

JULY 2021

Carmel Area State Parks

Final General Plan and
Environmental Impact Report



Including:
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
Carmel River State Beach
Ishxenta State Park

Written inquiries regarding the General Plan should be submitted to the address below:

MAILING ADDRESS:

Department of Parks and Recreation
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Carmel Area State Parks

Final General Plan and Environmental Impact Report

Approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021

July 2021

State Clearinghouse #2012041016

Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary, Natural Resources Agency

Armando Quintero
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation



Resolution 1-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual meeting on May 21, 2021

**General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report
For Carmel Area State Parks**

(Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Carmel River State Beach and New State Park consisting of two unclassified properties known as Hatton Canyon and Point Lobos Ranch)

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks, has presented to this commission, as lead agency for approval of California State Park general plans, the proposed General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Carmel Area State Parks (Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Carmel River State Beach, and New State Park (interim name only) including two properties known as the Hatton Canyon property and Point Lobos Ranch Property) ("Parks"); and

WHEREAS, the General Plan will guide the development and management of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, Carmel River State Beach, and the New State Park for public use and resource protection for the next 20 or more years, by establishing goals and guidelines to assist in the daily and long-term management of the Parks to ensure that natural and cultural resources are protected, while providing a variety of recreation activities and visitor experiences; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of the General Plan, pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing discussion of the probable impacts of future development, establishing goals, policies and objectives, and addressing all the requirements of an EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Plan and EIR function as a "Program EIR" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, covering general goals and objectives of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the plan; and

WHEREAS, the FEIR finds that there is no potential for significant and unavoidable effects; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan includes environmental protection features within its adopted goals and guidelines to avoid significant environmental impacts; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgement and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the General Plan prior to approval, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that goals and guidelines have been incorporated into the Plan that will avoid significant or potentially significant impacts; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: That the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby certifies the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the Carmel Area State Park General Plan, dated November 2020 and approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By: _____

Date: 6/23/21

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 2-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual meeting on May 21, 2021

**Reclassification and Addition of Point Lobos
State Natural Reserve East of State Highway One into the
Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve and New State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve was acquired in 1933 and originally designated as a state reserve state park, re-designated as a state reserve in 1963 and reclassified as a state natural reserve through legislation in 2004, with the purpose of preserving and protecting the reserve's unique geological, natural and cultural resources and making available for visitor's enjoyment of a natural segment of the Central California coastline, with its tide pools, rugged headlands, scenic vista points, forested lands and beach areas; and

WHEREAS, in 1962 an inland portion of watershed covering 124.35 acres east of Highway 1 was gifted to the state by Agnes K. Marks, in 1966 Agnes Marks gifted .15 acres of contiguous lands to those gifted in 1962, and in 1979 Herman Marks gifted 20.65 contiguous acres east of Highway One, the total acreage gifted was 145.15 acres all of which was incorporated into Point Lobos State Natural Reserve and each of these three parcels contains globally significant and federally threatened stands of Gowan Cypress trees; and

WHEREAS, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve consists of 1324 acres, and the Herman and Agnes Marks parcels consist of 145.15 acres located on the east side of State Highway One, which are contiguous with the New State Park (Point Lobos Ranch Property) and the proposed Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve, having been established by separate resolutions on this same date; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will reclassify and incorporate the 145.15 acres from Point Lobos State Natural Reserve to the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve, Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve will be incorporated as a sub-unit to the New State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan recognizes the natural preserve classification provides additional resource protection for extraordinary significant natural resource areas of The New State Park and Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve; and

WHEREAS, this Commission recognizes the global uniqueness and distinction of the Gowan and Monterey pine forests and the need for their continued protection and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the reclassification of the 145.15 acres within the east side of State Highway One will reduced the size of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve by 145.15 acres from 1324.73 acres to 1179.58 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval a proposal to reclassify Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands east of State Highway One to the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve within the New State Park, as recommended by and consistent with the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan for adoption by this Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis contained in the proposed General Plan for this unit and testimony received during this public hearing as the basis for this change in unit classification from state natural reserve to natural preserve; and be it further

RESOLVED: pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's recommendation for the expansion of the New State Park by the reclassification and addition of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands located east of State Highway One to the New State Park and as a sub-classification addition to the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By: _____

Date: 6/23/21

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 3-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual meeting on May 21, 2021

**Classification and Naming of the New State Park
(Hatton Canyon and Point Lobos Ranch Properties)
as Ishxenta State Park (pronounced Eesh-henta)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resources Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS Public Resources Code Section 5019.53 provides for a “state park” classification for “relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological or other similar values”, and that state park units shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established, and 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; and

WHEREAS, The New State Park qualifies to be designated as a state park; and

WHEREAS, the New State Park will consist of two unclassified properties known as Hatton Canyon and Point Lobos Ranch and these two properties will be classified as state park of 1459 acres, for outstanding and diverse scenic, biological and cultural resources, and wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Tatum Cultural Preserve, San Jose Creek Natural Preserve and Pt. Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve, having been established by separate resolution on this same date, will be subclassifications added into the new state park; and

WHEREAS, the Commission Statements of Policy, Policy II.2, Classification and Naming Units, Features, Groves, and Trails of the State Park System outlines guidance used to identify, classify, and name units of the State Park System; and

WHEREAS, the Department requested and received public input for names throughout the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Department considered several alternative names that recognize the Park’s most significant prehistoric and historic cultural resources, natural resources, and geographic setting, which included A.M. Allan Ranch State Park (for a former owner);

Carmel Headlands State Park as common names for the area and Ishxenta (Eesh-henta) State Park, an indigenous name given to the Point Lobos area by the Rumsen people who lived in this area for millennia prior to the coming of the Spanish and Americans; and


WHEREAS, the name Ishxenta (Eesh-henta) State Park best supports the broad geographical setting, the properties outstanding and diverse scenic, natural, cultural, and geological resources, and its wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities. The properties were known to contain significant Native American village sites as documented by the early Spanish that date back to 2000BP, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Director's recommendation for the Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon properties to be classified as a state park; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Director's recommendation for the Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon properties to be named Ishxenta (Eesh-henta) State Park; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By:  Date: 6/23/21

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 4-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual regular meeting on May 21, 2021

**New State Park
Natural Preserve Subclassification & Naming
(Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, One of these classifications is "Natural Preserve" which (per PRC 5019.71) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding natural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve features such as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, or representative examples of plant and animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Point Lobos Ranch Property contains areas of significant natural resources including stands of Gowan Cypress, Coastal Maritime Chaparral and Monterey Pine; and

WHEREAS, the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan has proposed that a 1200-acre Natural Preserve be established east of State Highway One along the length of property formerly known at the Point Lobos Ranch property, to provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding and significant natural resources of this area; and

WHEREAS, under separate resolution presented today, the proposed Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve would include the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve lands located east of Highway One, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve increases the protection and preservation of various habitat types including one of only two known populations of federally threatened Gowan Cypress forests known to exist, one of only three native stands of Monterey Pine forest in California, Central Maritime Chaparral habitat which supports federally endangered Yadon's rein orchid, as well as coastal scrub habitat that support federally endangered species including Smith's blue butterfly and California Red-legged Frog; and

WHEREAS, the 1200 acre Natural Preserve lands were purchased using Proposition 117 California Wildlife Protection Act funds to protect, enhance and restore wildlife

habitat vital to maintaining the quality of life in California, to protect quickly disappearing wildlife habitats that support California's unique and varied wildlife resources including deer and mountain lion habitat within the Santa Lucia Mountains in Monterey County for the people of California to appreciate and visit natural environments; and WHEREAS, a 1200 acre Natural Preserve is proposed to be established within the portion of The New State Park (commonly referred to as the Point Lobos Ranch property), and that the new natural preserve be named the Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve to provide for the recognition and protection of its outstanding coastal forests, maritime chaparral and coastal scrub natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.71 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above identified portion of The New State Park as a Natural Preserve with the name Point Lobos Ridge Natural Preserve as delineated in the Carmel Area State Park General Plan.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By:  Date: 6/23/21

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 5-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual meeting on May 21, 2021

**New State Park
Natural Preserve Subclassification & Naming
(San Jose Creek Natural Preserve)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categorized specified in California Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, One of these classifications is "Natural Preserve" which (per PRC 5019.71) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve features such as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, or representative examples of plant and animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan has proposed that a 60-acre Natural Preserve be established east of State Highway One within The New State Park, including the San Jose Creek riparian corridor to provide for the recognition and protection of the outstanding and significant coastal riparian resources of this area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve includes the San Jose Creek riparian corridor and increases the protection and preservation of an important coastal riparian corridor which is habitat for several federally threatened species including the South Central California Coast steelhead, California red-legged frog, Smith's blue butterfly, as well as a stand of the second southernmost population of Pacific rhododendron in California, coastal riparian habitat that supports these species is intact; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Preserve lands were purchased using Proposition 117 California Wildlife Protection Act funds to protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat vital to maintaining the quality of life in California, to preserve stream riparian habitat, and to protect quickly disappearing wildlife habitats that support California's unique and varied wildlife resources including deer and mountain lion habitat within the Santa Lucia Mountains in Monterey County for the people of California to appreciate and visit natural environments; and

WHEREAS, coastal wildlife habitat and fisheries conservation is in the public interest and it is necessary to keep these lands in open space and natural condition, corridors of

natural habitat must be preserved to maintain the genetic integrity of California's wildlife;
and

WHEREAS, The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed a 60 acre Natural Preserve be established within the portion of The New State Park, and recommends that it be named San Jose Creek Natural Preserve to provide for the recognition and protection of its outstanding coastal riparian natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.71 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above identified portion of The New State Park as a Natural Preserve with the name San Jose Creek Natural Preserve and as delineated in the Carmel Area State Park General Plan.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By: _____

Date: _____

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



Resolution 6-2021
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
At its virtual meeting on May 21, 2021

**New State Park
Cultural Preserve Subclassification and Naming
(Tatlun Cultural Preserve)**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into categories specified in California Public Resources Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, the classification of "Cultural Preserve" (PRC 5019.74) consists of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of a state park unit to preserve special features that represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California and where complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought; and

WHEREAS, the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan has proposed that a 20-acre Cultural Preserve be established in the San Jose Creek coastal headland area of Point Lobos Ranch within The New State Park, to protect the archaeological remains of a portion of the significant Rumsen Native American village of Ishxenta (Eesh-henta), associated landscape, and resources dating back 2000 years; and

WHEREAS, the Department will consult and pursue partnerships with the local native California Indian representatives to establish resource management practices and interpretation of native California Indian history, lifeways, and the protection of significant cultural sites and features located in the lower San Jose Creek area of the New State Park; and

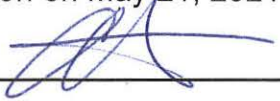
WHEREAS, The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed a Cultural Preserve be established within the San Jose Creek area of the New State Park, and recommends that it be named Tatlun who was leader of all five Rumsen villages at the time of Contact and who lived at Ishxenta, and that the Tatlun Cultural Preserve will provide for the recognition and protection of its outstanding cultural resources, ancient heritage, and cultural identity of this site;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.74 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above identified portion of The New State Park as a Cultural Preserve with

the name Tatlun Cultural Preserve and as delineated in the Carmel Area State Parks General Plan.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on May 21, 2021 at the Commission's duly-noticed virtual public meeting.

By: _____



Date: _____

6/23/21

Assistant to the Commission
For Armando Quintero, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter/Section	Page
Executive Summary	
Park Description	ES-1
Purpose of the General Plan.....	ES-3
Planning Efforts and Public Outreach	ES-4
Carmel Area State Parks Declaration of Purpose.....	ES-5
Carmel Area State Parks Vision Statement.....	ES-5
Key Issues	ES-5
Visitor Use Management, Sustainable Use, and Resource Protection	ES-6
Traffic and Parking.....	ES-6
Protection of Natural Resources.....	ES-7
Protection of the Native American Heritage and Prehistoric Cultural Resources.....	ES-8
Protection of Historic Cultural Resources.....	ES-8
Facilities and Operations	ES-9
Overview of the Park Plan	ES-9
Major Features of the Park Plan.....	ES-10
Plan Implementation.....	ES-13
Environmental Analysis	ES-14
I Introduction	
I.1 Location and Regional Context	I-1
I.2 Site Characteristics.....	I-2
I.2.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	I-5
I.2.2 Carmel River State Beach.....	I-5
I.2.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property.....	I-6
I.2.4 Hatton Canyon Property.....	I-6
I.3 Purpose of Acquisition.....	I-7
I.3.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	I-7
I.3.2 Carmel River State Beach.....	I-8
I.3.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property.....	I-8
I.3.4 Hatton Canyon Property.....	I-9

Chapter/Section	Page
1.4 Sense of Place	1-9
1.4.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.....	1-9
1.4.2 Carmel River State Beach	1-10
1.4.3 Point Lobos Ranch Property.....	1-10
1.4.4 Hatton Canyon Property.....	1-11
1.5 Purpose of the General Plan	1-11
1.5.1 Combined State Park General Plan and Program EIR.....	1-12
1.6 Organization and Contents of the General Plan and EIR	1-13
1.7 Planning Process.....	1-14
1.7.1 Public Involvement.....	1-15
1.7.2 Interagency and Stakeholder Involvement	1-18
1.8 Planning Hierarchy.....	1-20
1.8.1 California State Parks Mission	1-20
1.8.2 Classification.....	1-20
1.8.3 Declaration of Purpose.....	1-20
1.8.4 Regional Planning Considerations.....	1-21
1.8.5 Vision.....	1-21
1.8.6 Carmel Area State Parks (Parkwide) Goals and Guidelines.....	1-22
1.8.7 Management Zone Intent, Goals, and Guidelines	1-22
1.9 Subsequent Planning.....	1-22
2 Existing Conditions	
2.1 Regional Land Use and Facilities.....	2-1
2.1.1 Regional Land Use.....	2-1
2.1.2 Regional Recreational Facilities	2-2
2.2 Park Land Use and Facilities	2-5
2.2.1 Existing Land Uses.....	2-5
2.2.2 Visitation and Recreation Uses	2-9
2.2.3 Existing Facilities	2-12
2.3 Important Resource Values	2-23
2.3.1 Physical Resources	2-25
2.3.2 Natural Resources	2-46
2.3.3 Cultural Resources	2-77
2.3.4 Aesthetic Resources.....	2-97

Chapter/Section	Page
2.4	Park Operations and Maintenance..... 2-102
2.4.1	Facility Management..... 2-102
2.4.2	Public Safety..... 2-102
2.4.3	Concessions..... 2-102
2.4.4	Point Lobos State Natural Reserve..... 2-103
2.4.5	Carmel River State Beach..... 2-104
2.4.6	Point Lobos Ranch Property..... 2-104
2.4.7	Hatton Canyon Property..... 2-105
2.5	Interpretation and Education..... 2-105
2.5.1	Existing Interpretation and Education..... 2-106
2.5.2	Interpretive Audience Demographics..... 2-109
2.5.3	Support for Interpretation 2-109
2.5.4	Local, Regional, and Statewide Context..... 2-110
2.6	Park Support 2-111
2.6.1	Volunteers..... 2-112
2.6.2	Cooperating Associations and Supporting Groups..... 2-113
2.7	Planning Influences 2-115
2.7.1	Systemwide Planning..... 2-115
2.7.2	Regional Planning..... 2-117
2.7.3	Regulatory Influences..... 2-118
2.7.4	Demographics, Trends, and Projections 2-124
2.7.5	Public Concerns, Interests, and Opportunities..... 2-128
3	Issues and Analysis
3.1	Planning Assumptions..... 3-1
3.2	Carmel Area State Parks Issues..... 3-2
3.2.1	Visitor Capacity Management..... 3-2
3.2.2	Resource Protection..... 3-4
3.2.3	Circulation, Access, and Parking..... 3-10
3.2.4	Public Safety..... 3-14
3.2.5	Visitor Facilities..... 3-15
3.2.6	Recreation Opportunities 3-16
3.2.7	Interpretation and Education..... 3-17
3.2.8	Maintenance and Renovation Needs..... 3-19
3.2.9	Partnerships and Regional Integration..... 3-20
3.2.10	Communication and Public/ Stakeholder Involvement 3-22
3.2.11	Financial Sustainability..... 3-23

Chapter/Section	Page
3.3 Area-Specific Issues	3-23
3.3.1 Visitor-Caused Resource Degradation at the Reserve.....	3-23
3.3.2 Traffic Congestion and Access to the Reserve	3-24
3.3.3 Carmel River and Lagoon Flooding	3-25
3.3.4 Opening the Point Lobos Ranch Property ...	3-27
3.4 Planning Alternatives.....	3-28
4 Park Plan	
4.1 Classification	4-1
4.1.1 State Natural Reserve	4-2
4.1.2 State Park	4-2
4.2 Purpose and Vision.....	4-5
4.2.1 Carmel Area State Parks Declaration of Purpose and Vision	4-6
4.2.2 Unit Purpose and Vision	4-7
4.3 Carmel Area State Parks Goals and Guidelines.....	4-14
4.3.1 Resource Management.....	4-15
4.3.2 Visitor Experience, Use, and Opportunities.....	4-27
4.3.3 Circulation, Parking, and Access.....	4-29
4.3.4 Operations and Maintenance.....	4-35
4.3.5 Coordinated Planning and Partnerships	4-43
4.3.6 Interpretation and Education.....	4-44
4.4 Management Zones and Management Intent.....	4-63
4.4.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.....	4-64
4.4.2 Carmel River State Beach	4-71
4.4.3 Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property	4-79
4.4.4 Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Area	4-86
4.5 Management Zone Goals and Guidelines.....	4-90
4.5.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.....	4-91
4.5.2 Carmel River State Beach	4-101
4.5.3 Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property	4-112
4.5.4 Ishxenta State Park - Hatton Canyon Property	4-120
4.6 Visitor Capacity Management	4-122
4.6.1 Visitor Management Methods.....	4-122
4.6.2 Monitoring of Desired Outcomes and Adaptive Management Process	4-124

Chapter/Section	Page
5 Environmental Analysis	
5.1 Introduction.....	5-1
5.1.1 Purpose.....	5-1
5.1.2 Focus of the EIR.....	5-2
5.1.3 Subsequent Environmental Review Process...	5-2
5.1.4 Contents of the Environmental Impact Sections.....	5-2
5.2 EIR Summary	5-4
5.2.1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation	5-4
5.2.2 Summary of Alternatives Considered.....	5-4
5.3 Project Description	5-4
5.3.1 Visitor Use Management, Sustainable Use, and Resource Protection.....	5-5
5.3.2 Traffic Congestion, Parking Issues, and Multimodal Solutions	5-6
5.3.3 Protection of Natural Resources.....	5-6
5.4 Environmental Setting	5-7
5.5 Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis.....	5-7
5.5.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources	5-7
5.5.2 Land Use and Planning.....	5-8
5.5.3 Mineral Resources.....	5-8
5.5.4 Population and Housing	5-8
5.6 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation	5-9
5.6.1 Aesthetics.....	5-10
5.6.2 Air Quality	5-15
5.6.3 Biological Resources	5-20
5.6.4 Cultural Resources.....	5-30
5.6.5 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity.....	5-38
5.6.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change	5-43
5.6.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	5-48
5.6.8 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	5-55
5.6.9 Noise.....	5-60
5.6.10 Public Services and Utilities.....	5-64
5.6.11 Recreation.....	5-71
5.6.12 Traffic and Transportation	5-74

Chapter/Section	Page
5.7 Other CEQA Considerations	5-80
5.7.1 Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects	5-80
5.7.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources and Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes	5-80
5.7.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts	5-81
5.7.4 Cumulative Impacts	5-82
5.8 Alternatives to the Proposed Plan	5-86
5.8.1 Alternative Concepts Considered and Dismissed from Further Evaluation	5-87
5.8.2 No Project Alternative (Existing General Plan)	5-92
5.8.3 Alternative 1: Established Success Approach	5-93
5.8.4 Alternative 2: New Directions Approach	5-94
5.8.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative	5-96

6 References

7 Report Contributors

Appendices

Appendix A	Summaries of Public Workshops
Appendix B	Special Status Plants
Appendix C	Special Status Wildlife
Appendix D	Architectural Resources
Appendix E	Scenic Features
Appendix F	Planning Influences
Appendix G	California State Parks Standard Project Requirements
Appendix H	Notice of Preparation
Appendix I	Final Economic Analysis
Appendix J	Final Traffic and Parking Study

	Page
Figures	
Figure ES-1	Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification.....ES-2
Figure 1-1	Regional Location of CASP Units 1-3
Figure 1-2	Local Context 1-4
Figure 2-1	Public Parks and Open Space Areas2-3
Figure 2-2	Facilities and Features within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve 2-13
Figure 2-3	Facilities and Features within Carmel River State Beach..... 2-19
Figure 2-4	Facilities and Features within Point Lobos Ranch Property 2-21
Figure 2-5	Facilities and Features within Hatton Canyon Property 2-24
Figure 2-6	Watersheds 2-31
Figure 2-7	Floodplain Map of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve..... 2-32
Figure 2-8	Sea Level Rise at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve..... 2-34
Figure 2-9	Floodplain Map of Carmel River State Beach 2-37
Figure 2-10	Sea Level Rise at Carmel River State Beach..... 2-40
Figure 2-11	Floodplain Map of Point Lobos Ranch Property 2-41
Figure 2-12	Sea Level Rise at Point Lobos Ranch Property.. 2-43
Figure 2-13	Floodplain Map of Hatton Canyon Property 2-45
Figure 2-14	Sea Level Rise at Hatton Canyon Property..... 2-47
Figure 2-15	Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve 2-48
Figure 2-16	Wetlands within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve..... 2-52
Figure 2-17	Fire Hazards in the Vicinity 2-57
Figure 2-18	Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Carmel River State Beach..... 2-60
Figure 2-19	Wetlands within Carmel River State Beach..... 2-62
Figure 2-20	Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Point Lobos Ranch Property..... 2-67
Figure 2-21	Wetlands within Point Lobos Ranch Property.. 2-70
Figure 2-22	Vegetation Communities and Other Landscapes at Hatton Canyon Property..... 2-73
Figure 2-23	Wetlands within Hatton Canyon Property 2-74

	Page
Figure 4-1	Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification..... 4-9
Figure 4-2	Park Plan for Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. 4-67
Figure 4-3	Park Plan for Carmel River State Beach4-73
Figure 4-4	Park Plan for New State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property.....4-81
Figure 4-5	Park Plan for New State Park - Hatton Canyon Property4-87
 Tables	
Table ES-1	Summary of Impacts and Guidelines.....ES-15
Table 2-1	Reserve Visitor Attendance Between 2013 and 2016..... 2-9
Table 2-2	Projected Effects of Climate Change on the Central California Coastal Region.....2-26
Table 2-3	Summary of Annual Air Quality Data (2014–2016)2-28
Table 2-4	Annual Visitation to Regional State Parks 2-125
Table 4-1	Site Selection Criteria4-37
Table 4-2	Sample of Potential Desired Conditions and Indicators 4-128
Table 5-1	Typical Noise Levels from Construction Equipment.....5-61
Table 5-2	Cumulative Projects List.....5-84
Table 5-3	Plan Alternatives.....5-89

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
CNDDDB	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 ₁₀	respirable particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less
PM _{2.5}	fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less
Point Lobos Ranch	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) 1. 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.

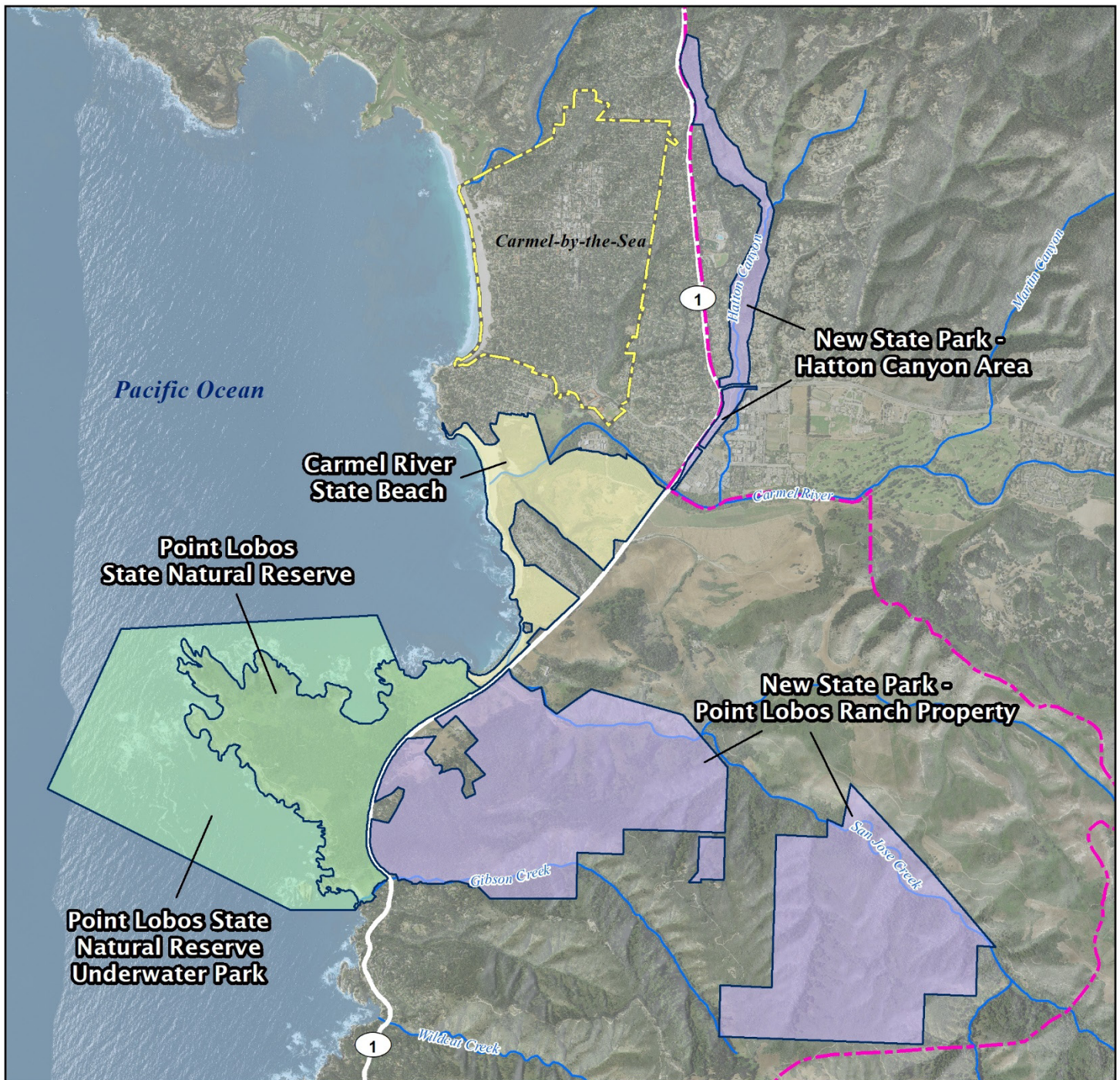
The proposed plan continues the existing classification of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve for the land and marine areas west of SR 1 and creates a new State Park unit to unify the management of the remainder of the state land. This will require the classification of Point Lobos Ranch and Hatton Canyon as part of the State Park. The new State Park would consist of the Point Lobos Ranch Property and the eastern parcel of the Reserve and the Hatton Canyon Property. Figure ES-1 shows the unit classifications in the proposed park plan.

Existing Units/Properties	Proposed Park Units
Point Lobos State Natural Reserve	Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
Carmel River State Beach	Carmel River State Beach
Point Lobos Ranch Property	New State Park (Ishxenta) - Point Lobos Ranch Property
Hatton Canyon Property	New State Park (Ishxenta) - Hatton Canyon Property

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.



Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification

Legend

- Planning Area Boundary
- City Limits
- Highway
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- Creek/River

Classification

- State Beach
- State Natural Reserve
- State Park

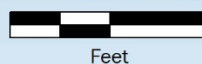
Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.

Source: Data provided by Caltrans in 2010 and CSP in 2012.

NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery

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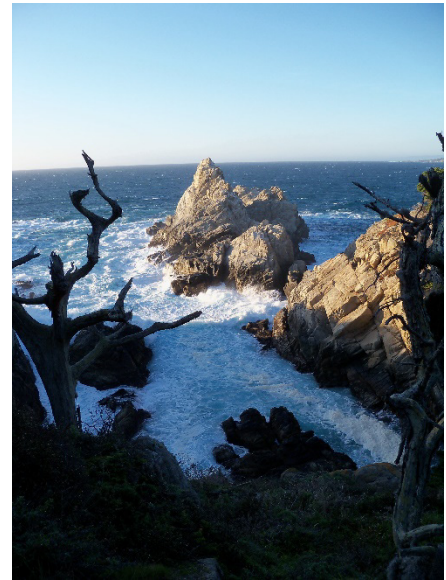


Feet



Figure ES-I Proposed Park Plan Units and Classification

The Reserve and Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property are in Monterey County along SR 1, approximately 1 to 3 miles south of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. The Reserve is located west of SR 1 on Point Lobos, surrounded on three sides by the ocean. The Carmel River State Beach is located west of SR 1 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 freshwater lagoon behind Carmel River Beach. The Point Lobos Ranch Property is east of SR 1 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 Point Lobos State Ranch Property. Together, these lands contain coastal terrace and mountain slopes, two streams (San Jose Creek, Gibson Creek), and rare plant community types. Hatton Canyon Property 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 1 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

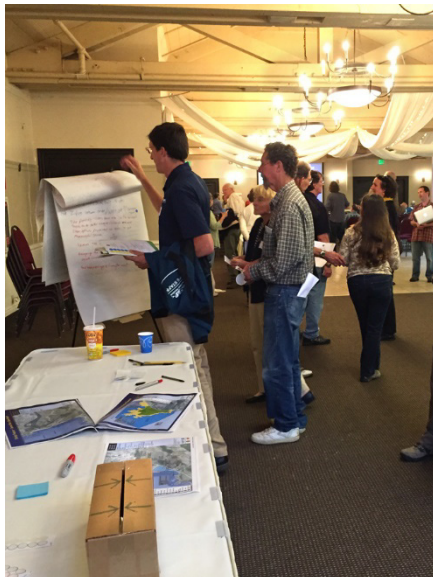
A general plan is the primary management document for a park. It defines a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and operations. Because a general plan can be in effect for 20 years or more, it must be flexible enough to accommodate expected future changes.

to reduce resource degradation by redistributing visitor use, in conjunction with other visitor management strategies.

Planning Efforts and Public Outreach

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

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).



June 2015 Public Workshop on the General Plan alternatives

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 Ishxenta 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. Ishxenta 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 Carmel River State Beach. 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 peak-demand periods (seasonally), coordinated with docent-led tours or self-guided visits, and implemented with digital and internet applications for convenience. Opening of the Point Lobos Ranch Property 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 on the Point Lobos Ranch Property.



Parking along the shoulder of SR 1 near the parks contributes to traffic congestion

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 1 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 1 near the Reserve and Carmel River State Beach

contributes to traffic congestion, creates pedestrian risks, and adds to excessive uncontrolled walk-in visitation to the Reserve.

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 Point Lobos Ranch Property. This process can take place in stages, if and when it may be needed. On the Point Lobos Ranch Property, sites may be suitable to relocate parking from resource-degraded areas in the Reserve; however, care in locating facilities is important because the Point Lobos Ranch Property 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 Point Lobos Ranch Property and Hatton Canyon Property 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, 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 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 Ishxenta 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



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.

Plan is designed to achieve protection of natural resources, while providing for high-quality outdoor recreation experiences, interpretation, and education for park visitors.

Protection of the Native American Heritage and Prehistoric Cultural Resources



Point Lobos Ranch

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 at Carmel River State Beach and a new cultural preserve on the Point Lobos Ranch Property are sub-unit classifications proposed within Ishxenta 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), at Carmel River State Beach (e.g., Odello Farm complex), and on the Point Lobos Ranch Property (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 Carmel River State Beach 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 (Ishxenta 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. Ishxenta State Park will be managed as a

There are 16 management zones in the Reserve and Ishxenta 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.

composite whole to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes in balance with creating high-quality visitor experiences and outdoor recreation opportunities.

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

Carmel River State Beach

- 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

Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property

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

Ishxenta State Park – Hatton Canyon Property

- 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 Ishxenta 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.

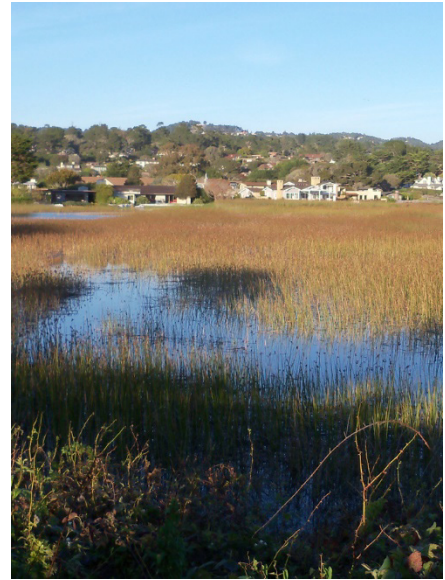
Partnerships

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.

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 Carmel River State Beach and Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property, 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.



Carmel River lagoon



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 Carmel River State Beach, 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.



Park sign at Reserve entrance and SR 1 indicating that all parking lots are full

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 1. 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 on the Point Lobos Ranch Property near the A.M. Allan Ranch complex or along San Jose Creek Canyon Road and within Carmel River State Beach 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
- Facility Use Plan



Picnic tables next to Whalers Cove parking lot in the Reserve

- Forest Management Plan (Allan Memorial Cypress Grove)
- Forest Management Plan (Ishxenta State Park – Point Lobos Ranch Property)
- Historic Structure Reports
- Interpretation Master Plan
- Multimodal Access and Parking Management Plan
- Natural Resource Management Plans
- Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Reservation Plan
- Road and Trail Management Plan
- Shuttle Transportation/Circulation Plans
- Treatment Plans for Historic Resources
- Wildfire Management Plans

Environmental Analysis



Native wildflowers along the North Shore Trail in the Reserve

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 I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
Aesthetics		
<p>AESTHETICS-1: Effect on a scenic vista, scenic resources, or the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 10.1 Remove or screen from view built elements that have negative aesthetic qualities.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I

	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 1 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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Limit artificial light to minimize brightening the dark night sky.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		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-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.	LTS	No guidelines are required.
AIR-2: Long-term operations- and visitor-related emissions of ROG, NO_x, 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.	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. 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
<p>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.</p>	LTS	No guidelines are required.
Biological Resources		
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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, fungi, and pathogens, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.2 Identify and limit visitor access to important breeding and rearing areas, including visitor exclusion during marine mammal and</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>shore bird breeding and rearing periods and aquatic habitat occupied by special status fish and amphibians.</p> <p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 2.3 Locate new facilities to minimize encroachment into native wildlife feeding, resting, breeding, and rearing habitats.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 5.8 Maintain trails to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive plants. Brushing/trimming of trailside vegetation will be designed and timed to enhance native vegetation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>changing habitat requirements, including, but not limited to, marine mammal and seabird nesting and breeding seasons.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MARINE ZONE Guideline I.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.</p> <p>COASTAL BLUFF ZONE Guideline I.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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline I.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.</p> <p>CARMEL RIVER LAGOON AND WETLAND NATURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline I.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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
<p>BIO-2: Adverse effects on riparian habitat, wetlands, other waters of the United States, or other sensitive natural communities</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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, fungi, and pathogens, such as pitch canker and beetle infestations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 (ASBS).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

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Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources		
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.3 In consultation with local tribal representatives, 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 8.5 Collaborate with the local tribal representatives to expand Native American interpretation themes, features, and programs related to park resources.</p> <p>OHLONE COASTAL CULTURAL PRESERVE ZONE Guideline 1.1 Monitor important cultural features and, as needed, restrict visitor access to prevent resource degradation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>all cultural resources within the area and procedures to minimize damage to cultural resources through a review process and the application of standards.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

		<p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.5 Identify and evaluate the historic significance of potential cultural landscapes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 9.7 Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the importance of protecting historic resources.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.2 Conduct research necessary to prepare a historic context focusing on farming and ranching activities and architecture.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ODELLO FARM ZONE Guideline 1.6 Stabilize the Barn and treat for weathering, water infiltration, and pest infestation. Reconstruct the Barn's north bay</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>and south elevation in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>CULTURE-3: Disturbance of human remains</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	No guidelines are required.
Geology, Soils, and Seismicity		
<p>GEO-1: Adverse effects from earthquake faults, seismic ground shaking, seismic ground failure, or landslides</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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 support opportunities to restore natural processes that have been disrupted.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

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<p>GEO-2: Soil erosion or loss of topsoil</p> <p>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 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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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 support opportunities to restore natural processes that have been disrupted.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.1 Inventory, map, and monitor paleontological resources for their protection, preservation, and interpretation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide MANAGE Guideline 6.3 Develop interpretive programs and facilities that inform visitors about the formation, sensitivity, and importance of protecting paleontological resources.</p> <p>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.</p>
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change		
<p>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,</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
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.		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.
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-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	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
disposal of hazardous materials or from reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions. This impact would be less than significant.		
<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	No guidelines are required.
<p>HAZ-3: Interfere with implementation of an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>HAZ-4: Expose people or structures to wildland fire hazards</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Hydrology and Water Quality		
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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;

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>HYDRO-2: Potential for increase in stormwater runoff, impacts to existing drainage systems, or alteration of drainage patterns</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		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.
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. Support restoration of floodplains and hydrological processes.
Noise		
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.	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 – Point Lobos Ranch Property 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		
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, the reuse of existing	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.

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
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.		<p>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2 Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.</p> <p>UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1 Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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. <p>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.</p>
<p>UTIL-2: Increased demand for wastewater treatment or infrastructure</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.1 Upgrade utilities and infrastructure that are critical for park use, management, and needed to support planned operations.</p> <p>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 1.2 Minimize water demand and wastewater generation in the planning and design of visitor facilities.</p> <p>UPLAND RESERVE ZONE Guideline 5.1 Identify and prioritize specific utility and infrastructure improvements. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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. <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
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.
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 – Point Lobos Ranch Property 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.1 Provide more visible warning signage with clear messaging at the beach.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>COASTAL MARGIN ZONE Guideline 2.3 Improve lifeguard staffing levels to provide adequate coverage.</p>
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	LTS	<p>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 2.4 Provide some staff housing in existing structures for security and surveillance of parklands.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
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 – Point Lobos Ranch Property. 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.		<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide 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.</p> <p>Parkwide MAINTAIN Guideline 4.5 Evaluate signage informing visitors of known hazards and install or improve signage where appropriate and necessary.</p> <p>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.</p>
Recreation		
<p>REC-1: Include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment</p> <p>Plan implementation would continue the ongoing management of recreational uses, as well as the introduction of new outdoor recreation facilities in the previously inaccessible Point Lobos Ranch Property. Facility development and management 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; and guidelines to manage the volume of visitors to the CASP units. This would be a less-than-significant impact.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
Traffic and Transportation		
<p>TRAFFIC-1: Impacts to roadway operation that conflicts with a plan, ordinance, policy, or program</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Caltrans, and California Coastal Commission, 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 1 pedestrian crossings.</p>
<p>TRAFFIC-2: Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses</p> <p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Caltrans, and California Coastal Commission, 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 1 pedestrian crossings.</p> <p>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 4.1 Transportation improvements needed for highway access into the parks from SR 1 will take into account existing on-highway parking for pertinent design issues, such as intersection sight distance, signage, and turning lanes, if needed.</p> <p>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,</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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).</p> <p>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 1 into and out of the Reserve. Conduct a feasibility and design study of SR 1 crossing concepts for pedestrians from the Point Lobos Ranch Property, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	LTS	<p>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.</p> <p>Parkwide ACCESS Guideline 3.3 Coordinate with local and regional partners, including Monterey County Public Works Department, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, Monterey-Salinas Transit, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Caltrans, and California Coastal Commission, 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</p>

Table ES I Summary of Impacts and Guidelines

Potential Impact	Level of Significance	Guidelines that Result in a Less-Than-Significant Impact
		<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 Point Lobos Ranch Property, if Reserve-serving parking is developed.</p>



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.

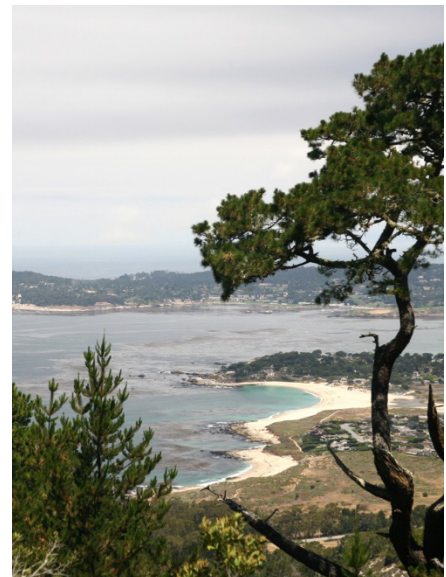
A major tourism destination, the region is well known for its distinctive coastal scenery and extensive open space. It also contains the urban communities of the cities of Monterey, Salinas, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Seaside, Marina, and Sand City. Large alluvial valley areas in the region are in active agriculture.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



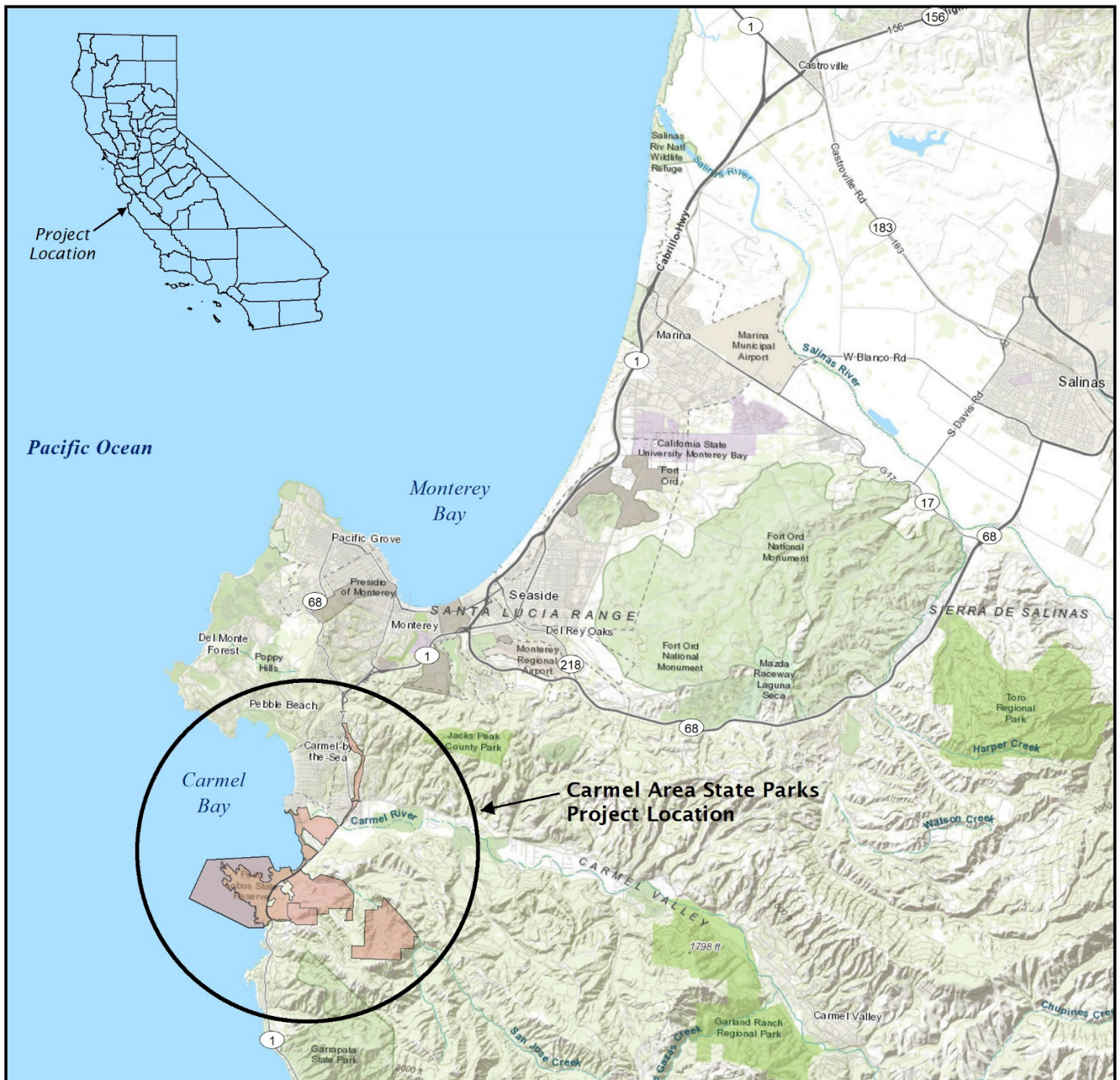
Carmel Point

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

G13010017 01 082

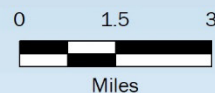
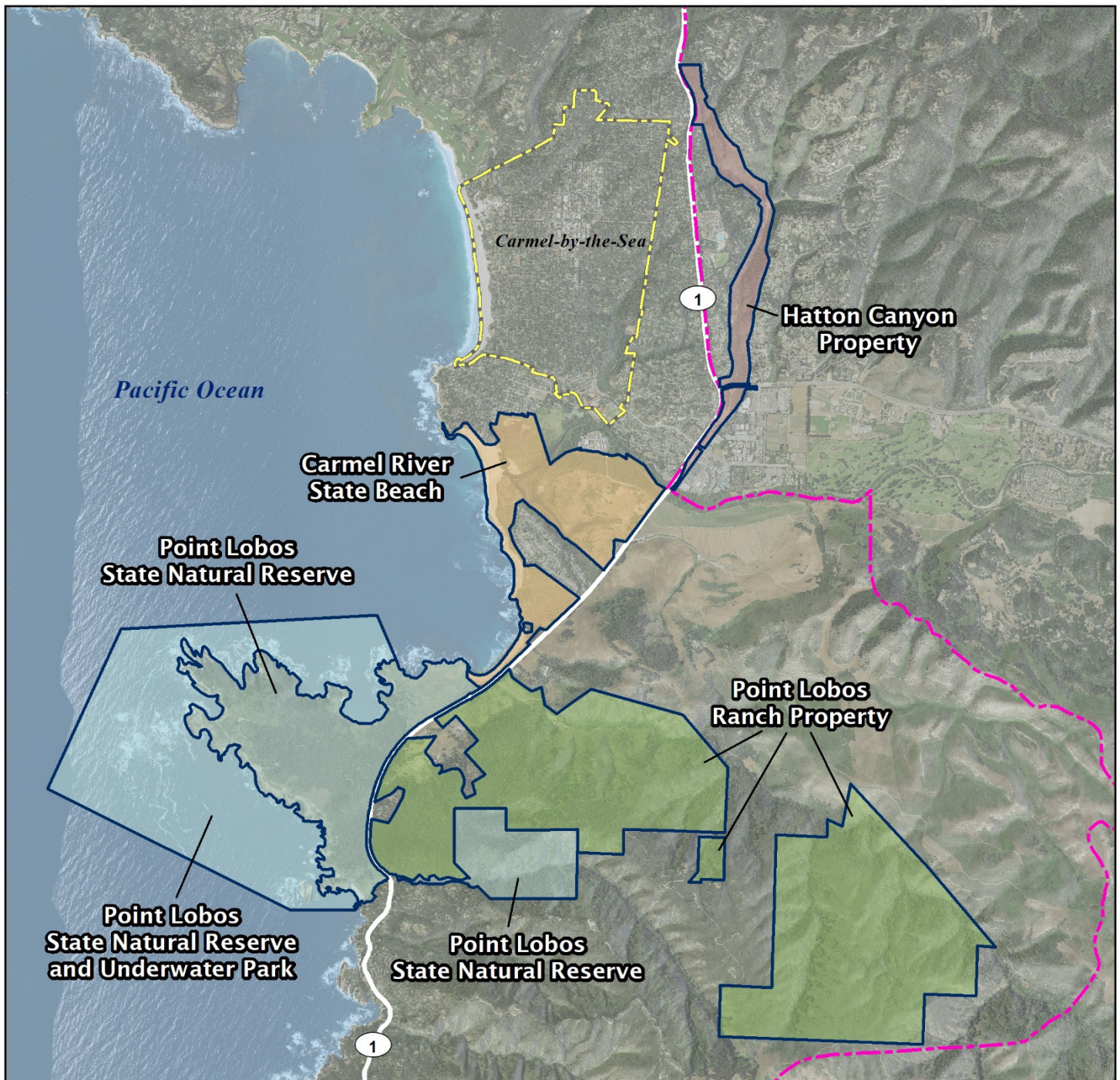


Figure I-1 Regional Location of CASP Units



Carmel Area State Parks General Plan

Local Context

Legend

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

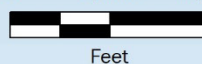
Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions.

Source: Data provided by CSP in 2013.

NAIP 2014 Aerial Imagery

G13010017 01 063

0 2,000 4,000



Feet



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 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 pastureland.

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

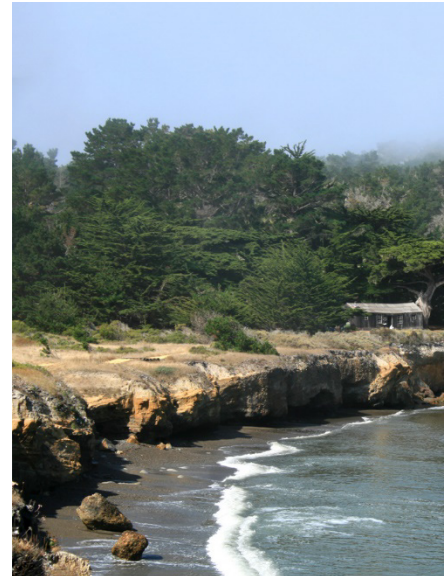
1.3.1 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

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.



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:

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.

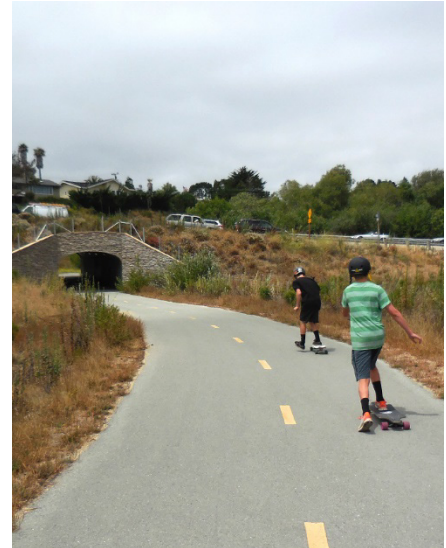
The purpose of Carmel River State Beach is to provide the people, forever, for their enlightenment, inspiration, esthetic enjoyment, and recreational pursuits a combination of beautiful sandy beaches and rocky bluffs, including the coastal strand, coastal bluff and coastal scrub communities, and the 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.

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.



Carmel River Lagoon and Wetland Natural Preserve

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.

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.

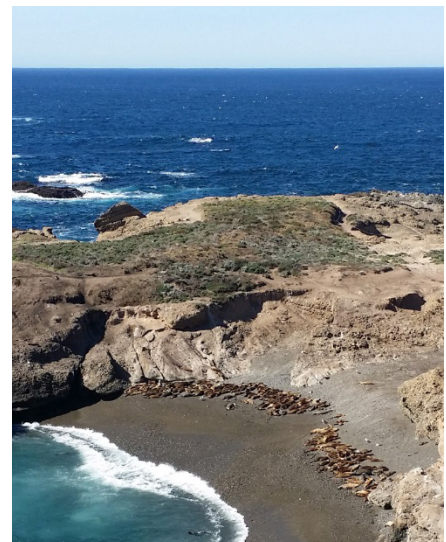
1.4.4 Hatton Canyon Property

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 was submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for consideration and final approval. The Environmental Impact Report was certified and the General Plan Revision was approved on May 21, 2021.



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 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 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.

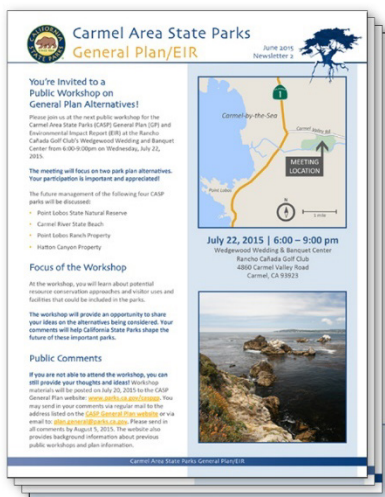
Other regional parks visited most frequently by survey participants were Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Asilomar State Beach, Garrapata State Park, and Monterey State Historic Park.

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.

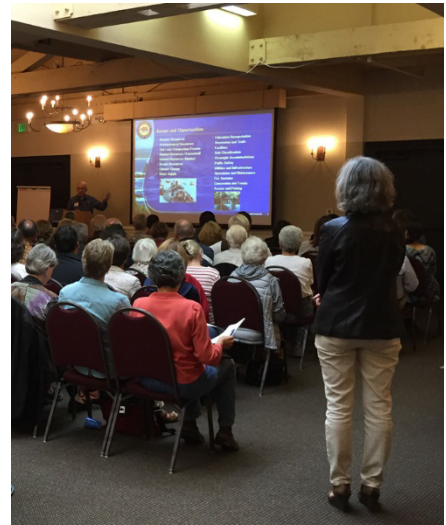
Public Workshops

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.

CEQA Public Review Process

On July 30, 2018, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) released the Draft EIR for public review and comment for a 60-day period ending October 1, 2018. The Draft EIR was submitted to the California State Clearinghouse for distribution to reviewing agencies; posted on the CASP General Plan website (www.parks.ca.gov/caspgp); and was made available at the CSP Monterey District office, Monterey County Free Library, Harrison Memorial Library (Main Branch and Park Branch), Monterey Public Library, and John Steinbeck Library. A notice of availability of the Draft EIR was published in the Monterey County Herald, the Monterey Coast Weekly, and the Carmel Pine Cone and distributed by CSP to a project-specific mailing list. The notice of availability was also filed with the Monterey County Clerk's office.

A public information open house was held on September 10, 2018 in the Wedgewood Wedding and Banquet Center at the former Rancho Canada Golf Club in Carmel to receive input from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR. Written comments were accepted and DPR staff were available to answer questions and discuss the project proposals.

The Final EIR, including written responses to comments on the Draft EIR was released in November 2020. The public hearing for certification of the EIR and approval of the General Plan was held (online) on May 21, 2021.

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



E-mail notices were sent to interested parties

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.

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.

1.8.3 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

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.

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

- Cultural Landscape Report
- Cultural Resource Management Plans
- Facility Use Plan
- Forest Management Plan (Ishxenta State Park — Point Lobos Ranch Property)
- 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
- Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Reservation Plan
- Shuttle Transportation/Circulation Plans
- Treatment Plans for Historic Resources

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