



## 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.

## 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 1 to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (Figure I-1). Access to CASP is provided primarily by regional highways, State Route (SR) 1 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 1 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.

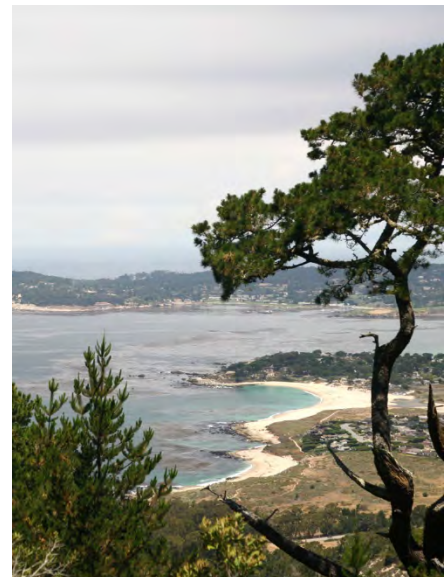
A major tourism destination, the region is well known for its distinctive coastal scenery and extensive open space. It also contains the urban communities of the cities of Monterey, Salinas, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Seaside, Marina, and Sand City. Large alluvial valley areas in the region are in active agriculture. 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.



### 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



Coastal views from Point Lobos Ranch



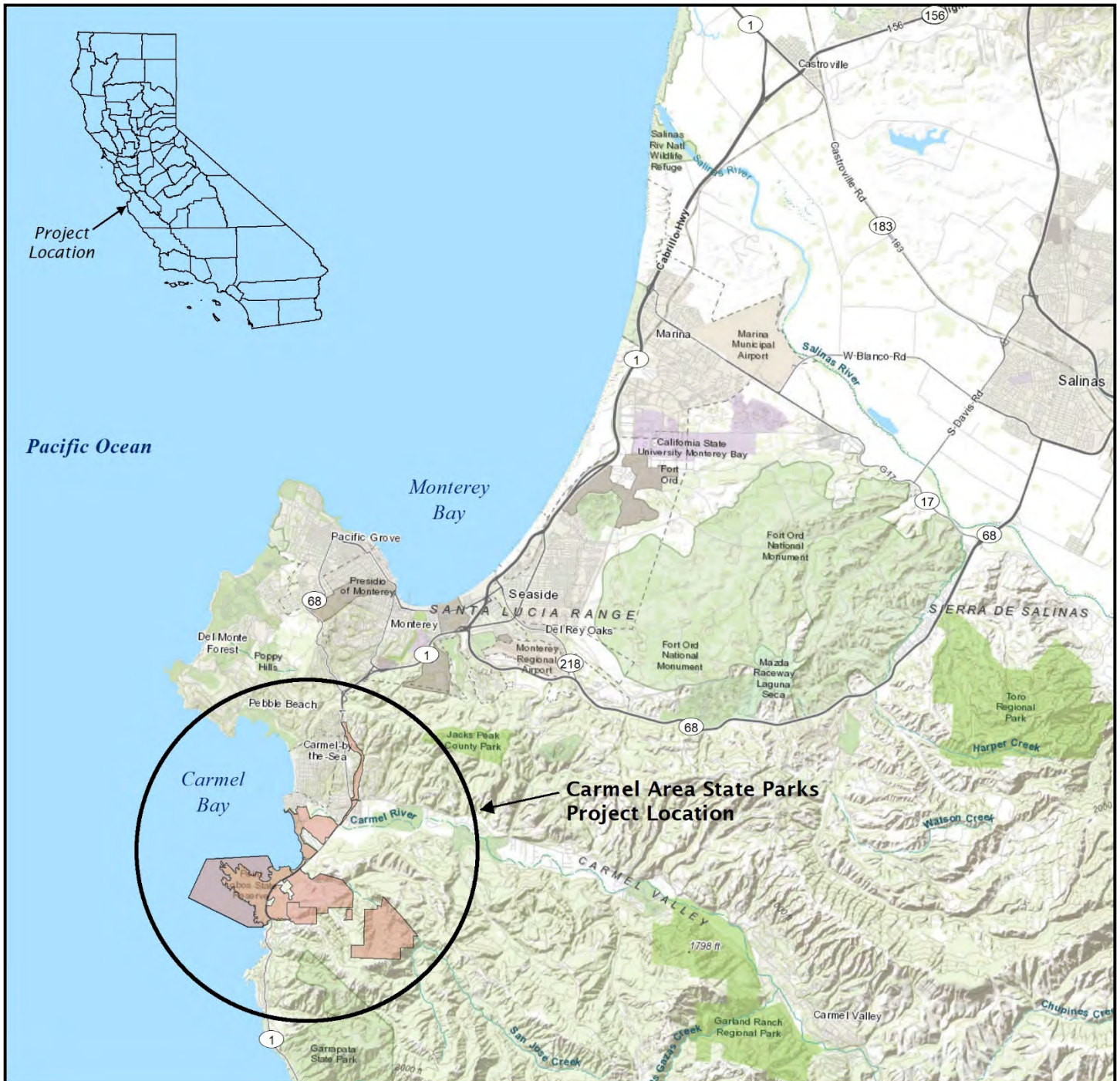
### Carmel Point

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 1, approximately 1 to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (Figure 1-2). The Reserve is located mostly west of SR 1 directly on the coast. An additional 150 acres of the Reserve are located east of SR 1, contiguous to Point Lobos Ranch. The State Beach is located west of SR 1 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 1 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.



### Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

#### Regional Location of CASP Units

##### Legend

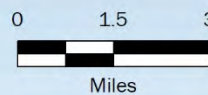
 Carmel Area State Parks

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.

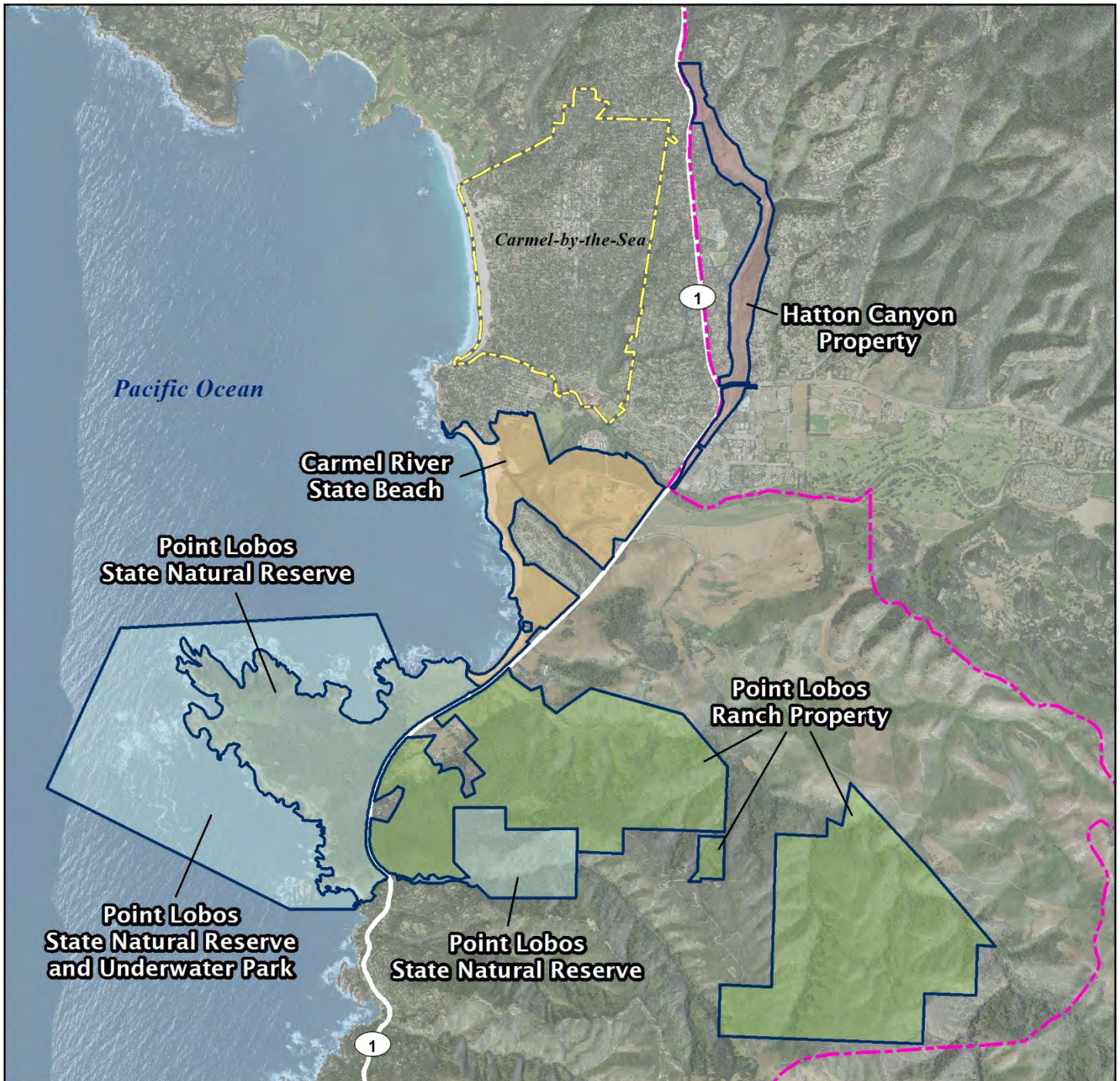
Source: Data provided by CSP in 2013.

ESRI 2017 Basemap

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**Figure I-1 Regional Location of CASP Units**



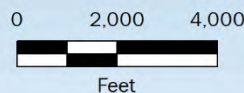
**Carmel Area State Parks General Plan**

**Local Context**

**Legend**

-  Carmel Area State Parks
-  City Limits
-  Highway
-  Coastal Zone Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.  
 Source: Data provided by CSP in 2013.  
 NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery G13010017 01 063



**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 1. 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



Historic ranch structure in Point Lobos Ranch

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 1.2.4 Hatton Canyon Property

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.

## 1.3 Purpose of Acquisition

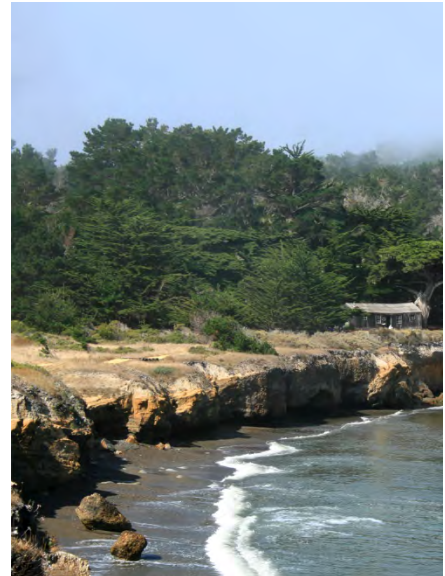
### 1.3.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

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 1 was acquired by CSP in 1933 and was originally designated as Point Lobos Reserve State Park. In 1962, land east of SR 1 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.



#### 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.

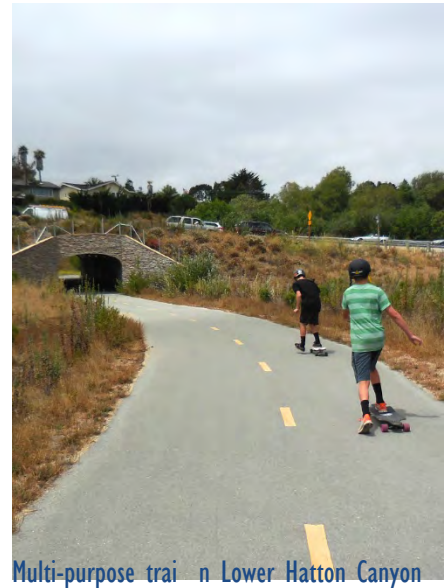
Proposition 117 funds are to be used for acquisition of deer and mountain lion habitat; rare and endangered species habitat; wetlands, riparian, and aquatic habitat; and open space.

### 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 1. After community objections and lawsuits challenging the environmental analysis for the SR 1 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 1 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.

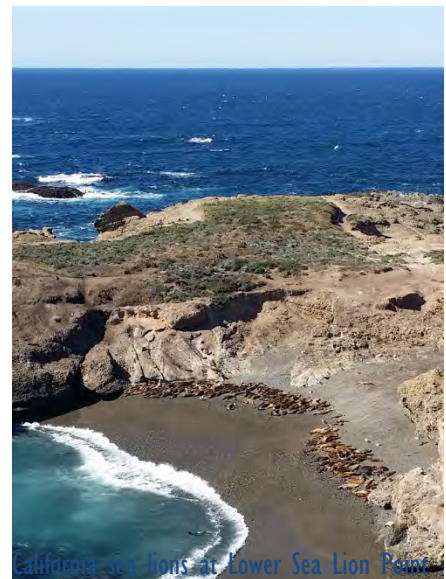
### 1.4.4 Hatton Canyon Property

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 stand-alone 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 1, 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 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 1) 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.

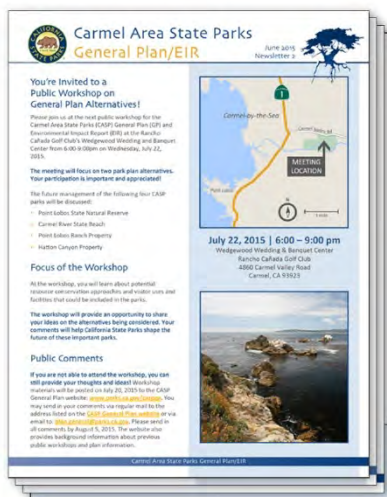
Other regional parks visited most frequently by survey participants were Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Asilomar State Beach, Garrapata State Park, and Monterey State Historic Park.

## 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 I 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 1, 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,



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.*

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.

### 1.8.2 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.

## 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.

## 1.9 Subsequent Planning

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

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 as-needed 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.