. This includes a plan for identification and evaluation of all cultural resources within the area and procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources through a review process and the application of standards.); TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.1 (In collaboration with appropriate local tribal representatives, develop a joint-use agreement to facilitate Native American traditional use, ceremonies, special events, and interpretive program activities that are consistent with the intent and purpose of the cultural preserve classification. Allow guided visitor access when the area is not being used for traditional purposes.), and TATLUN CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 2.3 (Monitor and document important cultural features and, if necessary, limit or discontinue non-tribal visitor access to prevent resource degradation.).

The following parkwide guideline would maintain protection of archaeological resources: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.1 (For areas not already inventoried, conduct inventories for cultural resources where and when development or other landscape disturbance is planned. Document and map resources identified or areas with high potential to contain resources.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.2 (Identify, document, catalogue, and curate artifacts and collections that have been recovered from cultural sites, according to the Office of Historic Preservation guidelines.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.3 (Prepare Cultural Resource Management Plans, as necessary, to further define a framework to identify, acknowledge, assess, and create effective management procedures for cultural sites and cultural preserves.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.4 (In coordination with local tribal representatives, monitor sensitive cultural resources to identify specific areas of degradation, inform a culturally sensitive adaptive management strategy, and determine the need for potential visitor access limitations or exclusions. In consultation with local tribal representatives, stabilize cultural sites and recover data, where feasible, at sites at risk from erosion, damage, or sea level rise. Prevent degradation and looting of cultural resources by limiting visitor access, and increasing law enforcement to specific sensitive areas.), and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.5 (Collaborate with the local tribal representatives to expand Native American interpretation themes, features, and programs related to park resources.).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines intended to protect cultural resources and compliance with the CSP Standard Project Requirements for cultural resources, impacts related to archaeological resources would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## CULTURE-2: Disturb, damage, or degrade significant historic resources

Construction and excavation activities associated with plan implementation could result in landscape disturbance, which can adversely affect historic resources. Implementation of General Plan guidelines would protect historic resources, because these measures would avoid disturbance, disruption, or destruction of historic structures and historic archaeological resources, in compliance with pertinent laws and regulations. This impact would be **less than significant**.

As discussed above, under Impact CULTURE-I, park visitation is managed to protect sensitive resources and preserve cultural resources. The New State Park declaration of purpose recognizes that the park area and surrounding public lands contain important cultural resources, including an early 20th century complex of ranch buildings. The natural, cultural, and scenic resources, features, and values will be preserved, protected, interpreted, and managed, making them available to the public for their education, inspiration, and recreation.

As described in Chapter 4, CASP units are distinctive in that they contain a diverse combination of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and places, exemplifying the importance of the region for its historic significance. CSP has a mandate to protect the historic record in the State Park System, and General Plan goals and guidelines focus on this protection. The Odello Farm Zone includes the former Odello Farm complex with historic farm structures including a former residence, creamery/cookhouse, three-gabled barn, and blacksmith shed. It is characterized by non-native annual grasslands on flat terrain and riparian scrub adjacent to the Carmel River lagoon and wetlands.

Historic archaeological features may be present. Subsurface remains could represent significant historic resources, which could be disturbed by construction.

The Odello Farm Zone would be managed primarily for environmentally protective trail access, lowintensity visitor orientation and recreation, and natural and cultural resource protection. An access road intersecting SR I will lead to a visitor parking area of up to 50 spaces that will be set back, away from adjacent residences, and appropriately screened with native vegetation. While plan implementation would introduce low-intensity visitor orientation and recreation uses, and parking to support these uses, the additional parking would not be substantial, and the focus of the Odello Farm Zone is on protecting natural and cultural resources. The following guidelines would protect historic resources: ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline I.I (Develop a preservation plan to protect the historic buildings and landscapes of the Odello Farm complex. The plan should focus on stabilizing existing structures and protecting and preserving the historic character of the Odello Farm.), **ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.2** (Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming and ranching activities and architecture.), ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.3 (Record the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed in accordance with the Office of Historic Preservation's March 1995 Instructions for Recording Historical Resources. Submit evaluations to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence and inclusion on the Master List of State Owned Properties.), ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.4 (Evaluate the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed for inclusion in the National and California historic registers. Prepare HSRs for the Old Odello Residence, Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed if determined eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR to provide the baseline for the rehabiliation, restoration, stabilization or reconstruction of historic buildings and structures), **ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.5** (Update condition assessments for the Creamery/Cookhouse, Barn, and Blacksmith Shed. The condition assessments should provide information to help determine protection measures for rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation.),

ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.6 (Stabilize the Barn and treat for weathering, water infiltration, and pest infestation. Reconstruct the Barn's north bay and south elevation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.), and ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.7 (Stabilize the Blacksmith Shed to prevent it from collapsing further and treat the structure for the extensive weathering, dry rot and pest infestation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.). In addition, the day use reservation system could be introduced to the Odello Farm Zone, if needed in the future, to reduce overuse, per Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 1.4 (Evaluate the need to implement a day use reservation system in other areas of the parks where visitor overuse is resulting in natural and/or cultural resource degradation.).

In addition to the Odello Farm Zone guidelines, the following parkwide guidelines address ongoing protection of historic resources: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.1 (Complete an inventory and assessment of significant cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historic Resources to gain a better understanding of resources, and to inform management decisions.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.2 (Complete Historic Structure Reports [HSR] for those existing historic buildings that do not have them, and update existing HSRs as needed. The HSRs should be prepared by an interdisciplinary team that should include a historian or architectural historian, historical architect, and may also require a structural engineer. Provide documentation including graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing conditions, recommend appropriate treatments, management actions and goals for preservation or rehabilitation and appropriate adaptive use of the property, and outline the scope of recommended work for current and future resource managers.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.3 (Prepare treatment plans for historic resources. Development strategies should include cultural resource treatments, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, for those historic buildings, structures and features that have been identified as significant, combined with the interpretive objectives for the landscape as a whole, including the periods of significance; the integrity of the landscape and its character-defining features; and the existing condition of these individual features.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.4 (Repair and maintain buildings identified as historical resources according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.5 (Identify and evaluate the historic significance of potential cultural landscapes.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.6 (Consult with local tribal representatives who have traditional ties to resources within CASP to ensure productive and collaborative working relationships during the planning and implementation of specific development projects, and especially when considering management practices of interest and concern to them.), and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.7 (Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting historic resources.).

The A.M. Allan Ranch Zone will be managed to protect and interpret its historic value and provide visitor access and orientation, trails, and compatible transportation/parking elements. Adaptive use of historic structures will provide for visitor orientation and park maintenance/operation support functions, including staff housing. Visitors can learn about the historic ranch and Native American heritage during special events, interpretive programs, and tours of historic structures and natural areas. The location and size of parking areas would be sensitive to existing resources and would adhere to the following guidelines: **A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline I.6** (Protect the historic viewshed. Locate parking areas and other facilities to minimize adverse effects to significant historic structures and contributing features of the cultural landscape.), and **A.M. ALLAN RANCH ZONE Guideline 2.1** (Create primary visitor entry, day use parking, and visitor orientation facilities in locations that do not adversely affect natural and cultural resources.).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines that protect historic resources, impacts related to historic resources would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

#### CULTURE-3: Disturbance of human remains

It is possible that previously unknown human remains could be discovered when soils are disturbed during construction associated with development of new facilities in the Reserve and New State Park. Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097 would maintain this impact at a **less-than-significant** level.

The location of grave sites and Native American remains can occur outside of dedicated cemeteries and burial sites. Ground-disturbing construction activities could uncover previously unknown human remains, which could be archaeologically or culturally significant. Plan implementation would include soil disturbance related to construction of new facilities and ongoing management practices. Therefore, it is possible that previously undiscovered human remains could be discovered when soils are disturbed.

California law recognizes the need to protect Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American burials from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and California PRC Section 5097. If human remains are discovered during any construction activity, potentially damaging ground-disturbing activities in the area of the remains shall be halted immediately, and the project applicant shall notify the Monterey County coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) immediately, according to Section 5097.98 of the State PRC and Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined by the NAHC to be Native American, the guidelines of the NAHC shall be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Following the coroner's findings, the archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendant shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to prevent disturbance of additional human interments. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California Public Resources Code Section 5097.94. In addition, construction projects would comply with CSP Standard Project Requirements for cultural resources, which requires the following:

- In the 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. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities. The local County Coroner will make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin.
  - If the Coroner determines the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento and/or tribe 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). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination.

■ If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the SHPO and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

#### Conclusion

Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052 and California PRC Section 5097, as well as CSP Standard Project Requirements, would avoid or minimize the disturbance of human remains, and would result in the appropriate treatment of any remains that are discovered. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

# 5.6.5 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

This section analyzes impacts related to geology, soils, and seismicity that could result from implementation of the General Plan.

Implementation of the General Plan would not result in the construction or use of septic tanks or alternative onsite wastewater disposal systems; therefore, this topic is not addressed further in this analysis.

# **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Geology, Seismicity, and Soils discussions under Physical Resources in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to geology, soils, seismicity, and paleontology.

# Analysis Methodology

This analysis considers existing geologic, seismic, and soil conditions and paleontological resources, and evaluates whether reasonably expected physical changes to those conditions from implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines would cause significant impacts. In determining the level of significance of potential environmental impacts, the analysis recognizes that plan implementation would comply with all relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to geology, soils, seismicity, or paleontology would be significant if the project would:

- expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - 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;
  - strong seismic ground shaking;
  - seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
  - landslides;
- result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil;
- 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;
- be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property; or
- directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geologic feature.

# **Environmental Impacts**

# GEO-1: Adverse effects from earthquake faults, seismic ground shaking, seismic ground failure, or landslides

While plan implementation could result in the exposure of people or structures to potential risks strong seismic ground shaking; seismic ground failure, including liquefaction; or landslides, the degree of risk would not change substantially and General Plan guidelines would maintain adverse effects at a less-than-significant level.

As explained in Chapter 2, faults in the Monterey area occur primarily in two northwest-trending zones, the Palo Colorado-San Gregorio fault zone and the Monterey Bay fault zone. There are several active or potentially active faults within these zones including: San Andreas, San Gregorio-Palo Colorado, Chupines, Navy, and Cypress Point, with the San Andreas and San Gregorio being the most dominant faults that are considered active and have evidence of historic or recent movement. In addition, the potentially active Hatton Canyon Fault consists of a group of northwest-striking faults that extend from Carmel Valley Road northwest for approximately seven miles. Small to moderate earthquakes (i.e., magnitude 5.0 and below) are common in Monterey County. Although there are several fault zones in this area, none of them are designated as an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (CSP 1979, 1988; TAMC 2009). Therefore, fault ground rupture would not be expected in the CASP units. The Monterey County General Plan EIR identifies the entire Reserve as having a low potential for landslides and liquefaction. Geologic hazards at New State Park - Coastal Area include landslides, rockfalls, seacliff retreat, liquefaction, tsunamis, and seismic shaking. Geologic hazards at New State Park - Inland Area include landslides in the steep-slope locations, seismic settlement, ground shaking, and liquefaction (in the alluvial materials adjacent to San Jose Creek). Portions of New State Park -Hatton Canyon Area are designated as having a high susceptibility to landslide and erosion.

Plan implementation would result in ongoing public use of facilities and resources within the Reserve and New State Park - Coastal Area and Hatton Canyon Area, as well as the addition of public use of New State Park – Inland Area. Plan implementation would not increase the number of structures within the CASP units, with the exception of small structures such as bathrooms, interpretive signs, transit shelters, and the transit center. Reuse of existing structures or construction of new structures would comply with existing building codes and standards. In addition, plan implementation would comply with the following CSP Standard Project Requirements related to seismic events: (After a large earthquake event (i.e., magnitude 5.0 or greater within 50 miles of the project site), [insert who] will inspect all project structures and features for damage, as soon as is possible after the event. Any damaged structures or features will be closed to park visitors, volunteers, residents, contractors, and staff.). Because the Reserve and two areas of the New State Park – Coastal Area and Hatton Canyon Area are already open to public use, the degree of geological hazard risk would not change substantially. Implementation of Parkwide MANAGE guidelines would maintain earthquake and other related geologic hazards at less-than-significant levels. These include Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.1 (Monitor, study, and document the geologic features and processes, including geologic event such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation.) and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.2 (Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to

occur as appropriate.). These guidelines and CSP Standard Project Requirements would implement management actions to protect visitors from substantial risks of landslides or seismically induced ground failure.

### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines and CSP Standard Project Requirements, impacts related to earthquake faults, seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, or landslides would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

### GEO-2: Soil erosion or loss of topsoil

The General Plan proposes resource management actions to control existing and future soil erosion. It would also include new trails, associated user facilities, parking areas, and other associated infrastructure that would result in ground disturbance. General Plan guidelines would reduce erosion from existing facilities, reduce specific sources of soil erosion, such as parking on unpaved ground, and control future erosion risks. CSP Standard Project Requirements would also prevent construction-related erosion. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to the potential for increased soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

Implementation of the General Plan would result in resource management actions intended to address and control existing soil erosion in known locations, such as heavily worn trails and along certain coastal bluffs. As discussed in Chapter 3, existing soil degradation includes erosion on slopes, trail incision and volunteer widening, vegetation trampling and loss, and soil loss and sedimentation into marine waters. The Coastal Bluff Zone in the Reserve will be managed with an emphasis on protection of sensitive bluff resources, prevention of soil erosion and compaction, and restoration of native vegetation. The General Plan recognizes that the need to reduce degradation from the excessive visitor use of the Reserve's sensitive resources. This issue is a driver of goals and guidelines for the Reserve. Also, soils in the Inland Area and Hatton Canyon Area have high erosion potential that likely contributes sediment-laden runoff.

Planned facilities in the General Plan would include construction that could result in the disturbance to or loss of topsoil. The introduction of new parking surfaces or trails and associated infrastructure or visitor activities to New State Park could also result in the disturbance or loss of soil; however, implementation of CSP Standard Project Requirements for erosion control and General Plan guidelines would avoid significant erosion impacts associated with new construction. During construction activities, CSP and its contractors would be required to implement the Standard Project Requirements. These include the following:

- No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be driven through [insert work area name] areas
  during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil
  structure.
- [Insert who] will develop a rehabilitation plan for the decommissioned trail that includes using brush and trees removed from the new trail alignment for bio-mechanical erosion control (bundling slash and keying it in to fall of trail, filling damaged trails sections with soil and duff removed from the new trail alignment, constructing water bars, and replanting native trees and shrubs).

[Insert who] will clearly block both ends of the trail and scatter its length with vegetative debris
from new trail construction to discourage continued use and degradation of the decommissioned
portion of the trail.

Implementation of the following parkwide guidelines would reduce existing erosion and control potential effects related to soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Relevant General Plan guidelines include Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.1 (Monitor, document, and study the geologic features and processes, including geologic event such as landslides, rockfall, stream channel and coastal erosion, and sedimentation. Identify the cause and effect relationships and implement corrective measures as needed to protect these features.) and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.2 (Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate.). In addition to the guidelines that address geology, additional guidelines related to hydrology would minimize soil erosion throughout the CASP units. These include Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.1 (Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.), Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.4 (Identify locations where decommissioning and restoration of unauthorized trails are needed, including but not limited to, the North Shore Trail in the Reserve and non-designated trails in the coastal areas, to decrease erosion, soil compaction, and degradation of cultural and natural resources, and wildlife habitats. Prioritize actions to address first the most degraded and sensitive resource locations), and Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.6 (Conduct erosion assessments of roads and trails and implement adaptive management strategies to minimize erosion. Document sedimentation conveyance pathways to the ASBS and implement sediment and erosion control BMP measures to reduce sediment delivery and erosion.).

In addition to the parkwide guidelines discussed above, implementation of the General Plan would include measures to address potential soil degradation specific to the Reserve. These include **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 1.2** (Monitor coastal bluff and coastal prairie habitats to identify degradation, including vegetation and soil loss, inform adaptive habitat management, and determine needs for temporary or permanent visitor access restrictions to conserve resources and restore degraded areas, such as the Sea Lion Point Trail and the south shore. Through monitoring, recommend areas in need of trail upgrades to reduce resource impacts and erosion, e.g. boardwalk systems at Weston Beach, or trail re-alignments, where erosion is a problem. Identify areas in need of habitat restoration.).

In New State Park, implementation of the General Plan includes measures to address potential soil erosion and resource degradation in the specified management zones. These include **CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.4** (Preserve sensitive wetland habitat. Avoid excessive ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion leading to the filling of wetlands...), **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 3.2** (Identify areas of high risk for increased soil erosion, coastal erosion, landslides, and rockfall. Avoid locating visitor and operations facilities in areas prone to geologic hazards. Site-specific investigations shall be conducted by a registered geologist or certified engineering geologist before final siting of facilities. Redesign, take offline, or relocate facilities that exacerbate geologic problems or that might be damaged by natural events. Allow natural processes to occur as appropriate.), and **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.2** (Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting

in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.).

#### Conclusion

Plan guidelines emphasize reduction of existing and control of future soil erosion. Although new planned facilities would result in ground disturbance, CSP Standard Project Requirements and the proposed goals and guidelines would prevent substantial erosion. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would have a **less-than-significant** impact related to increased soil erosion and loss of topsoil. No mitigation measures are required.

# GEO-3: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site, or unique geologic feature

Paleontological resources have the potential to be located within the CASP units and discovered during existing and future uses or construction of future facilities While the introduction of new facilities or recreation opportunities to the Reserve or New State Park could result in the discovery and inadvertent damage or destruction of paleontological resources, implementation of parkwide MANAGE guidelines would maintain this potential impact at a less-than-significant level.

As explained in Chapter 2, paleontological resources are located in the Reserve within the Carmelo, Chamisal, and Santa Margarita formations. Paleontological resources have the potential to be located within the CASP units and discovered from existing and future uses or construction of future facilities. The following General Plan guidelines would maintain protection of paleontological resources: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.1 (Inventory, map, and monitor paleontological resources for their protection, preservation, and interpretation.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.2 (Coordinate with paleobiology resource specialists on protection and preservation of paleontological resources that have both natural and cultural resource value.), and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline **6.3** (Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the formation, sensitivity, and importance of protecting paleontological resources.). In addition, the following Reserve guideline would be implemented: **COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 2.1** (Continue to implement best practices to protect, preserve, and interpret paleontological resources in the Carmelo, Chamisal, and Santa Margarita formations. This includes inventorying, mapping, and monitoring resources, coordinating with qualified paleontologists on specific actions for protection and preservation, and developing interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting paleontological resources.).

#### Conclusion

While the introduction of new facilities or recreation opportunities to CASP units could result in the discovery and inadvertent damage or destruction of paleontological resources, implementation of parkwide MANAGE guidelines and Reserve guidelines would maintain this potential impact at a **less-than-significant** level. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.6.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

This section discusses whether significant impacts to global climate change would occur with the implementation of the General Plan, as well as a discussion regarding the potential environmental effects to the CASP units related to climate change risks. The analysis includes an evaluation of construction- and operational-generated emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) related to General Plan implementation.

# **Environmental Setting**

Refer to the Climate Change Predictions discussion in Section 2.3.1, Physical Resources, in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to global climate change.

# **Analysis Methodology**

Construction and operational GHG emissions would be similar in character throughout the CASP units and are therefore described together. Where appropriate, applicable parkwide guidelines are identified that serve to reduce GHG emissions from General Plan implementation, as well as specific guidelines for the Reserve and New State Park.

The physical effects of climate change will continue to manifest over the coming decades and centuries. As discussed in Section 2.3, Important Resource Values, in Chapter 2 of this document, the CASP units will be affected by sea level rise, increased temperatures, increased wildfire risk, and varied precipitation patterns, as compared to historical trends. Various sources exist that identify the magnitude of these effects based on location and physical characteristics. The California Energy Commission in partnership with the University of California at Berkeley, Geospatial Innovation Facility, has developed the Cal-Adapt tool, which can be used to predict various climate change-related effects based on a menu of climate models under two emissions scenarios: a High-Emissions Scenario that assumes emissions will continue to rise strongly through 2050 and 2100 based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) representative concentration pathway (RCP) 8.5 and a Low-Emissions Scenario that assumes emissions will peak around 2040 and then decline throughout the remainder of the century based on IPCC's RCP 4.5. Where appropriate, these impacts are identified within the CASP units using the Cal-Adapt tool.

The issue of global climate change is inherently a cumulative issue for the General Plan, as the GHG emissions of individual projects cannot be shown to have any material effect on global climate.

## Significance Criteria

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064 and relevant portions of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G recommend that a lead agency consider a project's consistency with relevant, adopted plans, and discuss any inconsistencies with applicable regional plans, including plans to reduce GHG emissions. Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts related to climate change would be significant if the project would:

- generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

Plan implementation will entail natural resource management within the CASP units under changing climatic conditions due to anthropogenic climate change; therefore, this analysis includes a discussion of the anticipated physical impacts that would affect the CASP units as climate change manifests over the coming decades and century. As such, the project would have a significant impact on climate change if the project would:

• exacerbate the physical effects of global climate change within the project area and substantially increase exposure of people to climate change-related hazards.

## **Environmental Impacts**

GHG-1: Direct and indirect short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emissions of GHGs

Short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emissions of GHGs associated with the plan implementation would not be substantial such that implementation of the General Plan would result in a considerable contribution to the cumulative effect of global climate change. Additionally, implementation of specific guidelines contained in the General Plan would further reduce emissions. As such, direct and indirect short-term construction-generated and long-term operational-related emission of GHGs would be **less than significant**.

General Plan-related construction and operational activities would generate GHG emissions. GHG-producing construction activities would include the operation of heavy-duty equipment (e.g., scrapers, forklifts), haul trucks carrying supplies and materials to and from the project site, and construction worker commute trips. Operational or long-term GHG emissions would occur over the life of the General Plan. Sources of emissions may include motor vehicles and trucks, electricity usage, natural gas combustion, water usage, wastewater and waste generation, and area sources, such as landscaping activities.

The General Plan contains the following guidelines to improve the sustainability of the CASP units and reduce the use of personal autos, both of which serve to reduce GHG emissions: **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1** (Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials; these standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.), and **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2** (Use low- or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system to contribute to state goals for reduction of air pollutant emissions. Use low- or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment, such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping GHG emissions, and promote energy efficiency.). Consistency with the parkwide guidelines would reduce indirect emissions of GHGs from energy use (electricity use and natural gas combustion), as well as direct mobile-source emissions.

Transportation-related goals and guidelines that apply to parkwide conditions and three primary management zones (i.e., Upland Reserve Zone, A.M. Allan Ranch Zone, and Lower Hatton Canyon Zone), focus on implementing management approaches and facilities needed to effectively promote travel mode shifts from personal autos to more efficient transportation, such as transit or shuttles. The intended outcome of the suite of goals and guidelines would be to reduce total vehicle traffic related to CASP visitors by achieving, in partnership with local and regional transit and transportation agencies, greater multimodal transport opportunities, such as by public transit, dedicated park shuttle, or

concessionaire shuttle tours. A key feature of the outcome would be development of a multimodal transportation center in the Hatton Canyon Area that would serve the Reserve and other State Park areas. These multimodal transportation goals and guidelines would also reduce GHG emissions by decreasing the number of visitors using personal autos to access the parks. Please refer to impact TRAFFIC-I in Section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation, for a more detailed discussion of the relevant goals and guidelines.

Because implementation of the General Plan guidelines would minimize short-term and long-term emissions of GHGs, plan implementation would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions. Implementation of the General Plan guidelines would keep GHG emissions at a less-than-significant level, thereby demonstrating consistency with the goals of AB 32 and SB 32 (see Chapter 2 for more a more detailed discussion of these GHG-related laws), as well as the California Air Resource Board's Scoping Plan Update. Further, the CASP units are within the regional jurisdiction of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), which adopted its 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy in 2014. Because the project would not result in increased automobile trips further coupled with the implementation of **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2**, plan implementation would not conflict with the regional GHG reduction goals from the transportation sector, as defined by AMBAG's plan prepared pursuant to SB 375.

Further, due to the deployment of regulatory programs such as Advanced Clean Cars and the Renewable Portfolio Standard, triennial updates to the California Green Building Standards Code, and overall improvements in the efficiency of technology, operational emissions would be expected to decrease during the life of the General Plan.

### Conclusion

Adherence to the General Plan guidelines related to sustainability and encouragement of multimodal transportation options would minimize GHG emissions, maintaining them at a less-than-significant level. For this reason, the General Plan would not result in a considerable contribution to the cumulative impact of global climate change. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## GHG- 2: Impacts of climate change risks on the CASP units

Climate change is expected to result in a variety of hazards and other risks that would influence conditions on the CASP units. These effects include increased temperatures and wildfire risk, changes to the timing and intensity of precipitation patterns, increased stormwater and flood risk, and sea level rise. Implementation of guidelines contained in the General Plan and CSP Standard Project Requirements would serve to improve the CASP units' resilience to these potential climate change risks. Further, implementation of the General Plan would not exacerbate vulnerability of the CASP units to the impacts of climate change. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Anthropogenic increases in GHG concentrations in the atmosphere have led to increased global average temperature through the intensification of the greenhouse effect, which have already caused changes in local, regional, and global average climatic conditions. Climate change effects would occur in varying degrees of severity throughout the CASP units; therefore, where appropriate, deviations in select climate change effects (i.e., sea level rise and wildfire risk) are identified for specific CASP units (i.e., the Reserve, Coastal Area, Inland Area, and Hatton Canyon Area).

There is a strong scientific consensus that global climate change is occurring and is influenced by human activity; however, there is less certainty as to the timing, severity, and magnitude of consequences of the climate phenomena. Scientists have identified several ways in which global climate change could alter the physical environment in California (California Natural Resources Agency 2014, California Department of Water Resources 2008, IPCC 2015). These include:

- increased average temperatures;
- modifications to the timing, amount, and form (rain vs. snow) of precipitation;
- changes in the timing and amount of runoff;
- reduced water supply;
- deterioration of water quality;
- increase in wildfire risks; and
- sea level rise.

As discussed in Section 2.3, Important Resource Values, and depicted in Figures 2-8, 2-10, 2-12, and 2-14 in Chapter 2 of this document, the CASP units and their natural resources and built assets are at high risk of sea level rise impacts over the coming decades. Because of its coastal location, the Reserve will be most vulnerable to inundation of low-lying beaches and cove edges, bluff erosion, and saltwater intrusion from sea level rise coupled with more intense coastal storms. Due to the low-lying elevation of the coastal area, including the Carmel River lagoon and Carmel River floodplain, sea level rise and more intense coastal storms will also adversely affect this area of New State Park.

The northwestern edge of the Inland Area near San Jose Creek along SR I is at high risk of inundation from a I.4-meter (m) rise in sea level during a I00-year flood event, because it is within a low-elevation floodplain close to the ocean. The portion of Hatton Canyon south of Rio Road near the Carmel River is also at risk of inundation from a I00-year coastal flood event with a I.4-m rise in sea level. Much of the Marathon Flats area, including the multi-purpose trail within this area, are at risk of being inundated during a I00-year coastal storm event and with a I.4-meter future rise in sea level. With sea level rise, a portion of the lower watershed from SR I to the staff housing at San Jose Creek has the potential to become inundated, making access difficult; however, the structures within Point Lobos Ranch are projected to be outside of the inundation area from a I00-year coastal storm and the I.4-meter future sea level rise inundation area. State parks are an appropriate use for flood management. Improvements within flood prone areas will be minimal.

Primary climate change impacts such as increased temperature and changes to precipitation patterns combine to produce secondary climate change impacts such as increase wildfire risk and reduced water quality. As discussed in Section 2.3 and shown in Figure 2-17 in Chapter 2 of this document, the CASP units contain a substantial number of acres categorized as Very High, High, and Moderate Expected Fire Frequency. The Reserve and the Inland Area contain the greatest percentage of Very High and High Expected Fire Frequency.

According to the Cal-Adapt tool, historically, maximum and minimum temperature in the CASP units have been 66.8 and 48.5 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), respectively. Under the Low-Emission Scenario (RCP 4.5), maximum temperatures in the CASP units are anticipated to rise by 2.7 °F (69.5 °F) by 2050 and 4.5 °F (71.3 °F) by 2099, and minimum temperatures are projected to rise by 2.8 °F (51.3 °F) by 2050 and 4.8 °F (53.3 °F) by 2099. Under the High-Emission Scenario (RCP 8.5), maximum temperatures in are projected to rise by 3.0 °F (69.8 °F) by 2050 and 8.6 °F (75.4 °F) by 2099, and minimum temperatures are expected to rise by 3.2 °F (51.7 °F) by 2050 and 9.0 °F (57.5 °F) by 2099 (California Energy Commission 2017). The projected increases could result in adverse impacts to wildlife and

vegetation within the CASP units; however, given the location of the CASP units, these increases would be less substantial than inland locations due to the marine atmospheric influences of the Pacific Ocean.

Sea level rise and related flooding, wildfire risk, and increased temperatures would be reduced through the implementation of several guidelines contained in the General Plan. Climate-change related physical impacts would be mitigated through implementation of **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 7.1** (Follow recommendations for climate adaptation actions in relevant CSP guidance documents, prepared to address foreseeable climate change risks, with an emphasis on risks caused by sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.).

Climate change-caused impacts would affect the New State Park similarly in character and magnitude as those discussed above in the parkwide context; however, there are specific, low-lying facilities that would be vulnerable in a shorter time period. Within the New State Park, the Coastal Margin Zone will be at high risk of erosion from sea level rise. In response to the area's vulnerability, the General Plan includes **COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5** (Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.).

The General Plan would also provide protection from sea level rise and climate change-related flooding impacts through the implementation of **CALTRANS MITIGATION BANK ZONE Guideline I.I** (Recognize the natural flood protection function of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of features that would substantially impede or redirect floodwater flow. Identify strategies that accommodate the potential for increased flood frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.) and **LAGOON/WETLAND ZONE Guideline I.2** (Recognize the natural flood protection benefits of the lagoon and wetland and prohibit development of any features that would substantially impede, bisect, truncate, or redirect floodwater flow and identify strategies that respond to the potential for increased flooding frequency and severity due to sea level rise and increased storm potential associated with climate change.). Implementation of aforementioned guidelines specific to the New State Park would improve its resiliency to sea level rise and associated flooding as these phenomena develop over the course of the General Plan's implementation.

#### Conclusion

As the effects of climate change manifest, the CASP units will be vulnerable to sea level rise, increased flooding and wildfire risk, and higher temperatures. These impacts would be minimized through the implementation of the General Plan guidelines described above, which would enhance the CASP units' resiliency to these climate risks. For this reason, plan implementation would not exacerbate the impacts of global climate change within the CASP units or increase exposure of visitors to the climate risks. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## 5.6.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This section evaluates the risk of upset associated with the routine use, storage, and transport of hazardous materials and the potential health consequences. The potential effects of General Plan implementation on wildland fire risk is also evaluated. The following discussion addresses potential impacts posed by these hazards to the environment, as well as to workers and visitors within the CASP units, and workers, visitors, and residents adjacent to CASP units.

No hazardous waste and substances (Cortese list) sites are located within the CASP units (California Department of Toxic Substances Control 2017, California Environmental Protection Agency 2017a and 2017b); therefore, no such hazards to the public or the environment would result from plan implementation, and this issue is not discussed further. Also, as explained in the analysis of noise (see Section 5.6.9), the Monterey Regional Airport is the closest airport to the CASP, located approximately 6 miles northeast of the CASP boundary. The CASP units are not located within the Monterey Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Coffman Associates 2017), the land use plan of any other airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Plan implementation would not result in a safety hazard related to people residing or working within the vicinity of a public airport or private airstrip, and this issue is not discussed further.

Geologic hazards, including natural hazards associated with landslides, ground failure, or faulting, are discussed in Section 5.6.5, Geology, Soils, and Seismicity. Risks associated with flooding are discussed in Section 5.6.8, Hydrology and Water Quality. Impacts on fire protection services are addressed in Section 5.6.10, Public Services and Utilities.

# **Environmental Setting**

The existing conditions related to hazards, hazardous materials, and risk of upset, such as fire protection and emergency services, are summarized in Chapter 2 of this document.

# Analysis Methodology

This impact analysis includes a review of applicable laws, permits, and legal requirements pertaining to hazards and hazardous materials. Within this framework, existing on-site hazardous materials and the potential for other safety or hazardous conditions were reviewed based on publicly available hazard and hazardous materials information and other available information. The impact analysis considers potential for changes in the nature, extent, and presence of hazardous conditions to occur onsite as a result of project construction and operation, including increased potential for exposure to hazardous materials and hazardous conditions. Potential for hazards and hazardous conditions were reviewed in light of existing hazardous materials management plans and policies, emergency response plans, and applicable regulatory requirements. In particular, plan implementation would comply with Chapter 0800, Hazardous Materials, of the DOM, which includes policies relevant to management of the CASP units.

The following DOM policies are applicable to the management of hazardous materials in the CASP units:

Recycling Hazardous Wastes	0801.5	Asbestos and Lead
Hazard Communication Standards	0801.6	Wastewater
Hazardous Materials	0801.7	Fuel Tanks
Specialty Equipment	8.1080	Biohazards
	Hazard Communication Standards Hazardous Materials	Hazard Communication Standards 0801.6 Hazardous Materials 0801.7

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be significant if the project would:

- create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment;
- emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school;
- impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

## **Environmental Impacts**

HAZ-1: Routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment

The use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and plan implementation would be required to implement and comply with existing federal and state hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials; therefore, plan implementation would not create significant hazards to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials or from reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Plan implementation would result in the introduction of park facilities in existing CASP units and the renovation of existing facilities. Construction activities would require the use of common, potentially hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, paints, and solvents. These materials would generally be used for excavation equipment and other construction equipment and would be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Spills during on-site fueling of equipment or upset conditions (i.e., puncture of a fuel tank through operator error or slope instability) could result in a release of hazardous materials into the environment. Storage of large quantities of these materials during construction is not anticipated. However, accidental release of these materials would be an adverse effect.

Plan implementation would not result in a substantial increase in the use of hazardous materials (e.g., propane, herbicides). Day-to-day operation by CSP and its contractors does not involve the disposal of hazardous materials. Management activities for riparian habitat could include monitoring and management of invasive weeds to protect and enhance native riparian vegetation and habitat. Activities at the Odello Farm Zone could include treatment of the barn and blacksmith shed for weathering, water

infiltration, and pest infestation. CSP would continue to contract with licensed providers of propane, herbicides and pesticides, as appropriate, who would continue to be required to use, store, and transport hazardous materials in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations, including the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control requirements and manufacturer's instructions. Transportation of hazardous materials on area roadways is also regulated by the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Plan implementation would not result in facilities that would use hazardous materials for which any permits would be required. Chemicals used for landscape maintenance, such as fertilizers and pesticides, and cleaning products used for maintenance would be used in limited quantities, in accordance with instructions provided by the manufacturer. Implementation of policies in the DOM Chapter 0800, Hazardous Materials, would also be required for plan implementation. These policies focus on safe and healthful working conditions for employees, address hazardous spills, and require employee training on hazardous materials handling, spill prevention, and release reporting.

During construction activities, CSP and its contractors would implement the CSP Hazards Standard Project Requirements. The Standard Project Requirements include inspecting equipment for leaks prior to and during construction activities, containment and disposal of contaminate water or other hazardous substances, and preparation of a Spill Prevention and Response Plan as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. In particular, plan implementation would comply with the following Standard Project Requirements related to hazardous materials:

- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, [insert who] will inspect all equipment for leaks
  and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site. All contaminated
  water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of
  outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, [insert who] will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for [insert who] approval to provide protection to on-site workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants. This plan will include (but not be limited to);
  - a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur;
  - a list of items required in a spill kit on-site that will be maintained throughout the life of the project;
  - procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used in the restoration process;
  - and identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations outside of the project site.
- [Insert who] will set up decontamination areas for vehicles and equipment at Park entry/exit points. The decontamination areas will be designed to completely contain all wash water generated from washing vehicles and equipment. Best management practices (BMPs) will be installed, as necessary, to prevent the dispersal of wash water beyond the boundaries of the decontamination area, including over-spray.

- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, [insert who] will clean and repair (other than emergency repairs) all equipment outside the project site boundaries.
- [Insert who] will designate and/or locate staging and stockpile areas within the existing maintenance yard area or existing roads and campsites to prevent leakage of oil, hydraulic fluids, etc. into [insert where i.e., native vegetation, sensitive wildlife areas, creek, river, stream, etc.].

#### Conclusion

Because the use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and because the project would be required to implement and comply with existing federal, state, and local hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials, the project would not create significant hazards to the public or environment through the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials or from reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

HAZ-2: Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school

The use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and plan implementation would be required to implement and comply with existing federal, state, and local hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials. Therefore, plan implementation would result in a **less-than-significant** impact.

Plan implementation would allow for the improvement of existing facilities and trails, and introduction of trails or other recreation facilities in newly accessible portions. Some of these areas are in the vicinity of existing schools, such as the Carmel River Elementary School. As discussed under Impact HAZ-I, potential construction activities would require the use of certain potentially hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, paints, and solvents. Plan implementation would not result in a substantial increase in the use of hazardous materials (e.g., propane, herbicides) within the Reserve or New State Park. Hazardous materials would be used, stored, and transported in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations, including the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control requirements and manufacturer's instructions. Transportation of hazardous materials on area roadways is also regulated by the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans.

#### Conclusion

Because the use of hazardous materials in project construction and operation would be typical for recreation land uses, and because the project would be required to implement and comply with existing federal, state, and local hazardous materials regulations, CSP Standard Project Requirements, and DOM policies related to hazardous materials, plan implementation would result in a **less-than-significant** impact related to hazardous emissions from handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of a school. No mitigation measures are required.

# HAZ-3: Interfere with implementation of an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan

Additional or renovated facilities would be required to meet minimum necessary fire protection and safety requirements identified in the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code as well as meet requirements for emergency access. For these reasons and with implementation of General Plan guidelines related to emergency response and evacuation, operations at the Reserve and New State Park would not interfere with emergency response plan or evacuation plan. This would be a **less-than-significant** impact.

Additional or renovated facilities, such as restrooms or a site residence, would be constructed according to minimum necessary fire protection and safety requirements identified in the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code. Construction of the project amenities would require access by workers and heavy equipment, delivery and stockpiling of materials, demolition and removal of debris, and other operations that, depending on the exact timing and nature of construction activities, could restrict vehicular access to and around the project site. However, the construction activities and staging areas would be located within the CASP units and would not be substantial (e.g., would not require large earthmovers or excavators); thus, impairment of emergency routes, traffic delays, or potentially preventing access to calls for service or delays in evacuation would be minimal. Because of the short-term nature of the construction activities and because access to the CASP units would be maintained during construction, construction activities would not interfere with emergency routes. In addition, the General Plan includes implementation of the following guidelines for maintaining emergency access and providing fire protection and emergency services: Parkwide PLAN Guideline 1.5 (Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.), **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7** (Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.), and Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2 (Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.). Also see Impact UTIL-5 in Section 5.6.10, Public Services and Utilities, for a discussion of emergency response.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would not interfere with emergency response or evacuation of the project site. As discussed in Chapter 3 of this General Plan, combining the State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon into a single unit will improve orderly and effective management. Interjurisdictional matters, such as wildfire risk reduction and response, will be coordinated with state, regional, and local agencies. For the reasons discussed above, this would be a **less-than-significant** impact. No mitigation measures are required.

## HAZ-4: Expose people or structures to wildland fire hazards

Plan implementation would not increase the total number of people and structures within the CASP units, with the exception of small structures such as restrooms, interpretive signs, transit shelters, and the transit center, which would be located adjacent to a developed area. Future projects would be subject to state regulations, General Plan guidelines, DOM policies, and Standard Project Requirements for the reduction of fire risk, which include fire resistant building materials, fire resistant landscaping, and adequate water supply and emergency access. Construction activities would be required to adhere to California Building Code standards for fire prevention. For these reasons, the exposure to very high fire hazards at the Reserve and New State Park would not be substantially increased. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Plan implementation would allow for the introduction of recreation facilities to existing CASP units and renovation of existing facilities and public access to previously inaccessible areas. Total visitation to the parks would not be substantially increased by implementation of the General Plan, and use would be redistributed with the opening of New State Park – Inland Area to the public. As described in Chapter 2, fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of the Reserve and New State Park – Inland Area are designated as high or very high by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Fire hazard ratings in the immediate vicinity of the beach and Hatton Canyon Property are designated as moderate or undetermined by CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE provides the primary fire protection services for the CASP units; however, CSP staff, in coordination with CAL FIRE, conducts vegetation clearing for fire management to maintain defensible space for park structures and resources and reduce risks from wildland fires. Fire stations located near the CASP units include the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District located approximately one mile southeast of the Reserve, which is operated under a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE. Additional fire services come from the Cypress Fire Protection District, located on Rio Road, which is operated under a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE.

In coordination with CAL FIRE, protecting the park units from wildfires is a priority, and conducting ongoing fuel reduction efforts will minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources. The following parkwide guidelines would address the potential for wildland fires in the CASP units: Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 (Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.). Parkwide guidelines addressing wildfire prevention and suppression include the following: Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.1 (Coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and the county fire departments, to prepare and update wildfire management plans for these parks, addressing all aspects of wildfire planning.), Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.2 (Incorporate findings of ongoing fire management research in park maintenance and operations. This may include the use of new tools, concepts, or methods.), Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.3 (Regularly update fuel management plans and collaborate with CAL FIRE to determine effective fuel reduction methods, avoiding and protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources (including historic buildings.), and Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 6.4 (Reduce fuel and conduct forest thinning measures, as appropriate and where it is beneficial to or does not negatively affect natural or cultural resource values, to prevent the rapid spread of wildland fires.). As discussed in Chapter 4, in coordination with CAL FIRE, protection from wildfires will be a priority, working collaboratively to reduce fuel loads in this area. In addition, the following guidelines address wildfire risk in the New State Park - Inland area: POINT LOBOS RIDGE NATURAL PRESERVE **ZONE Guideline 1.1** (Prepare a Natural Resource Management Plan for the new natural preserve to provide the definitions, processes, and procedures to guide natural resource management. The plan

should include habitat protection and active forest management strategies to protect and preserve rare plant communities including, maritime chaparral, Monterey pine, and Gowen cypress groves.).

Additionally, construction activities would be required to adhere to California Building Code standards for fire prevention during construction activities, which require that fire prevention practices be followed and that basic fire suppression equipment be maintained within the development area at all times. Plan implementation would also comply with the following Standard Project Requirements related to fire hazards:

- Prior to the start of construction, [insert who] will develop a Fire Safety Plan for [insert name] approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and local fire department(s).
- All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on-site.
- Construction crews will park vehicles [insert distance] from flammable material, such as dry grass
  or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews will park heavy equipment over a noncombustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.
- DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Park, which allows direct contact with CAL FIRE
  and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in
  case of a fire.
- Under dry conditions, a filled water truck and/or fire engine crew will be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.

All heavy equipment would be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on site. Construction vehicles would park and store vehicles over a non-combustible surface to further reduce the chance of fire. Plan implementation would not increase the number people and structures within the CASP units, with the exception of small structures such as restrooms, interpretive signs, transit shelters, and the transit center, which would be located adjacent to a developed area near the Crossroads and Barnyard shopping centers.

#### Conclusion

Future projects would be subject to state regulations, General Plan guidelines, DOM policies, and Standard Project Requirements for the reduction of fire risk, which include fire-resistant building materials, fire resistant-landscaping, and adequate water supply and emergency access. CSP and CAL FIRE continue to coordinate regarding reduction of wildland fire risks. For these reasons, the potential exposure to very high fire hazards at the Reserve and New State Park would not be substantially increased. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.6.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

This section analyzes whether environmental impacts related to hydrology and water quality would occur from implementation of the General Plan.

The General Plan does not include the placement of new housing structures within flood hazard areas, so risks resulting from placing housing within a 100-year flood zone are dismissed from this analysis and not discussed further. See Impact HYDRO-3 for a discussion of parkwide flooding effects. For a discussion of water supply and treatment, see Section 5.6.10, Public Services and Utilities. For a discussion of sea level rise, see Section 5.6.6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to the Hydrology, Water Quality, and Floodplains discussion in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing setting related to hydrology and water quality.

# **Analysis Methodology**

The evaluation of potential impacts to surface and groundwater quality is based on a review of documents pertaining to the CASP units. The information obtained from these sources was reviewed and summarized to understand existing conditions and to identify potential environmental effects, based on the thresholds of significance. In determining the level of significance, the analysis recognizes that implementation of the General Plan would comply with relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to hydrology and water quality would be significant if the project would:

- violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;
- otherwise substantially degrade water quality;
- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration
  of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in
  a manner that would result in substantial erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site; or
- create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage, infiltration, and treatment systems or facilities resulting in increased sources of pollutants reaching surface waters or causing detrimental flooding to property or infrastructure.

# **Environmental Impacts**

# HYDRO-1: Potential for adverse impacts to water quality

All projects implementing the General Plan would be subject to existing laws and regulations requiring erosion and sediment controls; implementation and maintenance of permanent and temporary best management practices (BMPs) to capture, detain, and infiltrate or otherwise control and properly manage stormwater runoff; and facility design and management to prevent water quality degradation. Projects would also comply with CSP Standard Project Requirements for protecting water quality. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Plan implementation would result in the ongoing management of the existing uses and facilities in the Reserve and New State Park, as well as the introduction of some uses and facilities to previously-inaccessible portions of the CASP units. The physical effects of plan implementation would include construction related to the removal or introduction of parking lots and for development of recreational facilities, including trails, restrooms, and interpretive elements.

The construction activities associated with implementation of the General Plan may involve vegetation removal, grading, excavation, and temporary stockpiling of soils, all of which could expose soils to wind and water erosion and potentially transport pollutants into nearby waterways. In addition, construction activities would involve on-site staging of construction equipment and vehicles, and construction-related vehicle trips. Although construction activities have the potential to adversely affect surface and groundwater quality, all projects would be required to comply with Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board water quality protections, as well as existing regulations addressing water quality, including the California Coastal Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. When necessary, future projects would identify and implement temporary construction BMPs that would be required through existing regulations. Operation of the Reserve and New State Park would continue to preserve and protect marine, surface, and ground water quality.

See Impact GEO-2 in Section 5.6.5 for a discussion of goals and guidelines to improve erosion conditions throughout the CASP units. In addition, the following guidelines would continue to protect and improve water quality throughout the CASP units: Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.1 (Identify causes of water quality degradation in river, stream, open ocean-intertidal and estuary waters, and associated wetlands. Quantify performance targets and pursue actions to correct degraded hydrologic and water quality conditions, if needed.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.2 (Monitor water quality and avoid or minimize ground disturbance, vegetation removal or trampling, and erosion resulting in filling of wetlands. Install temporary or permanent sediment erosion control BMPs, restore wetland or riparian habitat, and provide temporary trail closure with informational signing.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.3 (Implement measures and adaptive management strategies to preserve sensitive stream and riparian habitat, which will benefit water quality, shaded aquatic resources, and critical wildlife habitat.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.5 (Prevent water quality degradation to sensitive water features, including Carmel River and Lagoon, San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek and their tributaries, and Areas of Special Biological Significance.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.7 (As part of visitor interpretation and education, illustrate the importance of land use and management adjustments to reduce use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals harmful to wetlands and waterways.), Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 5.1 (Restore vegetative buffers adjacent to trails and unpaved parking areas to reduce sediment transport into surface waters. Close or move facilities that contribute to runoff directly into the ocean or directly to the Carmel River, San Jose Creek, and Gibson Creek.), and Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 5.2 (Use trail design features and natural and

constructed barriers to discourage the creation of unauthorized trails that would degrade ocean or stream water quality. Decommission and restore existing unauthorized trails that contribute sediment and other pollutants to aquatic and marine environments. Restore ecologically damaged areas to improve habitat, scenic value, and water quality.). In addition, facility construction would conform to the following CSP Standard Project Requirements, which are best management practices that protect the environment, including water quality.

- Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, [insert who] will prepare and submit a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval that identifies temporary best management practices (BMPs) (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and a spill prevention and control plan (SPCP), as appropriate.
- All heavy equipment parking, refueling, and service will be conducted within designated areas outside of the 100-year floodplain to avoid water course contamination.
- The project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan).
- All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2- inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.
- If construction activities extend into the rainy season (October 15 May 1) or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the site will be properly winterized by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas.
- [Insert who] will install appropriate energy dissipators at water discharge points, as appropriate.

#### Conclusion

General Plan implementation would be subject to existing laws and regulations protecting water quality, including those requiring erosion and sediment controls; implementation and maintenance of permanent and temporary BMPs to capture, detain, and infiltrate or otherwise control and properly manage stormwater runoff; and facility design and management to prevent water quality degradation. Projects would also comply with CSP Standard Project Requirements for water quality. Because regulatory and CSP standard protections are in place to minimize erosion and transport of sediment and other pollutants and because the CASP units would be managed to protect and improve water quality, this impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# HYDRO-2: Potential for increase in stormwater runoff, impacts to existing drainage systems, or alteration of drainage patterns

Plan implementation would include redevelopment of park amenities leading to an increase in impervious surfaces. However, all future projects implementing the General Plan would be required to meet existing BMP standards and CSP Standard Project Requirements and drainage design standards. These requirements would prevent increased stormwater runoff, resolve existing drainage infrastructure problems, and protect functioning drainage systems, so that this impact would be **less than significant**.

The peak flow and volume of stormwater runoff generated from an area is affected by visitor facilities through conversion of vegetated and otherwise pervious surfaces to impervious surfaces (e.g., roads, roofs, driveways, walkways) and by the development of drainage systems that connect these impervious surfaces to streams or other water bodies. The largest area conversion might be at the proposed Hatton Canyon transit center, which will be in an urban area and served by urban services. In this way, visitor facilities can increase the rate and volume of runoff and eliminate storage and infiltration that would naturally occur along drainage paths. Also, existing drainage systems may not be designed to current engineering standards or may be poorly located such that they cause soil erosion or discharge untreated runoff to sensitive water bodies.

Existing drainage problems have been identified for resolution within the Reserve and New State Park – Coastal Area, such as Caltrans drainage discharge under SR I into the Reserve and Coastal Area, runoff from unpaved parking areas along the coastal bluff to marine water, and runoff from parking areas into Whalers Cove. These current issues have been the subject of consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board for remedial actions. The proposed General Plan includes goals and guidelines to resolve existing drainage water quality problems.

Plan implementation would not alter natural drainage patterns that support adequate water quality. Constructed facilities where drainage patterns are causing water pollutant discharges to receiving waters would be subject to modification, such as removal of unpaved parking in the Reserve near the coastal bluffs. The General Plan would support modification of facilities, as described in Chapter 4. These infrastructure modifications would include redirection of runoff away from sensitive receiving waters, removal or redesign of points of damaging runoff discharge, and removal of unpaved parking from the Reserve coastal bluffs. The following guidelines would apply to projects related to parking and drainage: COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 5.1 (Improve the parking lot and boat launch ramp at Whalers Cove. Retain diver-support parking and implement design changes for drainage infrastructure that will improve water quality, prevent adverse water quality effects from storm water runoff discharge, and protect the ASBS. In coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, evaluate and develop parking lot design modifications and implement them as a high-priority marine water quality protection action. Improvements will be consistent with the State Water Quality Control Board mandate to eliminate adverse water quality effects of storm water runoff entering the ocean and ASBS.), and COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline 6.1 (Remove visitor parking from unpaved areas on the coastal bluff. Restore these areas with local collected native vegetation to stabilize soils and reestablish coastal bluff habitat, improve water quality, and protect the ASBS.).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of General Plan guidelines to improve drainage conditions, including resolution of existing pollutant-discharging drainage, runoff, and parking conditions, this would be a **less-than-significant** impact. No mitigation measures are required.

## HYDRO-3: Exposure to flood hazards

The potential for future projects to expose people or property to 100-year flood risk would be minimized through implementation of parkwide guidelines. With ongoing implementation of management intent to avoid impacts from existing floodplains, along with implementation of General Plan guidelines to avoid flooding impacts, this would be a **less-than-significant** impact.

The General Plan would include changes to facilities in the portions of CASP units that are within flood hazard areas and compatible with experiencing occasional flooding, such as trails and parking. Only the immediate coastline of the Reserve and areas offshore are within the 100-year floodplain or 100-year floodplain for coastal areas. Most of the low-lying portion of the State Beach near the Carmel River is within the 100-year floodplain, and other locations facing the ocean are within the 100-year floodplain for coastal stormwave runup. The 100-year floodplain for San Jose Creek includes the mouth of the creek and approximately 2,000 feet upstream from the mouth. This is the only area of New State Park – Inland Area that is within the 100-year floodplain. Structures located within the San Jose Creek floodplain include the barn and two staff residences. The third staff residence and shed in the San Jose Creek area are adjacent to the 100-year floodplain. The southern portion of Hatton Canyon approximately 700 feet north of Rio Road to the Carmel River is designated as 100-year floodplain, and is subject to flooding during storms. (Refer to Section 5.6.6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, for a discussion of how sea level rise and changes in flooding would affect future flood hazards.)

The potential for future projects to expose people or property to flood risk would be minimized through implementation of parkwide guidelines. For example, the management intent for the Odello Farm Zone will include management of the flood hazard portion of the unit to consider the flood risk (e.g., avoiding placement of permanent structures in the flood hazard part of the zone). Management of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone would be carried out to allow it to function as a buffer for floodwaters. Design and location of facilities would avoid or minimize the potential for damage from flooding,

In addition to the goals and guidelines outlined in Impact HYDRO-2, the following would be implemented to avoid flooding impacts: **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.6** (Avoid placement of incompatible structures or uses within the 100-year FEMA floodplain hazard areas, which are the FEMA-mapped floodplains in the Carmel River lagoon; along the Carmel River, including the northern portion of the Odello West field; the mouth of San Jose Creek and upstream approximately 2,000 feet; and the southern portion of Hatton Canyon from approximately 700 feet north of Rio Road to the Carmel River.).

#### Conclusion

With the management intent to avoid impacts from existing floodplains, along with implementation of General Plan guidelines to avoid flooding impacts, this would be a **less-than-significant** impact. No mitigation measures are required.

## 5.6.9 Noise

This section evaluates short-term construction noise and vibration, long-term increases in trafficgenerated noise, and long-term increases in noise from plan implementation.

Vibration from construction activities has the potential to damage nearby structures and disturb occupants, if vibration activities are strong and prolonged. For instance, in major construction projects (for illustration, but not proposed here), pile driving is often the greatest source of vibration (Federal Transit Administration 2006). Construction associated with plan implementation would be minimal and would not involve strong-vibration activities and, therefore, is not further addressed in this EIR. No long-term sources of vibration (e.g., fixed transit lines, major roadways) are proposed and, therefore, operational-related vibration is also not discussed further.

The Monterey Regional Airport is the closest airport to the CASP, located approximately 6 miles northeast of the CASP boundary at Carmel River State Beach and approximately 4 miles from the northern boundary of Hatton Canyon. The CASP units are not located within the Monterey Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Coffman Associates 2017), the land use plan of any other airport, or within the vicinity of an active private airstrip where people would be exposed to excessive aircraft-generated noise levels. Therefore, noise exposure from airports is dismissed from further discussion.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Auditory Resources discussions in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing noise sources in the CASP units.

# Analysis Methodology

This analysis includes a discussion of the potential noise effects associated with plan implementation and whether reasonably foreseeable construction and operational activities from implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines would cause significant impacts. In determining the level of significance of potential environmental impacts, the analysis assumes that plan implementation would comply with all relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances regarding noise.

## Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, noise impacts would be significant if the project would result in:

- exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;
- a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project; or
- a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

# **Environmental Impacts**

# NOISE-1: Generation of short-term construction noise that could exceed noise standards

While plan implementation would involve construction of trails, parking areas, restrooms or other small facilities, such activities would be inherently short-term and minor in magnitude. Further, CSP Standard Project Requirements and implementation of General Plan guidelines would maintain potential construction noise at a **less-than-significant** level.

Plan implementation would involve the construction of additional parking, outdoor recreation, and visitor-serving facilities (such as trails, restrooms, interpretive panels), which could require the use of noise-generating construction equipment. Plan implementation would also make land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a site for a multimodal transportation center. Construction equipment would vary day-to-day depending on the project phase and the activities occurring, but could involve operation of all-terrain heavy-duty equipment. Typical noise levels generated by various types of construction equipment likely to be used are identified in Table 5-1 below.

Table 5-1 Typical Noise Levels from Construction Equipment		
Type of Equipment	Noise Level (dBA L <sub>max</sub> ) at 50 feet	
Excavator	85	
Dozer	85	
Loader	80	
Backhoe	80	
Paver	85	
Pickup Trucks	55	

Source: FHWA 2006

Site preparation typically generates the most substantial noise levels, because the on-site equipment associated with grading, compacting, and excavation are the noisiest. Existing sensitive receptors near the General Plan units include single-family residences of staff and adjacent neighbors; Carmel High School (approximately ½ mile west of Upper Hatton Canyon); single-family residences to the west and east of the Hatton Canyon Area within the New State Park; single-family residential neighborhoods adjacent to the New State Park – Coastal Area, including Carmel Meadows; the Carmelite Monastery north of the Inland Area and directly east of Monastery Beach and SR I; the Carmel Highlands neighborhood located south of the Reserve and Inland Area; and existing residences adjacent to the Inland Area, including those on Red Wolf Drive (See Figures 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, and 2-5).

Construction activities would be minor and intermittent, recognizing the small scale of potential new facilities and improvements, and would move throughout the site as individual components are constructed. Further, implementation of **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8** (Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.) would result in screening and separation of uses to minimize noise effects on sensitive public areas and uses. This guideline is consistent with California State Parks Standard Project

Requirements to locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors as possible. Plan implementation would also adhere to additional Standard Project Requirements related to construction noise (temporary or permanent noise barriers such as berms or walls will be used, as appropriate, to reduce noise levels; internal combustion engines used for project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer; equipment and trucks used for project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary; construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday; internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and equipment and trucks used for construction will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g. engine enclosures, acoustically-attenuating shields, or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary). These Standard Project Requirements would limit construction activities to certain daytime hours to reduce disturbance of people during sleep hours (the primary cause of noise-induced health impacts).

Compliance with applicable standards regarding the timing of construction activities and implementation of **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8** would minimize construction noise such that existing sensitive receptors would not be significantly affected.

#### Conclusion

With implementation of the CSP Standard Project Requirements and CASP General Plan guidelines, generation of short-term construction-generated noise would not substantially disturb sensitive receptors. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# NOISE-2: Generation of long-term noise levels related to project operations that could exceed local noise standards

Plan implementation would not result in substantial additional daily motor vehicle trips because of visitor use management strategies and multimodal transportation goals and guidelines. A redistribution of existing trips would occur from opening New State Park – Inland Area and development of new or relocated parking facilities, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. As such, long-term increases in traffic and associated noise levels would not result in audible increase in noise (i.e., 3 dBA) as compared to existing noise levels, which would be a **less-than-significant** impact.

Potential sources of noise associated with future operational activities within the park units would be comparable to current noise sources, including motor vehicle use, park administrative operations, maintenance activities, and outdoor recreational activities. Noise associated with these activities could include vehicle noise (e.g., tires, brakes, engine acceleration); heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operations; trail maintenance equipment (e.g., hand and power tools); and visitor-related noise (e.g., opening and closing of doors, yelling, talking, music playing).

Plan implementation would allow for the improvement of existing facilities and trails and introduction of trails or other recreation facilities in newly accessible portions of the New State Park – Coastal and Inland areas. Some of these areas are in the vicinity of existing schools, such as the Carmel River Elementary School, which is located one block north of the northern boundary of the New State Park – Coastal Area. Existing sensitive receptors near the General Plan units include: Carmel High School (approximately I/4 mile west of Upper Hatton Canyon); single-family residences to the west and east of the Hatton Canyon Area within the New State Park; the Carmel Meadows single-family

residential neighborhood adjacent to the New State Park - Coastal Area; the Carmelite Monastery north of the Inland Area and directly east of Monastery Beach and SR I; the Carmel Highlands neighborhood located south of the Reserve; and existing residences on Red Wolf Drive. As discussed in Section 5.6.12, Traffic and Transportation, plan implementation would not generate substantial additional daily vehicle trips, because of the incorporation of visitor use management strategies (e.g., reservation system that would limit visitation) and multimodal transportation choices for visitors (i.e., coordinated at the multimodal transportation center at Lower Hatton Canyon). Rather, the influence of the General Plan goals and guidelines would allow levels of daily trips associated with the parks as a whole to remain stable; however, these trips would be redistributed to other destinations with the park units as a result of opening the Inland Area to public access and from the construction and operation of new parking areas and transit/shuttle options. Without a substantial increase in vehicle traffic associated with park visitors, roadway-related sources of noise would not generate an audible increase (i.e., 3 dBA) at the location of sensitive receptors within or adjacent to the parks. Commonly, an audible increase would require an approximate doubling of traffic volumes on an existing roadway. The future development of a multimodal transportation center in Lower Hatton Canyon would include up to 100 parking spaces, and a redistribution of traffic that would not result in a substantial change in traffic volume, so existing traffic noise would not be audibly altered. Additionally, vehicle-related noise associated with visitors to CASP units would typically occur within daytime hours, which are less sensitive compared to nighttime hours. Therefore, mobile-source generated noise would not substantially change as a result of plan implementation and would not contribute to an exceedance of local ordinances standards for Community Noise Equivalent Levels (CNEL) at on-site or adjacent sensitive receptors.

Operational noise related to maintenance, equipment operations, and visitors would occur throughout the parks. Noise originating from operations and maintenance activities would be minimal and would mainly occur during less-sensitive daytime hours when the parks are open for day use. Further, implementation of **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8** (Minimize vehicle and equipment noise in heavily-used areas to maintain naturally quiet conditions to the extent feasible, through screening, separation of use areas, and other appropriate techniques. Locate park administrative and maintenance functions away from public areas, if feasible, and minimize construction and maintenance noise.) would minimize long-term maintenance-related levels of noise in CASP units. Plan implementation would also adhere to Standard Project Requirements related to operational noise (temporary or permanent noise barriers such as berms or walls will be used, as appropriate, to reduce noise levels; internal combustion engines used for project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer; equipment and trucks used for project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary; and internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer).

#### Conclusion

Long-term noise produced by traffic would be similar to current levels of existing traffic on local roadways. Further, General Plan-related maintenance and operational activities would be comparable to current activity levels and mostly occur during less-sensitive daytime hours. With implementation of the aforementioned CASP General Plan guideline and Standard Project Requirements, long-term noise levels related to project operations would not result in a substantial change in local noise levels nor an exceedance of an applicable local noise standard. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## 5.6.10 Public Services and Utilities

This section describes the potential for effects of the General Plan implementation on public services and utilities systems. Public services considered in the analysis include fire protection and emergency services, and law enforcement. Utilities considered include water, wastewater, solid waste, electricity, and natural gas.

The General Plan does not include construction of new community housing or other elements that would increase the permanent resident population resulting in an increased demand for school or library facilities. Therefore, no impact related to schools or libraries would occur, and these services are not evaluated further. The plan implementation could result in the need to extend telecommunications lines and service to areas not already served, such as locations not currently open to public access. Service is already available where staff housing and operational facilities are located within the parks; however, it is not located in the Odello Farm Zone, where a staff residence is proposed, or portions of the New State Park – Inland Area, where land would be opened for public access. Construction of adaptive reuse for a staff residence or day use and parking areas would not increase the demand for telecommunication services such that supply sources would be affected. The effects of new construction and associated infrastructure are addressed throughout this chapter (see Impacts BIO-1, BIO-3, CULTURE-1, CULTURE-3, GEO-1, GEO-3, HAZ-3, NOISE-1, REC-1, and UTIL-3). Telecommunications services are not evaluated further in this EIR.

Stormwater drainage issues are addressed in Section 5.6.8, Hydrology and Water Quality. Impacts related to wildland fire and emergency evacuation are addressed in Section 5.6.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to the Utilities discussions under Physical Resources in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to utilities, including water, sewer, electricity, and solid waste. Refer to the Public Safety discussions in Chapter 2 for a description of the existing and expected future conditions related to law enforcement and police protection and fire safety and fire protection.

## Analysis Methodology

This analysis considers existing public utilities infrastructure and services and evaluates whether plan implementation would result in an increase in demand for these services such that physical changes would be needed in the existing or planned infrastructure. The analysis considers the changes to park management or operations and whether these changes could result in the need for expanded fire protection or law enforcements services.

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to public services and utilities would be significant if the project would:

- exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable regional water quality control board;
- require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;

- have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or require new or expanded entitlements;
- result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the
  project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the
  provider's existing commitments;
- be served by a landfill with insufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs in compliance with all applicable laws;
- result in inefficient and wasteful consumption of energy during construction or operations or require new or expanded energy facilities that could cause significant environmental effects; or
- result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or
  physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant
  environmental impacts to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance
  objectives for any public services including fire protection and law enforcement.

# **Environmental Impacts**

### UTIL-1: Increased demand for water supply or infrastructure

Additional water demand associated with plan implementation would be minimal, because the level of visitation would remain stable and sustainable and added facilities would include a minimal number of restrooms and the reuse of existing buildings as staff residences or other visitor serving uses. Potential structures in Lower Hatton Canyon would include parking spaces and minimal structures associated with a multimodal transportation center. Water supply in the region is constrained, so goals and guidelines emphasize water conservation and efficient use. With implementation of General Plan guidelines, impacts related to water supply and infrastructure would be **less than significant**.

With plan implementation, additional water demand would occur for a few new facilities, i.e., restrooms in newly opened areas, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings for a staff residence or visitor serving uses. Plan implementation would also make land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a multimodal transportation center. CSP would work with local and regional partners to develop the multimodal transportation center to serve the park units. The multimodal transportation center would include up to 100 parking spaces and minimal structures to provide a transportation hub for other regional park units and comprehensive visitor information. If water supply is necessary at the multimodal transportation center, a new water connection would be needed because Hatton Canyon does not currently have any water use or connections. California American Water (CalAm) waterlines are located along SR I and Rio Road adjacent to the southern portion of Hatton Canyon. As discussed in Chapter 2, the Reserve and New State Park areas are served by water supply infrastructure and water providers. Water is a limiting factor for new development in the Monterey Peninsula Water District Management District. CSP's facilities maintenance staff maintains the existing infrastructure within the park units and manages water use with existing supply constraints.

Implementation of General Plan goals and guidelines would manage water use levels to remain close to current demand. CSP staff would continue to maintain water infrastructure to manage water use to be able to serve the few planned additional connections without exceeding regional water supply constraints. Parkwide guidelines call for preparation of a utilities and infrastructure management plan to

define efficient water use and conservation actions, water system maintenance needs, and water supply infrastructure upgrades. These include **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 4.4** (Minimize overall CASP water demands through conservation practices, water use reduction facilities, and visitor education.), **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1** (Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.), and **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2** (Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.). In addition, General Plan guidelines for the Reserve include **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1** (Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements.). Guideline **5.1** addresses restrooms, electricity, phone lines, and sewer pumping stations. Finally, a General Plan guideline for the New State Park relative to water supply and infrastructure includes **COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5** (Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.).

#### Conclusion

Additional water demand associated with plan implementation would be minimal, because it would include a minimal number of restrooms, reuse of existing buildings as staff residences or other visitor serving uses, and a multimodal transportation center in Lower Hatton Canyon with minimal structures to provide a transportation hub for other regional park units and comprehensive visitor information. With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines, impacts related to water supply and infrastructure would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

### UTIL-2: Increased demand for wastewater treatment or infrastructure

Additional wastewater generation associated with plan implementation would be minimal, because it would include a minimal number of restrooms and the reuse of existing buildings for use as staff residences or other visitor serving uses. Potential structures in Lower Hatton Canyon would include parking spaces and minimal structures associated with a multimodal transportation center. With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines, impacts related to wastewater treatment and infrastructure would be **less than significant**.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the Reserve and New State Park are in the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) and are served by a combination of connections to a wastewater collection system and septic tanks. With Plan implementation, additional wastewater connections would be required for a minimal number of restrooms and for renovation or adaptive reuse of existing buildings for use as staff residences or other visitor serving use. Plan implementation would also make land in Lower Hatton Canyon available as a multimodal transportation center. CSP would work with local and regional partners to develop the multimodal transportation center to serve the park units. The multimodal transportation center would include up to 100 parking spaces and minimal structures to provide a transportation hub for other regional park units and comprehensive visitor information. The CAWD wastewater treatment plant is located adjacent to New State Park – Coastal Area. The CAWD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, and Carmel Highlands. CSP will work with CAWD on potential sewer infrastructure enhancement projects at the Reserve.

Implementation of General Plan guidelines would maintain wastewater service and wastewater infrastructure at adequate levels to serve additional uses. These include **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline I.I** (Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.), and **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline I.2** (Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.).

General Plan guidelines for the Reserve include **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1** (Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements.). Guideline 5.1 addresses restrooms, electricity, phone lines, and sewer pumping stations. Finally, General Plan guidelines for the New State Park relative to wastewater supply and infrastructure include **COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 1.5** (Maintain existing facilities at the Carmel River Beach access area near Scenic Road until the facilities are considered unusable by park staff due to shifting sands, flooding, or sea level rise. Remove facilities once they are determined to be unusable.).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of CASP General Plan guidelines, impacts related to wastewater treatment demand and infrastructure would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## UTIL-3: Increased demand for solid waste collection and disposal

Plan implementation would result in an incremental increase in solid waste generation and would not result in an increase in solid waste that would cause a landfill to exceed its capacity. Therefore, it would have a **less-than-significant** impact on solid waste collection and disposal.

Solid waste is collected throughout the park units by CSP staff. Solid waste in the Monterey area is transported to the Monterey Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility in the City of Marina, which is operated by the Monterey Regional Waste Management District. Plan implementation could result in new trash enclosures for solid waste dumpsters to serve new publicly accessible parts of the Inland Area. This would result in a small increase in the collection locations; however, the overall generation of solid waste in the parks would be similar to existing conditions, because plan implementation would not encourage an increase in visitors to the park units. As discussed in Chapter 2, the Monterey Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility has a remaining capacity of approximately 48 million tons or 71 million cubic yards and will continue to collect and dispose of solid waste from its service area through 2161. Construction waste would be generated during construction of new facilities and renovation of existing buildings. In accordance with Section 5.408 of the CALGreen Code, future projects would implement a Construction Waste Management Plan for recycling and/or salvaging for reuse of a minimum of 65 percent of construction and demolition debris generated during project construction.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would not result in an increase in solid waste that would cause the Monterey Peninsula Landfill to exceed its permitted capacity. The project would also comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations related to solid waste reduction and recycling. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

# UTIL-4: Result in inefficient and wasteful consumption of energy

Plan implementation could result in a small increase in electricity and natural gas consumption at the park units relative to existing conditions because it would extend electricity to serve visitor uses in New State Park – Inland Area and would result in the renovation and use of one structure as a staff residence. Project-related buildings would be required to meet the California Code of Regulations Title 24 standards for building energy efficiency and General Plan goals and guidelines promote sustainable uses, including energy efficiency. Construction energy consumption would be temporary and would not require additional capacity or increased peak or base period demands for electricity or other forms of energy. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Appendix F, Energy Conservation, of the State CEQA Guidelines requires the consideration of the energy implication of a project. CEQA requires mitigation measures to reduce "wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary" energy usages (Public Resources Code Section 21100, subdivision [b][3]). Neither the law nor the State CEQA Guidelines establish criteria that define wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use. Compliance with the California Code of Regulations Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards would result in energy-efficient buildings. However, compliance with building codes does not adequately address all potential energy impacts during caonstruction and operation. For example, energy would be required to transport people and goods to and from the project site.

Energy would be required to construct project elements and to renovate an existing building to a staff residence, as well as produce and transport construction materials. The one-time energy expenditure required to construct facilities would be nonrecoverable. Most energy consumption would result from operation of construction equipment and vehicle trips associated with commuting by construction workers and haul trucks supplying materials. The energy needs for project construction would be temporary and is not anticipated to require additional capacity or increase peak or base period demands for electricity or other forms of energy. Construction equipment use and associated energy consumption would be typical of that associated with the construction of minor non-residential projects in a rural setting.

Plan implementation would require electricity and natural gas for safety lighting and space and water heating for an additional staff residence. Indirect energy use would include wastewater treatment and solid waste removal. The increase in electricity and natural gas consumption in the park units would be small relative to existing conditions. New restrooms and the renovated staff housing would meet the California Code of Regulations Title 24 Standards for energy efficiency that are in effect at the time of construction. Because the standards are updated on a triennial basis, building energy efficiency would continue to improve throughout the plan horizon (approximately 20 years).

Plan implementation would include the following guidelines for the efficient use of energy: **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.1** (Consult sustainability standards, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for ways to reduce energy use and maximize the use of energy-efficient products and materials. These standards have been developed to promote environmentally healthy design, construction, and maintenance practices.), **Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 7.2** (Use low-or zero-emission vehicles for park operations and maintenance, and a shuttle system. Use low-or zero-emission grounds maintenance equipment, such as electric trimmers, chain saws, and mowers. Substitution of lower-emission and alternative energy-source tools and vehicles will reduce air quality impacts and heat-trapping emissions, and promote energy efficiency.), and **Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.7** (Limit artificial lighting to avoid brightening the dark night sky. Restrict night lighting to ground-level illumination at developed areas of the park (e.g. buildings and parking lots). Install lighting fixtures that focus the light downward and protect against upward glare. Light levels should be as low as possible, consistent with public safety standards.).

Fuel consumption associated with vehicle trips generated by plan implementation would not be inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary, in part because of goals and guidelines calling for decreased reliance on personal autos to access the parks and establishment of a multimodal transportation center. As visitors shift from personal autos to shuttles or transit vehicles, energy efficiency of transportation to park units would improve. State and federal regulations regarding standards for vehicles in California are designed to reduce wasteful, unnecessary, and inefficient use of energy for transportation.

According to Appendix F, Energy Conservation, of the CEQA Guidelines, the means to achieve the goal of conserving energy include decreasing overall per capita energy consumption, decreasing reliance on natural gas and oil, and increasing reliable renewable energy sources. Implementation of General Plan guidelines related to sustainability and multimodal transportation would reduce parkwide energy consumption and would reduce per capita energy use compared to other similar projects.

The physical effects of the extension of facilities are addressed throughout this chapter (see Impacts BIO-I, BIO-3, CULTURE-I, CULTURE-3, GEO-I, GEO-3, HAZ-3, NOISE-I, REC-I, and UTIL-3).

#### Conclusion

The project's energy consumption through construction, operation, and transportation would not be wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

### UTIL-5: Increased demand for emergency medical services

General Plan implementation would not encourage an overall increase in visitation at the CASP units. All lands composing CASP units already receive fire risk reduction and fire response services. Plan implementation would not, therefore, result in a substantial increase in demand for emergency services. Implementation of General Plan guidelines would result in a **less-than-significant** impact on emergency services.

Beyond renovation of an existing building for a staff housing unit, plan implementation would not result in new community housing or other project elements that would increase the permanent resident population. Renovation or adaptive reuse of a residence on the park units would not substantially change the permanent resident population in the surrounding community. The introduction of visitor use of New State Park would redistribute some existing users of the parks to alleviate degradation from overuse of the Reserve. Plan implementation would introduce new trails and areas of publicly accessible land within New State Park. While this would introduce trail users into previously inaccessible areas, it would be on professionally designed trails that would also provide access for emergency response. In addition, the General Plan includes the following parkwide guidelines to address emergency services: Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 (Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.). In addition, the following guidelines would apply to the New State Park - Coastal Area and Inland Area, respectively: COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.1 (Provide more visible warning signage with clear messaging at the beach.), COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.2 (Provide public information online and in park interpretive displays to increase public awareness of the hazardous surf conditions on the beach.), and COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.3 (Improve lifeguard staffing levels to provide adequate coverage.). New facilities or renovations at existing facilities at the park units would be constructed according to minimum necessary safety requirements identified in the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code.

#### Conclusion

Because new facilities would be built according to minimum necessary safety requirements, plan implementation would not result in a new population that would result in an increase in demand for emergency services, and General Plan guidelines would maintain existing services and ensure that emergency services are provided at acceptable levels, this impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

### UTIL-6: Increased demand for law enforcement services

CSP rangers, serving as peace officers, provide law enforcement and public safety within the park units. Implementation of the proposed plan would not encourage an overall increase in visitation at the Reserve or New State Park, because of visitor use management strategies (e.g., reservation system). The demand for law enforcement services would increase with the opening of New State Park – Inland Area. With implementation of General Plan guidelines, law enforcement services would be increased. For these reasons, the impact on law enforcement services would be **less than significant**.

Plan implementation would not encourage an overall increase in visitation at the Reserve or New State Park, because of visitor use management strategies (e.g., reservation system). Therefore, substantial new demands for law enforcement would not occur. A source of increased demand for law enforcement services would be the opening of New State Park – Inland Area and New State Park – Coastal Area/Odello Farm Zone because these areas have not been open to the public. Approximately two additional rangers and four seasonal staff would be necessary when these areas are available for visitor use. As described in Chapter 2, CSP rangers and lifeguards are trained peace officers who help operate and manage the park units. They provide public safety law enforcement and aquatic rescue services. CSP peace officers have the primary public safety and law enforcement responsibility for the park units. The Monterey County Sheriff's Office has concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction for park property in the unincorporated area of Monterey County. The California Highway Patrol has concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction for all state facilities. CSP peace officers also provide emergency medical response for all CSP properties. CSP peace officers routinely patrol the CASP units. Safety for visitors that park along SR I to visit the Reserve is a concern for CSP. Water, beach, and scuba diving safety are priorities for the coastal areas.

Implementation of parkwide MAINTAIN guidelines would provide law enforcement service at adequate levels. These include Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.1 (Identify and implement enhanced visitor safety communication methods, including use of social media, signage, public information, and site-specific solutions to reduce risks. If needed, implement area or facility closures when safety risks are unacceptable.), Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2 (Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.), Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline4.4 (Coordinate with other public entities in response to structural and public safety emergencies, training and utilizing the expertise of all personnel.), and Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.5 (Evaluate signage informing visitors of known hazards and install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.). In addition, Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 2.4 (Provide some staff housing in existing structures for security and surveillance of parklands.) and Parkwide **MAINTAIN Guideline 10.3** (Provide increased levels of service to include the addition of two park rangers, up to four seasonal park aids, and one permanent full-time maintenance worker when the new park areas are open to the public.) would serve a dual purpose of providing housing and services for existing park staff and on-site staff to enhance security and surveillance.

#### Conclusion

Because there would be not be substantial increase in demand for law enforcement services over that which could occur under existing conditions, and General Plan guidelines would maintain existing services and ensure that law enforcement needs are provided at acceptable levels, this impact would be less than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

## 5.6.11 Recreation

This section evaluates the effects of the General Plan on recreation, as defined by CEQA. As the General Plan for a State Park and State Natural Reserve, plan implementation would include many benefits related to enhancing visitors' outdoor recreation experience. Recreation effect analysis under CEQA is more focused in scope, limited to specific questions focused on environmental consequences.

Plan implementation would not include new community housing or other project elements that would increase the permanent resident population in the surrounding area, resulting in an increased demand for recreational facilities. The potential use of an existing building in the Odello Farm Zone as a staff residence would accommodate existing park staff and would not serve as housing for the general population. Therefore, no impact related to increased demand for community recreational facilities would occur, and this issue is not evaluated further. See the analysis below, under REC-1, for a discussion of management of existing and future recreation uses.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Regional Recreational Facilities and Park Land Use and Facilities in Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to recreational facilities. As explained in Chapter 2, the Reserve is a popular destination for visitors from all over California, as well as national and international tourists. The coastal beach areas are popular with local and regional visitors. The Inland Area is currently not open to the public and is used informally by adjacent property owners. Upper Hatton Canyon is currently used by local neighbors primarily for walking or jogging, and the paved multipurpose trail in Lower Hatton Canyon is used for walking, bicycle riding, and other trail activities.

# **Analysis Methodology**

The following analysis assesses the environmental effects of plan implementation with respect to the existing or currently proposed recreation uses and facilities in the area. This analysis is based on review of existing documents, policies, ordinances, and other regulations pertinent to recreation.

# Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines impacts to recreation resources would be significant if the project would:

 include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

# **Environmental Impacts**

REC-1: Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment

Plan implementation would continue the ongoing management of recreational uses, as well as the introduction of new outdoor recreation facilities in the previously-inaccessible Inland Area. Construction of new recreation facilities, such as trails, interpretive features, and day use areas, would adhere to the CSP Standard Project Requirements, which are designed to avoid adverse environmental effects. Plan implementation would emphasize enhancement of the visitor's experience, and would include guidelines to manage visitor use in sensitive areas. This would be a **less-than-significant** impact.

Land uses within the Reserve and New State Park would include a broad range of outdoor recreational uses and interpretive and educational uses, along with CSP staff residences, park operations and maintenance facilities, and cultural and biological resource protection. Day use recreational activities at the Reserve would continue, and include walking or hiking along the shoreline and in the forest, wildlife and nature viewing, painting, and photography. The Reserve would continue to serve as an important recreational resource for scuba diving. Primary land uses at New State Park – Coastal Area would be swimming, and other beach-oriented recreation. New State Park – Inland Area would be opened to the public, primarily for use of new trails. Recreational use in the Hatton Canyon Area would continue to be primarily walking and jogging in the upper portion, and multi-purpose trail use within the southern portion. The southern portion would also continue its special event uses and would become a multimodal transportation center.

Plan implementation would result in the ongoing management of these recreation uses, as well as the introduction of some uses and facilities to previously-inaccessible portions of the park units. For example, plan implementation would introduce trail use and interpretation of historic resources into the Inland Area of New State Park. The physical effects of plan implementation would include construction related to the removal or introduction of parking lots and for development of the recreational facilities, including trails, restrooms, and interpretive elements. Facility construction would conform to the CSP Standard Project Requirements (see Appendix G for the full text of previously-identified requirements), which are best management practices that protect the environment.

Plan implementation would emphasize enhancement of the visitor's experience, which will include management of recreation opportunity locations for appropriate redistribution of use among the units to reduce degradation caused by overuse of sensitive resources. Also, visitor use management strategies (e.g., reservation system) would be employed to maintain the level of recreation use in areas that can sustain it without resource damage.

Overall, several components of plan implementation would have a beneficial physical effect on the environment, such as guidelines to prevent future erosion of stream channels, trails, parking areas, and roads; guidelines to encourage efficient use of energy, water, and other resources; and guidelines to manage the volume of visitors to the park units. These include **Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.1** (In collaboration with regional partners and stakeholders, provide information to encourage visitation to nearby state parks, regional parks and open space, and National Forest land. Methods to encourage this cross-connection include providing information describing regional resources, such as location maps with park and open space access and trail connection information, and working with partners to provide regional mass transit opportunities.), **Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.2** (Evaluate new

technologies and recreational activities and incorporate those that would cost-effectively enhance visitor experiences and benefit recreation facilities, resources, information, and programs, such as increasing the use of the Internet and mobile applications for public outreach and visitor experience, including providing wireless Internet access in the parks.), **Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.4** (Manage visitor use in sensitive areas where resources are being negatively impacted by overuse. Limit public access to sensitive areas and provide access to less sensitive locations with outdoor recreation opportunities.), and **Parkwide VISIT Guideline 1.5** (Evaluate new recreational opportunities, trends, and activities that would bring diverse and underrepresented populations to the parks without impacting positive user experiences or degrading resources.). Also, many management zone goals and guidelines related to specific types of environmental effects or resource protection also control the environmental effects of recreation use.

#### Conclusion

By following the guidance provided within the General Plan to manage recreation users and maintain and provide recreation facilities in the park units, including the Parkwide VISIT guidelines and the management zone guidelines, plan implementation would result in a **less-than-significant** impact because of the provision or expansion of recreational facilities. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.6.12 Traffic and Transportation

This section analyzes whether transportation-related impacts would occur from implementation of the General Plan.

The closest public airport is Monterey Regional Airport, located approximately 6 miles northeast of the CASP boundary. The park units are not located within the *Monterey Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan* (see Section 5.6.9, Noise), the land use plan of any other airport, or within the vicinity of an active private airstrip. Plan implementation would not have impacts on air traffic, and would not result in incompatible uses that could affect airport operations. This issue is not discussed further.

## **Environmental Setting**

Refer to Section 2.1, Regional Land Use and Facilities, of Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of the existing conditions related to regional traffic and transportation.

## **Analysis Methodology**

This analysis considers the existing conditions of transportation, traffic, and circulation in the communities surrounding the park units, and evaluates whether reasonably foreseeable changes to transportation conditions from plan implementation would cause significant impacts. In determining the level of significance of potential environmental impacts, the analysis recognizes that plan implementation would comply with all relevant federal and state laws and regulations, and local ordinances. Where appropriate, specific goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan are identified and discussed in relation to transportation and traffic-related effects.

## Significance Criteria

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, impacts to traffic and transportation would be significant if the project would:

- conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the
  performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including
  mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including
  but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and
  mass transit;
- conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;
- substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment);
- result in inadequate emergency access; or
- conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.

## **Environmental Impacts**

TRAFFIC-1: Impacts to roadway operation that conflicts with a plan, ordinance, policy, or program

Implementation of the General Plan guidelines would not result in substantial additional daily motor vehicle trips, because of visitor use management strategies and multimodal transportation goals and guidelines. A redistribution of existing trips would occur, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. Additionally, implementation of a reservation system would enable the effective management of visitor access and overall levels of all visitor use. This impact would be **less than significant**.

SR I is the major source of access to the park units and personal vehicles are the primary mode of transport. SR I provides primary, and in some cases sole, access to the park units and is the major north-south regional highway. SR I carries high volumes of traffic on a typical day related to regular commute traffic to and from surrounding neighborhoods and/or a substantial number of visitors to the Monterey/Big Sur region. During periods of high visitation, SR I experiences considerable and persistent local traffic congestion in the vicinity of the CASP units.

A high priority objective of the General Plan's transportation-related goals and guidelines is to focus on implementing management approaches and facilities needed to effectively carry out visitor use management and promote travel mode shifts from personal vehicles to more efficient transportation, such as transit or shuttles. The intended outcomes of the suite of goals and guidelines are (I) to allow for stable and sustainable overall visitation to CASP units as a whole, which would be able to moderate visitation levels on peak days, and (2) to encourage vehicle traffic related to CASP visitors to be directed to a site for local and regional transit and transportation agencies to develop multimodal transport opportunities, such as by public transit, dedicated park shuttle, or concessionaire tours. A key feature of the former outcome would be implementation of a reservation system, and the main element of the latter outcome would be development of a multimodal transportation center in the Hatton Canyon Area that would serve the Reserve and New State Park areas.

Plan implementation would result in ongoing visitation to existing outdoor recreation opportunities within the Reserve and New State Park – Coastal Area and Hatton Canyon Area, as well as the opening of New State Park - Inland Area to the public. Plan implementation would not result in substantial additional daily vehicle trips with the development of visitor use management strategies and multimodal transportation opportunities. A redistribution of existing visitor use and vehicle trips would occur by opening New State Park - Inland Area and developing parking facilities there, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. Thus, while a substantial overall increase in General Plan-related traffic would be avoided, localized traffic volumes could increase at the entrance to New State Park - Inland Area, coupled with a decrease in peak traffic volumes in other places. Implementation of a number of Parkwide ACCESS guidelines would result in the application of management actions that offer multimodal transportation options to reduce reliance on personal automobiles, and enable management of visitor access to the General Plan units. These include Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.1 (Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support long-term sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.), Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.2 (Prioritize planned transportation improvements, so that the greatest mobility needs are addressed first, as funding is secured to improve accessibility, safety,

and resource protection.), and **Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3** (Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.). Through compliance with the guidelines summarized above, overall automobile traffic would not substantially increase because of plan implementation, and may decrease if multimodal transportation strategies successfully shift a substantial percentage of personal auto trips to more efficient modes. Therefore, traffic associated with the plan implementation would not contribute to worsening of traffic congestion, and optimally, would contribute to reducing it.

Additionally, visitor access managed through a reservation system would allow the number of total visitors to be controlled at the locations where it is implemented (particularly the Reserve). This would create the opportunity to reduce the current extreme visitation levels on peak days that overwhelm park entrances and off-highway parking supply by redistributing use to other days, and managing overall annual use to sustainable levels. Also, SR I traffic flow could be assisted by spreading personal auto trips more evenly throughout the day, such as by limiting the number of visitors during existing daily peak hours. Initial reports from the 2018 implementation of the Muir Woods National Monument parking and shuttle reservation system indicate many benefits, including decreased congestion and vehicle queuing at the park entrance, managed steady visitor levels throughout the day, and increased park/visitor experience (Golub, pers. comm., 2018).

#### Conclusion

With implementation of the General Plan guidelines related to visitor use management and multimodal transportation access, impacts related to roadway operation would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

TRAFFIC-2: Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses

Implementation of General Plan guidelines would ensure that any new roadway facilities, vehicular access points, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are designed and constructed according to accepted design standards and all applicable guidelines. Additionally, the General Plan ACCESS Guidelines would ensure that new facilities are designed to minimize potential conflict points between bicycles/pedestrians and vehicular traffic. For these reasons, implementation of the General Plan would not result in a substantial increase in hazards due to project design or incompatible uses. This impact would be **less than significant**.

The General Plan would result in the construction of new access points into CASP units along SR I, as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These facilities would be designed and constructed according to accepted design standards and all applicable guidelines. Additionally, sight distances at the location of the new roadway access points along SR I were surveyed and confirmed to be adequate (Fehr & Peers 2018). The General Plan contains supporting guidelines to ensure that all new access roads and bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be designed and constructed to avoid hazards due to a design feature. These include **Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3** (Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential

traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.) and **Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 4.1** (Transportation improvements needed for access to the parks from SR I will take into account the continued presence of on-highway parking for pertinent design issues, such as intersection sight distance, signage, and turning lanes, if needed.).

Implementation of the General Plan guidelines summarized above would ensure that any new roadway facilities, vehicular access points, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are designed and constructed according to accepted design standards and all applicable guidelines. Additionally, the General Plan ACCESS goals and guidelines would require that new facilities be designed to minimize potential conflict points between bicycles/pedestrians and vehicular traffic. For these reasons, it is not anticipated that plan implementation would result in a substantial increase in hazards due to project design or incompatible uses.

The General Plan contains targeted guidelines to be implemented specifically for the Reserve. These include **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.2** (Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport, drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control, along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users; design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors.) and **UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3** (If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR I into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR I crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Inland Area, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.). Adherence to the design elements of the aforementioned guidelines would reduce human exposure to transportation-related hazards associated with project design.

#### Conclusion

Implementation of the General Plan would result in new safe access points to the General Plan units, designed to accepted standards, as well as enhanced pedestrian facilities. Adherence to the transportation and access-related General Plan guidelines would result in infrastructure designed to avoid transportation-related hazards. For these reasons, plan implementation would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

## TRAFFIC-3: Impacts to emergency access

Implementation of the General Plan would ensure that adequate emergency access is provided to park areas, facilities, and recreational opportunities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

The General Plan would result in the opening of New State Park – Inland Area and development of additional facilities and recreational opportunities that would require the provision of adequate emergency access. As detailed in Impact Traffic-2, all access facilities would be designed and constructed according to accepted design standards and all applicable guidelines. Additionally, the General Plan contains goals and supporting guidelines to ensure that all new access facilities would be designed and constructed to ensure adequate emergency access. These include **Parkwide PLAN** 

Guideline 1.5 (Coordinate and establish mutual support arrangements or agreements with state, county, city, and local organizations to provide effective and efficient public safety programs in the parks, and to maintain emergency evacuation routes to allow safe and immediate exit from areas where people visit, work, or reside.), Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.7 (Ensure that emergency response vehicles and/or personnel can access necessary park locations where visitors can be reached or hazard risks are present, such as cliffs or steep slopes, remote trails, and wave-exposed beaches.), and Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.2 (Review and update emergency response plans and provide for appropriate training and equipment for personnel in all aspects of public safety, law enforcement, education, and resource management and protection.).

#### Conclusion

Implementation of General Plan guidelines would ensure that adequate emergency access is provided to new park areas, facilities, and recreational opportunities. This impact would be **less than significant**. No mitigation measures are required.

#### TRAFFIC-4: Impacts to transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities

Plan implementation would include coordination and partnership with local and regional transit agencies to provide adequate service when transit demand grows with implementation of multimodal transportation strategies. Ongoing management to accommodate transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians would be accomplished with implementation of the General Plan guidelines, which would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. This impact would be less than significant.

The primary mode of access to the parks is by personal vehicle. While regional transit service is available, it is limited, and few visitors currently access the park via transit. Once visitors arrive at the parks the internal system of roads and trails allow for pedestrian and bicycle (allowed on paved roads only) movement throughout the units, and access to the various amenities within these units (beaches, coves, vistas, etc.).

A redistribution of existing trips would occur from opening the New State Park - Inland Area and development of parking facilities, but this would not involve a substantial change in the number of motor vehicle trips on any public roadway. As such, long-term increases in traffic would not occur. The implementation of a number of Parkwide ACCESS guidelines would result in encouragement of additional transit ridership to the parks through development of facilities and alternative transportation systems, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies, to implement management actions that offer multimodal transportation options and reduce reliance on personal automobiles. These include Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.1 (Prepare a Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan to identify specific transportation improvements that would support longterm sustainability for a coordinated transit, shuttle, or other alternative public conveyance system to park areas, reduce visitor reliance on personal vehicles, and facilitate removal of parking from overused areas to help redistribute visitor use.), and Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 (Coordinate with local and regional transit partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Caltrans, regarding decisions on potential traffic, transit, and circulation approaches to provide park access. This includes coordinating on transit features of the Parkwide Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan and participating in planning traffic circulation, intersection, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements serving or affecting the parks; pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting the parks to the surrounding communities; and safe SR I pedestrian crossings.).

The General Plan contains targeted guidelines to be implemented specifically for the Reserve and its components (i.e., Marine Zone, Upland Reserve Zone, and Coastal Bluff Zone). Facility changes will include elimination of some general visitor parking spaces, development of an improved intersection with SR I, development of safe pedestrian crossing of SR I where needed, and multimodal facilities to support transit, shuttle, and/or internal shuttles.). Ongoing management to accommodate multiple transportation modes would be accomplished through implementation of UPLAND RESERVE **ZONE Guideline 1.2** (Reconfigure the entrance area to allow for improved multimodal transport, drop-off/pick-up operations, traffic and pedestrian safety, integrated entrance intersection with the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone, and fee collection. Improve walk-in entry management and access control, along with enhanced non-motor vehicle circulation (e.g., multi-purpose trails, internal shuttle), to improve the visitor experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility-limited users; design the main entrance to create opportunities for safe and convenient drop-off/pick-up facilities, walk-in visitors, bike-in visitors, and transit/shuttle stop, while also providing convenient vehicle accommodations (e.g., accessible parking at trailhead locations, shuttle for mobility-restricted visitors.) and UPLAND **RESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.3** (If visitor parking is developed in the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone that generates walk-in visitors to the Reserve, design the entrance area to safely accommodate pedestrians moving across SR I into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR I crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Inland Area if Reserve-serving parking is developed.). The aforementioned guidelines would facilitate the construction and maintenance of transit, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure.

#### Conclusion

Plan implementation would include coordination and partnership with local and regional transit agencies to provide adequate service when transit demand grows with implementation of multimodal transportation strategies. Implementation of General Plan guidelines would facilitate the development of alternative travel opportunities (i.e., transit, pedestrian, and bicycle). This impact would be **less** than significant. No mitigation measures are required.

# 5.7 Other CEQA Considerations

# 5.7.1 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects

CEQA Section 21100(b)(2)(A) states that an EIR shall include a detailed statement setting forth "[i]n a separate section...[a]ny significant effect on the environment that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented." State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(b) requires that an EIR describe any significant impacts, including those that can be mitigated but not reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Sections 5.6.1 through 5.6.12 of this EIR address the potential environmental effects of plan implementation. Evaluation at the specificity of this program-level review indicates that the potential effects from implementation of this General Plan can be maintained at less-than-significant levels with the adherence to the proposed goals and guidelines. The analysis in this EIR concludes that plan implementation would not result in significant impacts, including no unavoidable significant impacts. All plans and projects are required to be in compliance with state and federal permitting and regulatory requirements and subject to subsequent project-specific CEQA review.

# 5.7.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources and Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

A commitment of resources is irreversible and irretrievable when the use or consumption of such resources is neither renewable nor recoverable for use in the future. Section 15126.2 of the CEQA Guidelines require a discussion of such resources. The commitment of resources refers to the use of nonrenewable resources such as fossil fuels, water, and electricity, and also to changes to land use which would commit future generations to similar uses.

The irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources is the permanent loss of resources for future or alternative purposes. Irreversible and irretrievable resources are those that cannot be recovered or recycled or those that are consumed or reduced to unrecoverable forms. This program-level environmental review indicates that no significant irreversible changes to the physical environment would occur from the implementation of this General Plan. Implementation of goals and guidelines included in this General Plan would prevent irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

Facility development, including structures, roads, parking lots, underpasses, and/or trails may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. CSP does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as trails and campsites, where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of nonrenewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor due to the limited amount of facilities planned and use of sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations, as proposed in the General Plan through various goals and guidelines. Plan implementation could result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of energy and material resources during construction and operation.

Energy resources would be consumed in the form of gasoline, diesel fuel, oil for equipment and transportation vehicles, and human labor. Construction activities would generate non-recyclable materials, such as solid waste and construction debris. Electricity would be expended for the construction and operation of features of the General Plan. Required building materials would include a variety of materials such as rocks, wood, concrete, glass, steel, and other materials. Using these nonrenewable resources is expected to account for a small portion of the resources in the General Plan area and their area of origin and would not affect the availability of these resources for other needs within the area.

# 5.7.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts

CEQA Section 21000(b)(5) specifies that growth-inducing impacts of a project must be addressed in an EIR. Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states that a project is growth-inducing if it could "foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." Included in the definition are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth. Examples of growth-inducing actions include developing water, wastewater, fire, or other types of services in previously unserved areas; extending transportation routes into previously undeveloped areas; and establishing major new employment opportunities.

Typically, the growth-inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it fosters growth or a concentration of population above what is assumed in local and regional land use plans, or in projections made by regional planning authorities. Significant growth impacts could also occur if the project provides infrastructure or service capacity to accommodate growth levels beyond those permitted by local or regional plans and policies.

Growth inducement itself is not an environmental effect, but may lead to environmental effects. Such environmental effects may include increased demand on other community and public services and infrastructure, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air or water quality, degradation or loss of plant or wildlife habitats, or conversion of agricultural and natural land to urban uses. The analysis of indirect growth-inducing impacts for the General Plan focuses on two main factors: I) promotion of development and population growth, and 2) elimination of obstacles to growth.

Plan implementation would not foster additional population growth in the plan area. Implementation of the General Plan would not generate the need for additional facilities that could facilitate growth in local population, such as new roads, water supply, sewer, or other utilities. The park would continue to be served by existing facilities and utilities.

A high priority objective of the General Plan's transportation-related goals and guidelines is to focus on implementing management approaches and facilities needed to effectively carry out visitor use management and promote travel mode shifts from personal autos to more efficient, less impactful transportation, such as transit or shuttles. The Park Plan includes provisions for resolving the existing impacts caused by excessive visitor use of the Reserve (including implementation of a reservation system and removal of parking from key sensitive locations). One of the intended outcomes of the suite of goals and guidelines would be to allow for stable and sustainable overall visitation to CASP units as a whole that would not encourage an increase in annual visitor numbers or an increase in the level of use and number of peak-demand/peak-visitation days. A redistribution of existing visitor use and vehicle trips would occur by opening New State Park – Inland Area and developing new or relocated parking facilities there, but this would not involve a substantial increase in the number of overall visitors. Therefore, plan implementation would not promote additional development and population growth.

# 5.7.4 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative environmental effects are multiple individual effects that, when considered together, would be considerable or compound or increase other environmental impacts. Individual effects may result from a single project or a number of separate projects and may occur at the same place and point in time or at different locations and over extended periods of time. Cumulative impacts are defined in the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." A cumulative impact occurs from "the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time.

Many parks and other public lands offer recreation opportunities in the region. Approximately 14 percent of the county is devoted to parks and recreation facilities that are owned by various federal, state, and local agencies. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management manages lands in the Monterey area, including Fort Ord National Monument, which provide a variety of recreation opportunities. In the Carmel and Carmel Valley areas, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) operates Garland Ranch Regional Park, Thomas Open Space, Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Forest Preserve, Laguna Grande Regional Park, and Palo Corona Ranch. The Monterey County Parks Department owns several parks in the area including Jacks Peak County Park and Martin Canyon. Mission Trails Regional Park, owned by the City of Carmel, is also a well-used corridor connecting the Carmel Mission to surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition to cumulative effects on recreation facilities, past, present, and future projects would occur within the vicinity of the parks that could result in cumulative effects on other resource topics addressed in this environmental analysis. Existing or planned land use development and infrastructure improvement projects also exist within the vicinity of the parks. Construction and operation of these projects could have a cumulatively considerable effect on environmental resources either independently of or when combined with the construction and operation of the parks. These projects are discussed in Table 5-2, with a discussion of potential effects following. Future park, recreational, or infrastructure projects include the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan, the Hatton Canyon and Carmel River Lagoon Sewer Line Replacement projects, and the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project, among others. The land management agencies in the region recognize the importance of natural qualities of the area that have been preserved over time and base their planning and development efforts on the importance of preserving these values into the future. The General Plan considers and emphasizes partnerships, where appropriate, with other agencies and organizations to develop the most effective and coordinated approaches for relevant management needs outside CSP jurisdiction that may affect park units, such as infrastructure improvements, multi-agency operational issues (e.g., transportation), visitor use management within the array of regional public lands, coordinated education and interpretation programs, and natural and cultural resource management integrated with surrounding regional parks, public open space, and national forests. Thus, while goals and guidelines in the General Plan focus on the facilities and resources under the authority of CSP, collaboration with Monterey County, Caltrans, California Coastal Commission, MPRPD, U.S. Forest Service, Point Lobos Foundation, Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), Monterey-Salinas Transit, Carmel Area Wastewater District, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and other agencies and organizations will continue to be important to the implementation of goals and guidelines that address mutual interests.

Planned and probable future projects that may result in a cumulatively considerable effect when combined with the effects of implementation of the General Plan are shown in Table 5-2. The parameters of these projects are identified as:

- are partially occupied or under construction,
- have received final discretionary approvals,
- have applications accepted as complete by local agencies and are currently undergoing environmental review, or
- are proposed projects that have been discussed publicly by an applicant or that otherwise become
  known to a local agency and have provided sufficient information about the project to allow at least
  a general analysis of environmental impacts.

The probable future projects summarized in Table 5-2 as part of the cumulative analysis meet the criteria listed above. They are within the project vicinity and have the possibility of interacting with the project as well as other projects resulting in a cumulatively considerable impact.

Table 5-2 Cumulative Projects List					
Project Name	Location	Description	Residential Units and/or Non- Residential Area	Project Status	
Plans					
Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan	Palo Corona Regional Park (Front Ranch Unit is east of SR I, across from New State Park – Coastal Area/Carmel River State Beach; Back Country Unit is adjacent to New State Park – Inland Area/Point Lobos Ranch Property)	The Plan involves investigating the range of recreation opportunities appropriate for the Palo Corona Regional Park through site assessment, master planning, and public outreach. The Plan will serve as guidance for managing the 4,500-acre plan area for public enjoyment and the preservation of natural resources.	N/A	The Plan is currently in the Programming & Alternatives phase of planning, which involves a series of public workshops and alternatives development. Development of the Plan will occur in 2018.	
<b>Development Proje</b>	cts				
Rio Ranch Marketplace Project	3705 Rio Road in the Carmel Valley Master Plan (within 1/8 mile of Lower Hatton Canyon)	The project would include the construction of four retail buildings and two farm sheds totaling 42,310 square feet on a 3.8-acre site.	N/A	Early stages of the planning process. Notice of Preparation was received on August 3, 2017. Draft EIR has not yet been prepared.	
Carmel Rio Road Subdivision	26500 Val Verde Drive in the Carmel Valley Master Plan area (within ½ mile of Lower Hatton Canyon)	The project would entail dividing an existing 7.9-acre lot into 25 lots composed of 24 single-family units and seven affordable housing units.	24 single-family units and seven affordable housing units	Draft EIR was released in November 2016. Final EIR has not yet been prepared/certified.	
Infrastructure Impre	ovement Projects			,	
Carmel Lagoon Outfall Crossing	South finger of the Carmel Lagoon at Calle La Cruz (within New State Park – Coastal Area/Carmel River State Beach)	The project entails improving the existing outfall crossing at the Carmel Lagoon.	N/A	30% designed, FEMA hazard mitigation grant application submitted; environmental document planned to be circulated in December 2017.  Construction planned to commence in June-September 2018.	

Table 5-2 Cumulative Projects List					
Project Name	Location	Description	Residential Units and/or Non- Residential Area	Project Status	
Carmel Meadows Sewer Line Replacement	Parallel to Ribera Road on the Caltrans Property between the Lagoon South Finger and the Carmel Meadows neighborhood above (Adjacent to New State Park – Coastal Area/ Carmel River State Beach)	The project entails upgrading and replacing the existing Carmel Meadows Sewer Line.	N/A	100% designed, environmental documentation in process. No new permanent easements are required. Construction dates have not yet been determined and are contingent upon completion of environmental review.	
Hatton Canyon Sewer Line Replacement	Extends from Carmel Valley Road 4800 feet up from Hatton Canyon (within Upper Hatton Canyon)	The project entails pipe bursting an existing alignment and construction of nine new manholes in the same location of existing manholes.	N/A	FEMA hazard mitigation grant application has been submitted. Construction easements are needed but no new permanent easements are required. Environmental review commencing end of 2017/early 2018.	
Sewer Service Line to Upper Hatton Canyon		Approximately 110 homes in Hatton Fields rely on septic tanks. CAWD is investigating a plant and sewer line extension to reach these homes. Project would include changing the County septic regulations and leach fields, which run surface effluent into Hatton Canyon and require CAWD to implement additional sewer service and associated infrastructure.	N/A	Project under development. Environmental review has not yet commenced. No date of construction, however CAWD is planning a public meeting to gauge public interest.	
Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (FREE)	Lower Carmel Watershed in Carmel Valley (within New State Park – Coastal Area/Carmel River State Beach; on the east and west sides of SR I)	The project includes removal of 1,480 feet of levee on the south side of the Carmel River; replacement of 360 feet of SR 1 with an elevated causeway; grading of 100 acres of agricultural land; restoration and monitoring of 90 acres of riparian and grassland habitat; and reservation of 23 acres for agriculture above the 100-year floodplain.	N/A	Construction to begin in early 2018 and should be completed within a year.	
Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier and Scenic Road Protective Barrier Systems	Carmel River State Beach (within New State Park – Coastal Area/Carmel River State Beach)	The project includes establishing a 40-foot setback from local property lines with a 17.5-foot wall to protect facilities from sealevel rise.	N/A	Public draft EIR circulated in December 2016. Final EIR in development.	

Source: Compiled by Ascent Environmental in 2017 through review of available plans and documents and consultation with local agencies.

Construction-related effects would be temporary and would not result in a considerable contribution to a cumulative impact. Noise levels associated with the construction of General Plan-related facilities would be temporary, intermittent, and relatively minor. Further, construction-related noise is typically considered a localized effect, impacting the land uses closest to construction activities, and local regulations are in place that would limit construction noise to less-sensitive daytime hours. Future cumulative construction-related traffic effects could occur from temporary disruptions related to the nearby projects, such as the Carmel River FREE Project. Operational-related noise from transportation, maintenance, and recreational activity would not attenuate to audible increases in ambient noise (i.e., 3 A-weighted decibels) with the park units or at nearby sensitive receptors. Furthermore, construction and maintenance activities would be subject to the General Plan guideline (Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.8) and California State Parks Standard Project Requirements (see Appendix G) aimed at reducing construction-generated and maintenance-related noise which would serve to further minimize disturbing people and nearby sensitive receptors. Construction- and operation-related emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG) and NO<sub>x</sub> from implementation of the General Plan were determined to be less than significant because project emissions would be reduced through deployment of various goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan. As such, construction- and operational-related emissions of ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> other CAPs, as well as toxic air contaminants, would not have a considerable contribution to a significant cumulative-related impact with respect to ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and other air pollutants for which ambient air quality standards regulate.

As discussed throughout this chapter, future development and resource management efforts that may occur with plan implementation would not result in significant project-level environmental impacts. The goals and guidelines in the General Plan would preserve, protect, and restore resources and otherwise minimize potential adverse physical effect related to biological resources, cultural resources, scenic resources, hazards, water quality, traffic, and public utilities. The management actions reflected in the goals and guidelines of the General Plan would maintain CASP's contributions to potential cumulative impacts at a less-than-considerable level.

# 5.8 Alternatives to the Proposed Plan

The guiding principles for the analysis of alternatives in this EIR are provided in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, which requires that the alternatives analysis: (1) describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project; (2) consider alternatives that could reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, including alternatives that may be more costly or could otherwise impede the project's objectives; and (3) evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d) permits the evaluation of alternatives to be conducted in less detail than is done for the proposed project.

Two plan alternatives were developed in detail and presented for public review and input during the course of General Plan preparation. Alternative I took an established success approach, focusing on current issues facing the units and how to manage them with approaches similar to established successes of the past. Alternative 2 focused more on new approaches, including new technology, revenue generation, and the creation of new types of facilities. Both alternatives identified management zones within the four units, natural and cultural resource protection strategies consistent with CSP's mission, and offered a range of visitor facilities and activities. Additional information on the alternatives is provided below.

A public workshop held on July 22, 2015, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club introduced the two General Plan alternatives under consideration and the range of potential resource conservation approaches, visitor uses, and facilities that could be included in the parks. The primary ideas expressed in the majority of public input promoted revising the alternatives to increase the attention on natural and cultural resource protection and reduce or eliminate proposed facility development that could continue or worsen overuse or contribute more visitor trips to existing local traffic congestion.

After receiving public input on the two proposed alternatives, a draft preferred alternative was developed. The preferred alternative sought to respond to public input and balance new facilities with visitor management. It also included multimodal transportation options intended to help contribute to solutions for local traffic congestion. The draft preferred alternative emphasized the priority of resource protection and restoration in the Reserve, created more expansive Natural Preserves within the Inland Area, and recommended pursuit of a multimodal transportation center in Lower Hatton Canyon. The draft preferred alternative was presented at an Open House held on June 1, 2016, at the Rancho Cañada Golf Club. Public input at the informational meeting again emphasized the importance of maximizing protection of natural and cultural resources, preventing excessive visitor use that degrades resources, and avoiding exacerbation of existing traffic congestion in the surrounding community.

# 5.8.1 Alternative Concepts Considered and Dismissed from Further Evaluation

During the planning process, multiple concepts were discussed when formulating the General Plan alternatives. They focused on different combinations of unit classifications and the types of management strategies that would accompany them. The alternative concepts discussed and dismissed from detailed evaluation were the following:

One Single State Park for all Units: This alternative concept would involve reclassifying Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Carmel River State Beach to State Park status and classifying Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon properties similarly to create a single State Park comprising all four areas. The advantage of the concept could be the full coordination and unification of management of all CSP lands in the area.

The concept of a single, large State Park was dismissed as an alternative, because of the unique resources of the Reserve and the importance of continuing its management under the protective provisions of a State Natural Reserve classification.

State Wilderness at Point Lobos Ranch Property: This alternative concept sought to recognize and
protect the remote natural areas contained in the Point Lobos Ranch Property as having wilderness
characteristics. An advantage of this approach would be strong natural resources protection goals
and guidelines for the area designated as state wilderness.

The state wilderness designation concept was dismissed, because the property was much smaller than the minimum 5,000-acre size required for a state wilderness designation and recognition that enhanced natural resources protection objectives could be achieved in other ways (e.g., by designation of natural preserves).

- Expanded State Natural Reserve Classification to the State Beach and Point Lobos Ranch: This alternative concept sought to extend the environmentally protective requirements of a State Natural Reserve designation over other sensitive resource lands in the State Beach (by reclassification) and Point Lobos Ranch (by classification). An advantage of this concept would be enhanced natural and cultural resources protection in these two areas.
  - Expanding State Natural Reserve classification over the State Beach and Point Lobos Ranch was dismissed from further evaluation because continued balanced management of the State Beach for high-quality recreation opportunities and resource protection would help distribute visitor use, as would designation of Point Lobos Ranch as a State Park, rather than as a State Natural Reserve. Resource protection can be achieved through other means, such as natural and cultural preserves. Also, in Point Lobos Ranch, the level of development existing in the A.M. Allan Ranch area did not warrant the State Natural Reserve designation.
- Transfer of Ownership and Management of Hatton Canyon Property: The option was considered to designate the Hatton Canyon Property as surplus and to identify a local or regional open space or park agency for transfer of ownership and management. An advantage of this approach would be to simplify CSP management responsibilities and focus on the other areas, recognizing that current use of the Hatton Canyon Property is more oriented to local residents.

The concept of transferring ownership of Hatton Canyon to another entity was dismissed to retain the potential to use the land for important state purposes (such as the Park Plan's proposal for supplying a site for a multimodal transportation center). The possibility of executing a lease agreement for management of the land has been retained in the preferred Park Plan.

Brief descriptions of the No Project Alternative and two plan alternatives are provided below and summarized in Table 5-3 to allow for a meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison of these alternatives with the preferred Park Plan, which is the proposed project evaluated in Section 5.6. The two plan alternatives developed and evaluated in detail during the planning process leading up to the identification of the preferred Park Plan are: Alternative I- Established Success Approach, and Alternative 2-New Directions Approach.

Table 5-3		No Project Alternative	Alternative 1:	Alternative 2:
	Preferred Plan	(Existing General Plan)	Established Success Approach	New Directions Approach
Geography (by exi	isting units)			
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Marine Zone: Remains part of State Natural Reserve. Managed to preserve and protect marine resources.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Underwater Park.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Underwater Park.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and Underwater Park.
	Coastal Bluff Zone: Remains part of State Natural Reserve. Managed with an emphasis on the protection of sensitive bluff resources, prevention of soil erosion and compaction, and restoration of native habitat and vegetation.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.
	Upland Reserve Zone: Remains part of State Natural Reserve. Managed for natural resource protection and ecological restoration, visitor orientation, passive outdoor recreation, and interpretation.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.	Remains part of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.
	Inland eastern portion of existing Reserve (east of SR I) would become part of New State Park.	Inland eastern parcel of existing Reserve (east of SR I) remains part of the Reserve.	Inland eastern parcel of the existing Reserve reclassified and incorporated into the State Park.	Inland eastern parcel of the existing Reserve reclassified and incorporated into the State Park.
Carmel River State Beach	New State Park – Coastal Area.	Remains State Beach, managed under existing General Plan.	Remains State Beach.	Reclassified as State Park.
Point Lobos Ranch Property	New State Park – Inland Area.	Remains unclassified and closed to general public use.	Reclassified as State Park.	Reclassified as State Park.
Hatton Canyon Property	New State Park – Hatton Canyon Area.	Remains unclassified and continue current uses (paved multi-purpose trail and unpaved service road).	Remains unclassified.	Reclassified as State Park.
Visitor Facilities				
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Interpretive elements added.	No change from existing.	Continued management with focus on natural resources.	Continued management with a focus on new transportation options and visitor oriented use at Hudson House.
Carmel River State Beach	Trails, guided tours, and interpretive elements added. Day uses added to Lagoon/Wetland Zone and Odello Farm Zone. Special events added (by permit) to Odello Farm Zone.	No change from existing.	New visitor area would be established. Trails, day use, and special events (by permit) could be added.	New visitor center, café, and retail shop would be established.

	D ( 15)	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1:	Alternative 2:
	Preferred Plan	(Existing General Plan)	Established Success Approach	New Directions Approach
Point Lobos Ranch Property	Visitor day use facilities added, including trails, guided tours, and interpretive elements. Special events added (by permit).	No visitor facilities. Remain closed to the general public.	Visitor day use facilities added, including a group educational center, and restrooms.	Day use facilities, interpretive elements, aerial trail, and primitive camping added. Staff housing at A.M. Allan Ranch Zone converted to rentable cabins for overnight visitor accommodations. Primitive camping in Backcountry Zone.
Hatton Canyon Property	Regional transportation center added and shuttle system added Special events, multipurpose trail.	No visitor facilities added. Continue current use of a paved multi-purpose trail and unpaved service road/trail.	Interpretive signage and visitor information added.	No change from existing at upper canyon. Shuttle staging and shuttle stop at Lower Hatton Canyon.
Parking and Acces	s Features			
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	New shuttle location added. Parking reduced Reservation system Park entrance improvements.	No change from existing.	Parking retained as existing. Entrance area improved to better accommodate vehicular traffic, along with an pedestrian underpass that would extend between the Reserve and Point Lobos Ranch Property.	Parking would be reduced at the Reserve, with shuttle stops and striped bicycle lanes.
Carmel River State Beach	Up to 50 parking spaces added to Odello Farm Zone. Up to 40 parking spaces added to Coastal Margin Zone near Bay School Parking at Scenic Road (up to 22 vehicles) Up to 10 parking spaces added in Lagoon/Wetland Zone.	No change from existing.	New visitor staging area would be established. Up to 150 parking spaces added at Odello Farm Zone. Up to 80 spaces added in the Bay School vicinity.	New shuttle location and up to 75 parking spaces added to Odello Farm Zone. Parking decreases within the Coastal Margin Zone.
Point Lobos Ranch Property	New shuttle location added. Up to 25 parking spaces added to A.M. Allan Ranch (north) Zone and up to 200 parking spaces/staging added to A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone.	No change from existing.	A.M. Allan Ranch Zone would become an alternative point of arrival. Up to 60 parking spaces added.	New shuttle locations added to the A.M. Allan Ranch Zone. Up to 40 parking spaces added to A.M. Allan Ranch (north) Zone and up to 50 parking spaces added to A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone. New vehicle access point at A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone.
Hatton Canyon Property	Up to 100 parking spaces and a transportation center/shuttle system would be added.	No change from existing. No transportation center added.	No change from existing.	Up to 100 parking spaces Shuttle staging and shuttle stop.

	D ( 10	No Project Alternative	Alternative 1:	Alternative 2:
	Preferred Plan	(Existing General Plan)	Established Success Approach	New Directions Approach
Natural Resources	Protection			
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Continued classification as State Natural Reserve. Additional natural resources protection from distribution of uses to New State Park and use of a reservation system.	Continues under 1979 General Plan. Natural resources degradation from overcrowding would continue.	Continued management with focus on natural resources protection.	Continued management with focus on natural resources protection. Increased visitor opportunities could increase natural resources degradation.
Carmel River State Beach	Continuation of Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve and Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve. Ecological restoration in Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and Lagoon/Wetland Zone.	Continues under 1979 General Plan.	Ecological restoration in Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone.	Ecological restoration in Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone and parking removal and restoration near Monastery Beach.
Point Lobos Ranch Property	Two natural preserves would be established.	No change from existing. Access limitations could protect resources. No interpretation and educational resources added.	Natural preserves would be established.	Natural preserves would be established. Upper ridgeline area would be a Backcountry Zone, rather than natural preserve.
Hatton Canyon Property	Focus in Upper Hatton Canyon Zone is on maintaining wildlife habitat. Guidelines would maintain the natural conditions.	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	No change from existing.
Cultural Resource	s Protection			
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Adaptive management strategies would be applied to preserve and protect cultural resources.	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	Continued management. Increased visitor opportunities could increase cultural resources degradation.
Carmel River State Beach	Historic structures protected.	No change from existing.	Historic structures protected.	Historic structures protected.
Point Lobos Ranch Property	Cultural preserve would be established and historic structures protected.	No change from existing. Access limitations could protect resources. No interpretation and educational resources added.	Cultural preserve would be established and historic structures protected.	Cultural preserve would be established and historic structures protected.
Hatton Canyon Property	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	No change from existing.

# 5.8.2 No Project Alternative (Existing General Plan)

## Description

CEQA requires an evaluation of a "no project" alternative and its impacts (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[e][1]). The purpose of describing and analyzing the No Project Alternative is to allow decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the proposed General Plan with the reasonably expected impacts of not approving the General Plan.

In the No Project Alternative the 1979 General Plan would continue to guide management of the Reserve and State Beach. Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon would remain unclassified properties without a general plan. Because the 1979 General Plan is nearly 40 years old, it does not adequately address current resource and visitor experience issues nor take advantage of contemporary management strategies, although many similar resource protection and visitor overuse issues were important at the time that general plan was prepared. Point Lobos Ranch would be expected to stay closed to general public use, because visitor-serving facilities (e.g., entrance intersection, parking, trails, day use facilities) would not be developed. Hatton Canyon would continue supporting its current uses of an existing paved multi-purpose trail and unpaved service road/trail that primarily serve residents of the surrounding neighborhoods for casual walking and jogging and to provide access for utility maintenance. Special events on Lower Hatton Canyon would continue.

#### **Evaluation**

The No Project Alternative would allow several existing situations to continue that would be deleterious to natural and cultural resources in the Reserve and that contribute to traffic congestion. Excessive visitor use has been documented to cause degradation to both natural and cultural resources, and overcrowded conditions can diminish the quality of visitor experiences. Parking would remain at its current locations within the Reserve, including on unpaved lots on coastal bluffs, which results in water quality issues. An extensive number of walk-in visitors would be reasonably expected to continue, which exacerbates adverse overuse effects on resources. For the Reserve, the No Project Alternative would be environmentally inferior compared to the increased emphasis on resolving visitor overuse and transportation and parking issues presented in the preferred Park Plan. Also, the No Project Alternative would have substantial disadvantages related to visitor experiences because overcrowded conditions would continue.

At the State Beach, existing uses and management approaches would continue. Beach and coastal bluff access would remain unchanged without the development of off-highway parking. The Odello Farm buildings would be stabilized and preserved without additional interpretation or adaptive reuse. The Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve and Ohlone Coastal Cultural Preserve would continue to protect sensitive resources. The Lagoon/Wetland Zone and Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone would remain inaccessible to visitors and not subject to interpretation, based on current management strategies. For the State Beach, the No Project Alternative has some environmental disadvantages, compared to the preferred Park Plan, related to the condition of the Lagoon/Wetland Zone and several visitor experience disadvantages without the interpretation/education related to appreciation of the historic Odello Farm and sensitive natural resources.

In Point Lobos Ranch, CSP staff residences and existing operational uses would continue and there would not be public access. While access limitations could help protect resources, this would not necessarily translate to substantial environmental benefits, compared to well-managed and sensitively sited visitor use of an open state park in conjunction with natural and cultural preserves. Closure

deprives the public from interpretation and education about important natural resources and cultural heritage. Also, new natural and cultural preserves would not be established, which could risk resource damage and would eliminate opportunities for interpretation.

At Hatton Canyon, the environmental conditions and uses would remain unchanged, and would not present either notable environmental or visitor experience advantages or disadvantages.

# 5.8.3 Alternative 1: Established Success Approach

## Description

Alternative I would establish the following classifications for the CASP units: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Carmel River State Beach, State Park classification for Point Lobos Ranch, and continued unclassified status for Hatton Canyon. The inland eastern parcel of the Reserve would be reclassified and incorporated into the State Park. This alternative would support continued management of the Reserve with the required focus on natural resource protection that is mandated by a state natural reserve classification. It would allow development of Point Lobos Ranch in a balanced manner with an emphasis on focused improvements for visitor experiences and recreation and protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources. A natural preserve would be established to protect the Gowen cypress and maritime chaparral habitats in the current eastern parcel of the Reserve that would be incorporated into the State Park. In other units, the classifications are intended to continue current management directions and not add uses or facilities.

Uses and management approaches in the existing classified CASP units in Alternative I would be similar to existing programs, with the addition of visitor-serving facilities in Point Lobos Ranch to help address current management issues in other CASP units (e.g., parking supply) and provide visitor day use facilities. In the Reserve, management strategies would continue as currently implemented, including retention of parking in the current locations to support visitor access to popular places. The entrance area would be improved to better accommodate vehicular traffic, and would include a potential pedestrian tunnel to Point Lobos Ranch (where additional parking supporting Reserve visitation would be located). The Hudson House would continue its use as a staff residence. The State Beach would become a new visitor staging area to help relieve demand on the Reserve. In the Odello Farm Zone, adaptive reuse of historic buildings and development of up to 150 parking spaces would support a visitor information facility and group education center. Trails, day use, and special events (by permit) could be added to the Lagoon/Wetland Zone next to Odello Farm. Special events and interpretive stations could be added to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve and Coastal Margin Zone. Parking supply would be increased by the addition up to 80 spaces in the Bay School vicinity of the Coastal Margin Zone and by protecting the existing parking at Scenic Road from flooding and erosion, next to Carmel River Beach. In Point Lobos Ranch, the A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone would become an alternative point of arrival for visitors to the Reserve, as well as a staging and trailhead area for the State Park. Up to 280 parking spaces could be provided, along with a tunnel undercrossing to the Reserve. In addition, day use, a trail operations area, interpretive station, and visitor information could be provided. Rare native vegetation areas of Point Lobos Ranch, including the San Jose Creek corridor, would be protected as natural preserves and a cultural preserve would be established with a Native American demonstration area adjacent to San Jose Creek. Parking for up to 60 vehicles, a trailhead, restrooms, visitor information, and a park operations/storage area would be established along San Jose Creek Canyon Road for visitor access to trails in the backcountry of the State Park and connections to adjacent regional parks.

#### **Evaluation**

Alternative I would provide opportunities to protect resources and enhance visitor experiences in CASP units, as well as increase facility capacity, including parking supply, to accommodate visitors.

Because the emphasis of the alternative is to continue the general direction of management strategies, it would risk allowing the existing excessive visitor use of the Reserve to continue or be more challenging to manage. Existing parking supply at the Reserve would remain in its current locations, with management efforts exerted to control water quality issues (likely needing new infrastructure and treatment options). This alternative presents the risk that degradation to both natural and cultural resources and diminishment of visitor experience quality would continue. Compared to the preferred Park Plan, Alternative I would present environmental disadvantages for the Reserve.

In the State Beach (with a State Park classification in Alternative I), visitor experiences would be improved related to adaptive reuse and interpretation at the Odello Farm Zone. Using this zone as a new hub of visitor information and parking would improve wayfinding and information accessibility, while potentially redistributing visitor use from the overcrowded Reserve. Substantial parking supply would be added with up to 150 spaces. Access enhancements would be provided in the Lagoon/Wetland Zone and Caltrans Mitigation Bank Zone. Also, the Lagoon/Wetland Zone would benefit from active ecosystem restoration. The environmental conditions of the State Beach under Alternative I would be mostly similar to the preferred Park Plan, except that use intensities would be greater in the Odello Farm Zone with its focus of providing visitor information and a larger parking supply for visitor access.

In Point Lobos Ranch, public access would be opened with visitor parking, trail development, and interpretation. Staff residences and existing operational uses would continue. Opening Point Lobos Ranch as a State Park offers the opportunity to redistribute visitor use from the Reserve, which could benefit efforts to reduce excessive visitation. Additional parking would be substantial with up to 280 new spaces in A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone and 60 spaces in A.M. Allan Ranch (north) Zone. New natural and cultural preserves would be established, which would enhance resource protection and opportunities for interpretation. The environmental conditions of Point Lobos Ranch under Alternative I would be mostly similar to the preferred Park Plan, except that use intensities would be greater with larger parking areas.

At Hatton Canyon, the environmental conditions and uses would remain unchanged.

# 5.8.4 Alternative 2: New Directions Approach

## Description

Alternative 2 would establish the following classifications for the CASP units: Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and a consolidated State Park consisting of Carmel River State Beach, Point Lobos Ranch, and Hatton Canyon. The eastern parcel of the Reserve would be reclassified and incorporated into the State Park. This alternative would support continued management of the Reserve with a focus on resource protection that is mandated by the State Natural Reserve classification. It would promote the coordinated management of the other units as a State Park, which would continue similar management strategies already implemented in the State Beach and support development of Point Lobos Ranch in a balanced manner to protect resources in the cultural preserves and natural preserves while providing trails that connect to regional trails and other public open space, with an emphasis on focused

improvements for visitor experiences and protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources. A natural preserve would be established to protect the Gowen cypress and maritime chaparral habitats in the current eastern parcel of the Reserve that would be incorporated into the State Park in this alternative. Hatton Canyon would be available for use in developing transportation solutions for access to other units.

A variety of new types of visitor-serving uses were included in Alternative 2 to enhance recreation opportunities. Parking would be reduced in the Reserve, because of the addition of a shuttle system based in Lower Hatton Canyon of the New State Park. In both the north and south A.M. Allan Ranch zones, staff housing would be converted to rentable cabins and provide overnight visitor accommodations. This alternative also proposed primitive camping within the Backcountry Zone. A shuttle system was proposed with the Odello Farm Zone becoming the hub for the visitor center concept. The Odello Farm Zone would be slightly larger than that proposed in Alternative I, and would also include a visitor center, café, retail shop, shuttle stop, and parking to accommodate up to 75 vehicles. The shuttle would also allow reduced parking in Alternative 2, which would provide fewer parking spaces within the Coastal Margin Zone, compared to Alternative I. This alternative would remove event facilities, and instead would offer guided tours and a larger interpretive area for visitors. Alternative 2 featured similar activities to those proposed in Alternative I at Hatton Canyon, but would also include parking for up to I00 vehicles and a shuttle stop.

#### **Evaluation**

Alternative 2 would provide opportunities to protect resources and enhance visitor experiences in CASP units, as well as offer innovative new visitor-serving uses and increased facility capacity, including parking supply and shuttle stops to accommodate visitors.

Because the emphasis of this alternative is to expand innovative visitor opportunities, it would be reasonable to expect more visitors to CASP in general. A risk of unintended consequences would arise because additional visitors could also be attracted to the Reserve and continue the existing excessive visitor use, making it more challenging to manage. Existing parking supply would be reduced in the Reserve, which would help respond to resource degradation, such as in the unpaved lots near the coastal bluffs. If overuse could not be adequately controlled because of the overall increase in visitor attraction to CASP units, this alternative presents the risk that the degradation to both natural and cultural resources and diminishment of visitor experience quality could continue. Compared to the preferred Park Plan, Alternative I would present environmental disadvantages for the Reserve.

In the State Beach, visitor experiences could be improved related to adaptive reuse and interpretation of the Odello Farm Zone, including innovative visitor-serving uses (visitor center, café, retail shop, shuttle stop). Also, using this zone as a new hub of visitor center and shuttle stop would improve wayfinding and information accessibility while redistributing visitor use from the overcrowded Reserve. Parking supply would be less than Alternative I, but still substantial at up to 75 spaces. Trail access would be available in the Lagoon/Wetland Zone and Caltrans Mitigation Zone, and the Lagoon/Wetland Zone would benefit from active ecosystem restoration. The environmental conditions of the State Beach under Alternative 2 would be mostly similar to the preferred Park Plan, except that use intensities would be greater in the Odello Farm Zone with a staffed visitor center, café, and store with visitor parking.

On Point Lobos Ranch, public access would be opened with additional parking, trail development, interpretation, and overnight visitor accommodations (overnight rental and primitive backcountry camping). Historic structures would be converted to rental units for park visitors. Opening Point

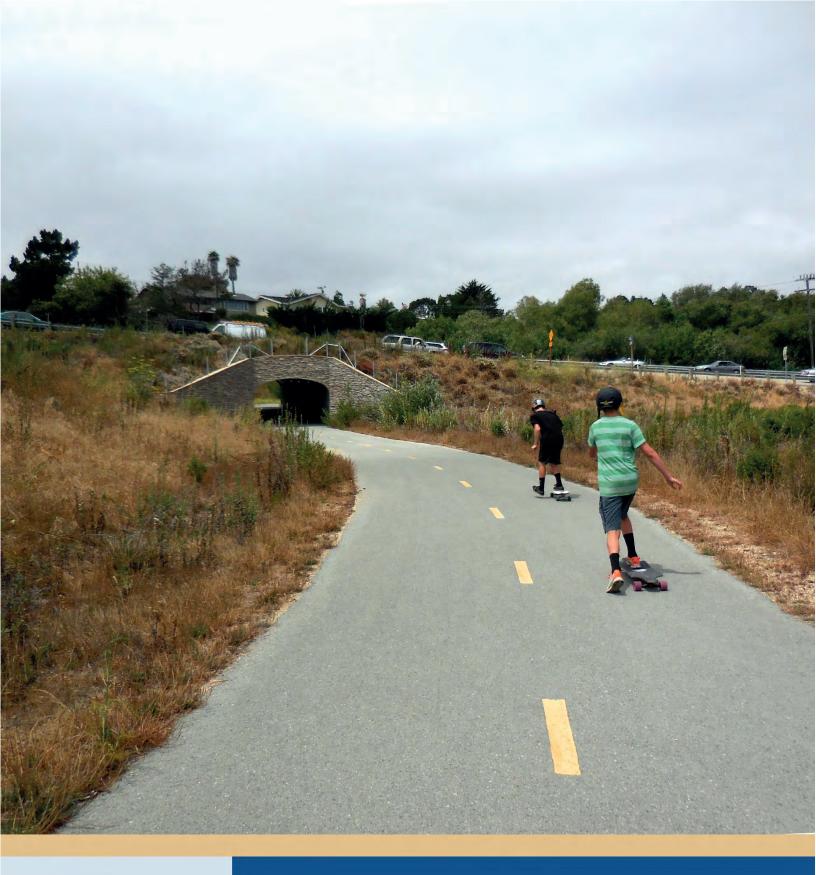
Lobos Ranch as a State Park offers the opportunity to redistribute visitor use from the Reserve, which could benefit efforts to reduce excessive visitation there. Additional parking would be minor with up to 50 new spaces in A.M. Allan Ranch (south) Zone and 40 spaces in A.M. Allan Ranch (north) Zone. Also, a new natural preserve and a cultural preserve would be established, which would enhance resource protection and opportunities for interpretation; however, compared to Alternative I and the preferred Park Plan, the upper ridgeline area would be less protected as a Backcountry Zone (including primitive camping), instead of a natural preserve. The environmental conditions of Point Lobos Ranch under Alternative 2 would have disadvantages compared to the preferred Park Plan.

At Hatton Canyon, the environmental conditions and uses of the upper canyon would remain unchanged and the lower canyon would be improved with a shuttle transportation stop and up to 100 parking spaces. These transportation facilities at Hatton Canyon offer visitors alternative transportation opportunities to visit the CASP units. In this way, Alternative 2 is superior to Alternative 1, but not as advantageous as the preferred Park Plan with its more extensive multimodal transportation center. This represents an environmental disadvantage, compared to the preferred Park Plan.

# 5.8.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(d)(2) states that if the environmentally superior alternative is the no project alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative from among the other alternatives. For CASP, the No Project Alternative, which would be continuation of the 1979 General Plan for the Reserve and State Beach without classification of Point Lobos Ranch or Hatton Canyon, does not include sufficient management goals and guidelines to resolve the existing deleterious conditions of excessive use in the Reserve and contribution by visitors to community traffic congestion. Also, the absence of natural and cultural preserves established to protect sensitive resources in Point Lobos Ranch would risk resource damage from existing informal activities, such as hiking. For these reasons, the No Project Alternative would not be the environmentally superior alternative. Notwithstanding the conditional statement in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(d)(2) that an environmentally superior alternative need only be identified when the no project alternative is the superior choice, this section designates an environmentally superior alternative as useful information for decision makers.

Among the alternatives considered during General Plan preparation, the preferred Park Plan would be the environmentally superior alternative. The Park Plan includes the strongest provisions for resolving the existing impacts caused by excessive visitor use of the Reserve (including implementation of a reservation system and removal of parking from key sensitive locations) and offers the most innovative and effective solutions for reducing reliance on personal autos and decreasing the contribution of CASP visitor trips to local traffic congestion. The proposed establishment of a multimodal transportation center at Lower Hatton Canyon, in partnership with local and regional transportation agencies, presents the opportunity to provide visitors with alternative transportation modes and, in doing so, reduce the number of visitor vehicle trips traveling to the CASP units. Also, the level of parking, operational facilities, new public access, and recreation opportunity enhancements would be modest compared to the other two alternatives, which places it in better balance with protection of natural, cultural, and visitor experience qualities in the CASP units. Therefore, the preferred Park Plan would be environmentally superior to the other alternatives.





Chapter 6
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## 6 REFERENCES

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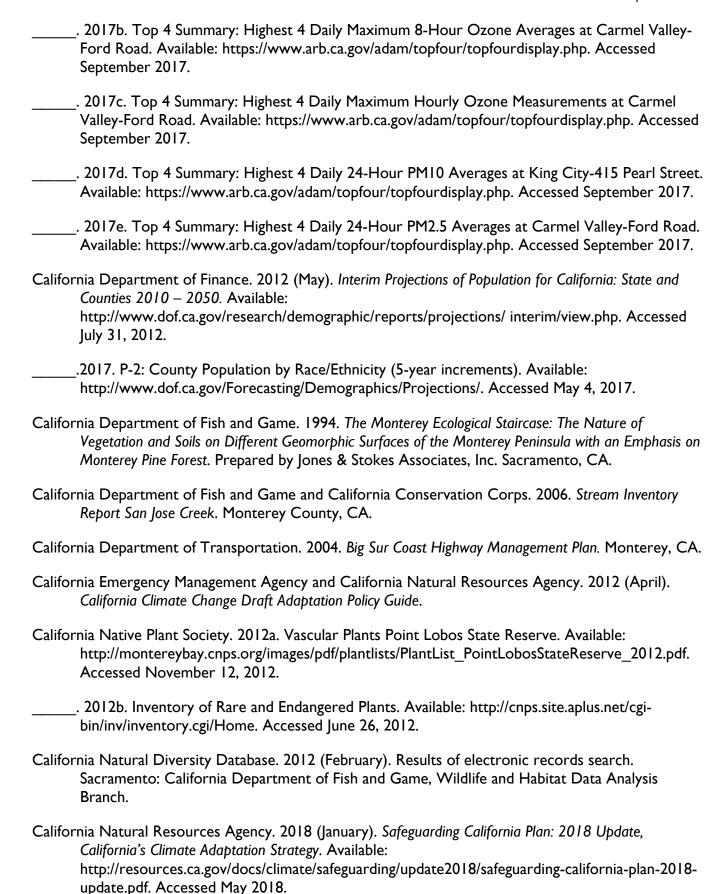
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Section 5.6.12, Scenic Resources No references were used.

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Chapter 7
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