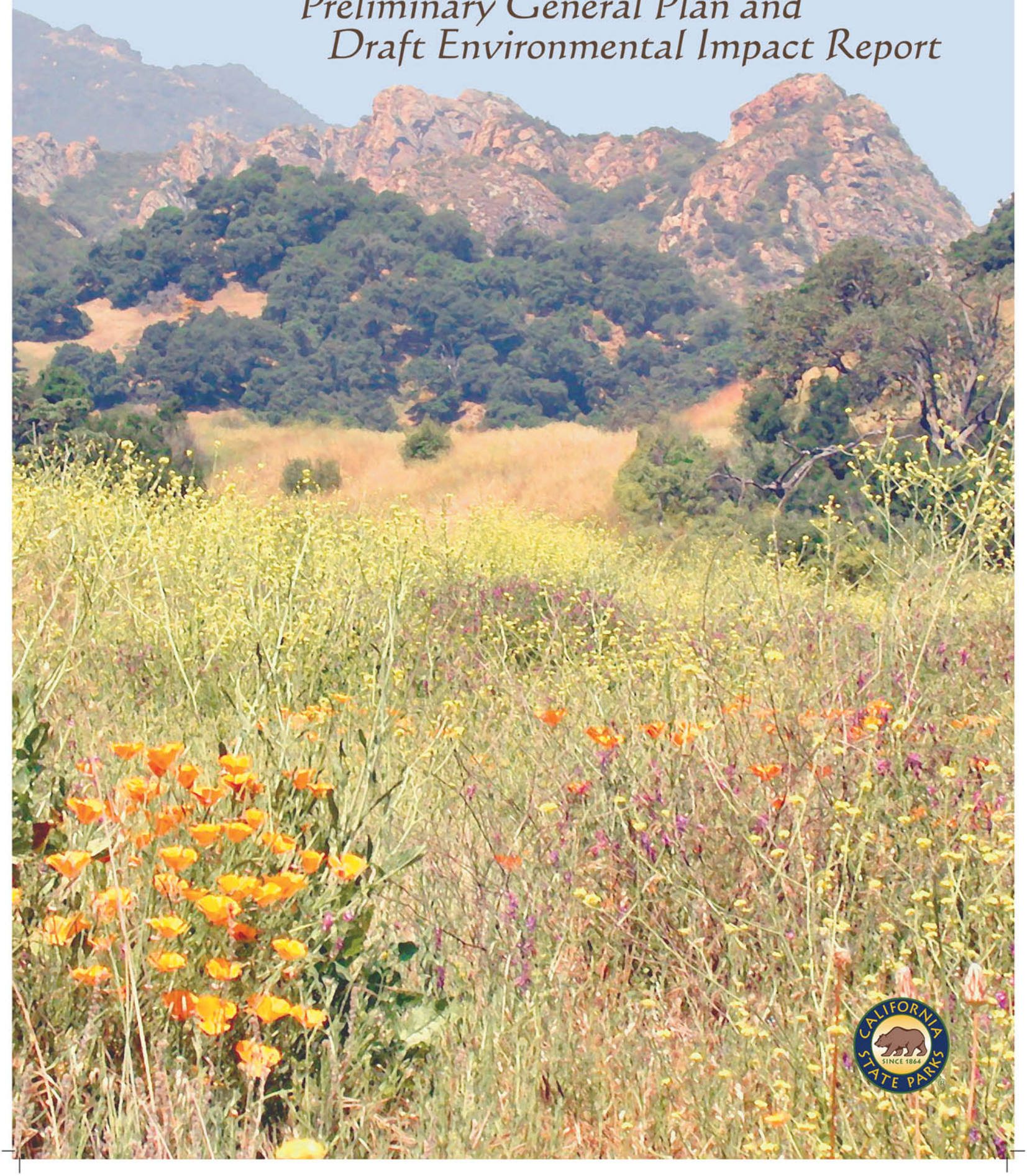
California Department of Parks and Recreation

November 2003

Malibu Creek State Park

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report



MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCH No. 2002121108

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Summary

The Malibu Creek State Park General Plan (General Plan) provides a broad vision for the long-term management of the Park, outlining key management intentions for an ecologically healthy and visitor-friendly park. One of the primary objectives of this plan is the need and desire to balance ecological and human processes, which is represented by the General Plan's purpose statement:

> *The primary purpose of Malibu Creek State Park (Park) is to protect and perpetuate the woodland and riparian features of a ruggedly beautiful natural landscape that has been set aside for the protection of its diverse natural resources. These resources include rare biota and regionally important expanses of coastal scrublands, oak woodlands and savannas, and riparian systems along Malibu and Las Virgenes creeks. The enjoyment of these natural features and the cultural history of the Park is to be made available to the public in a manner that is compatible with the Park's ecological values and the recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities that the California Park System provides.*

Chapter 1 introduces the plan by providing a synopsis of the Park's origins and development to date, including the public meetings and consultation that led to the development of this General Plan.

The rich and varied ecological, cultural, visitor, and staff resources provided by and at the Park are outlined in Chapter 2. An assessment of the condition of those and other Park resources is integrated with discussion of visitor demographic characteristics, the role of Park interest groups, and public concerns regarding management of the Park. The influence of system-wide policies and guidelines established by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), which manages the Park, as well as region-wide influences such as encroaching development and habitat fragmentation, are discussed.

The Park Plan, provided in Chapter 3, contains a comprehensive and cohesive set of Park-wide and location-specific goals and guidelines for the long-term direction of the Park. This chapter provides broad-scope direction for the management of those natural, cultural, and recreational resources discussed in Chapter 2. The Park Plan also addresses the important question of carrying capacity, and introduces a set of indicators for use in adaptive management of the Park. A comprehensive set of management zones are introduced, encompassing the entire Park and providing detailed direction tailored to each of the use and condition characteristics at the Park. The four zones – Core Habitat, Natural Open Space, Cultural/Historic, and Recreation/Operations – provide desirable experiences for visitors while enhancing and preserving the natural and cultural features that make the Park a unique destination.

Analysis of the proposed General Plan is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This analysis is provided in Chapter 4, which represents a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR examines the goals and objectives outlined in the Park Plan. Chapter 4 concludes with a discussion of alternatives to the proposed plan, focusing on recreational and conservation-based alternatives, as well as the no project alternative.

Chapters 5, 6, and 7 conclude the report with a synopsis of organizations and persons contacted while preparing this plan, report contributors, and references cited.

This plan supercedes the Park's original General Plan, which was adopted in 1978.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Malibu Creek State Park is an area of outstanding natural and scenic beauty in the midst of a large metropolitan area. On any given day, visitors can access dramatic mountain peaks with views of the Pacific Ocean, walk through lush oak woodland valleys, relax on the edge of beautiful streams and pools and enjoy picturesque rock formations. Visitors of all abilities and ages can experience the natural environment and learn about the rich history of the Park. The Park is a place for visitors to retreat from their hectic daily life and be inspired and renewed by nature.

The primary purpose of Malibu Creek State Park (Park) is to protect and perpetuate the woodland and riparian features of a ruggedly beautiful natural landscape that has been set aside for the protection of its diverse natural resources. These resources include rare biota and regionally important expanses of coastal scrublands, oak woodlands and savannas, and riparian systems along Malibu and Las Virgenes creeks. The enjoyment of these natural features and the cultural history of the Park is to be made available to the public in a manner that is compatible with the Park's ecological values and the recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities that the California Park System provides.

1.1 PARK LOCATION AND HISTORY

Malibu Creek State Park has been referred to as the "Yosemite of Los Angeles." The 7,553-acre Park and its majestic creek are valuable resources to parched Angelinos and visitors from around the world and a welcome respite from an expanse of urban sprawl. Owned and operated by the Department as a part of the larger State Park System, the Park serves visitors from one of the most recreationally underserved metropolitan areas in the United States. The Park is more than an important gathering place for the public; it also serves a critical role in preserving the dwindling oak woodlands and valley oak savanna groves, riparian woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, freshwater marsh, and other sensitive plant regimes. Moreover, the rich and varied cultural heritage of the Park provides many opportunities to experience and learn about the way the land has been used over time.

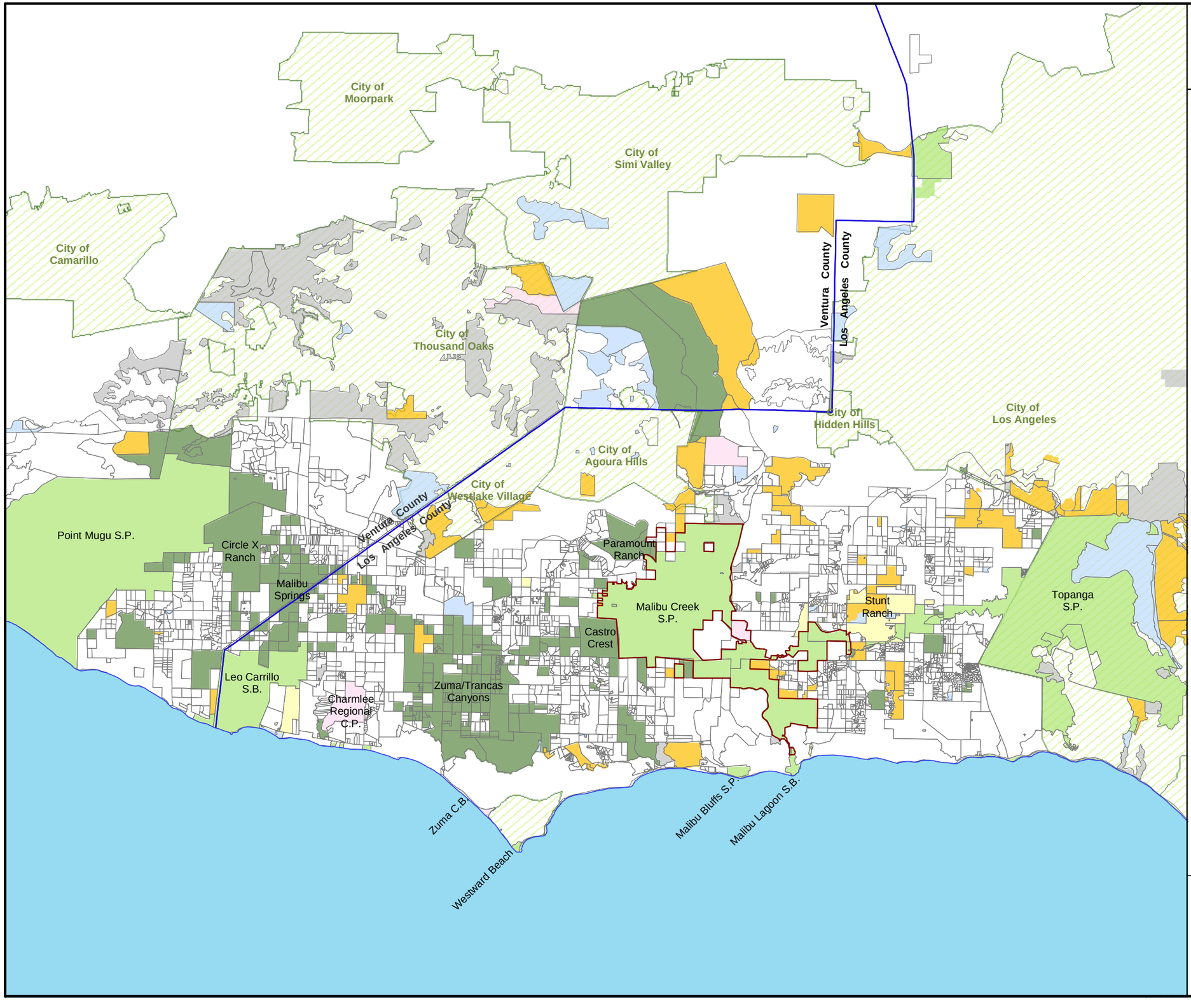
Much of the parkland is bordered and buffered from developed land by other government owned property. The Park is located approximately 25 miles west of downtown Los Angeles in the heart of the National Park Services' Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), one of the world's largest urban recreation areas situated in the northwestern corner of the populous and diverse County of Los Angeles (Figure 1). Outside of the SMMNRA, the Park is surrounded by a number of cities and communities in Los Angeles County. North of the Park, lies the City of Agoura Hills and the unincorporated communities of Cornell and Agoura; northeast of the Park lie the cities of Calabasas and Hidden Hills, and the communities of Calabasas Highlands and Calabasas Park; east of the Park lies the community of Monte Nido. The city of Malibu lies within the SMMNRA, as do the nearby unincorporated areas of Malibu Bowl and El Nido. The community of Malibou Lake lies to the northwest of the Park.

The Santa Monica Mountains connect the Park to other parks and open space areas through a series of trail systems in and around Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The mountains are unique in that they represent a Southern Mediterranean biome, one of only five such ecosystems in the world, and are home to numerous species of animals and native plant communities, including several threatened and endangered species.

There is much evidence of the rich cultural history of the area (Table 1-1). The largest western tribe, the Chumash Indians, first inhabited the region extending from northern San Luis Obispo County, south to Malibu, and west to the Channel Islands. The Chumash still consider many sites in and around the Park as "sacred sites." There is evidence of a Chumash village near the main entrance station on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road. In the late 18th century, Spanish explorers traveled through the region and were soon followed by Spanish missionaries. The Europeans brought livestock and exotic plants as well as new diseases, greatly affecting the Native American villages and bringing the traditional Chumash era to an end.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 1
REGIONAL SETTING



Basemap Features

- MCSP Boundary
- City Boundaries
- County Lines
- NPS
- State Parks
- MRCA&SMMC
- County Parkland
- COSCA
- Other
- MRT

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 2.5 miles

0 1.25 2.5 5

Miles

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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p:/2003/2j108 Malibu Creek/Graphics_GIS_CAD/Outputs/Final/Draft General Plan

At the turn of the 19th century, Mexican rancheros moved into the region and established large cattle ranches. After the Mexican-American War, the rancheros sold pieces of their large land holdings to American homesteaders. The Americans set up small farms and cattle ranches and cleared many of the oak trees. Such ranches and farms dominated the area throughout most of the century; however, insufficient surface and well water brought hard times. Eventually the lack of water drove most to more hospitable lands.

Table 1-1
Timeline of Land Use in Malibu Creek State Park Area

Timeline	Events in Area of Current Malibu Creek State Park
7000 BP*	Early human settlement in the Santa Monica Mountains
2000 BP	Chumash occupy the coastal region from San Luis Obispo to Malibu Canyon
14th century to mid-18th century	European explorers passed through the Santa Monica Mountains
mid-18th century to early 20th century	Mexican and American settlers brought ranching and farming to the area
1863	Sepulveda Adobe constructed at present location
1910	Resorts and country clubs were established in the Santa Monica Mountains
1911	Curtis Colyear purchases 160 acres in the Las Virgenes Valley for agricultural use. His land is the original portion of White Oak Farm
1946	Movie and television filming began in the Park
1973 - 1975	The Department purchased the 20th Century-Fox property in the Santa Monica Mountains; obtained Reagan Ranch and Hope Ranch
1976	The Department opened the Park to the public

*Before Present

The modern metropolis of Los Angeles began to take shape in the early 20th century. The mountainous region's proximity to Los Angeles made the area desirable for recreation and filmmaking. At the beginning of the century, land now in the Park was owned by Crags Country Club, a private hunting club. By mid-century, the club was closed and 20th Century Fox began to film movies on the land. A few years later, the studio decided to purchase the property. The dramatic scenery provided the setting for numerous films and commercials until the State of California (State) purchased the land in the mid-1970s.

1.2 PURPOSE FOR ACQUISITION

The current boundaries of the Park are shown on Figure 2. As discussed above, much of the present-day Park was owned by 20th Century Fox from 1946 to 1973. This land, referred to as the Century Ranch, was purchased by the State in 1973, with other contiguous parcels soon acquired. In 1975, a 1,000-acre parcel north of Mulholland Highway was purchased from Bob Hope and soon after, Reagan Ranch was acquired from former President Ronald Reagan. The State classified the land as a State Park to restore and preserve the natural beauty of the area, which opened to the public on July 10, 1976.

The State has greatly expanded the size of the Park since it opened. Between 1978 and 1982, a number of large properties were acquired, including the large meadow south of Stokes Creek, land along Mulholland Highway, and more than 1,000 acres along Bulldog Canyon and along Mesa Peak Road in the southern portion of the Park. Land purchases later extended the Park boundary south toward the coast and east along the Backbone Trail to Saddle Peak Road. More recently, the State negotiated a land swap with the County of Los Angeles (County) that transferred ownership of Tapia Park to the Department, and Placerita Canyon Park to the County.

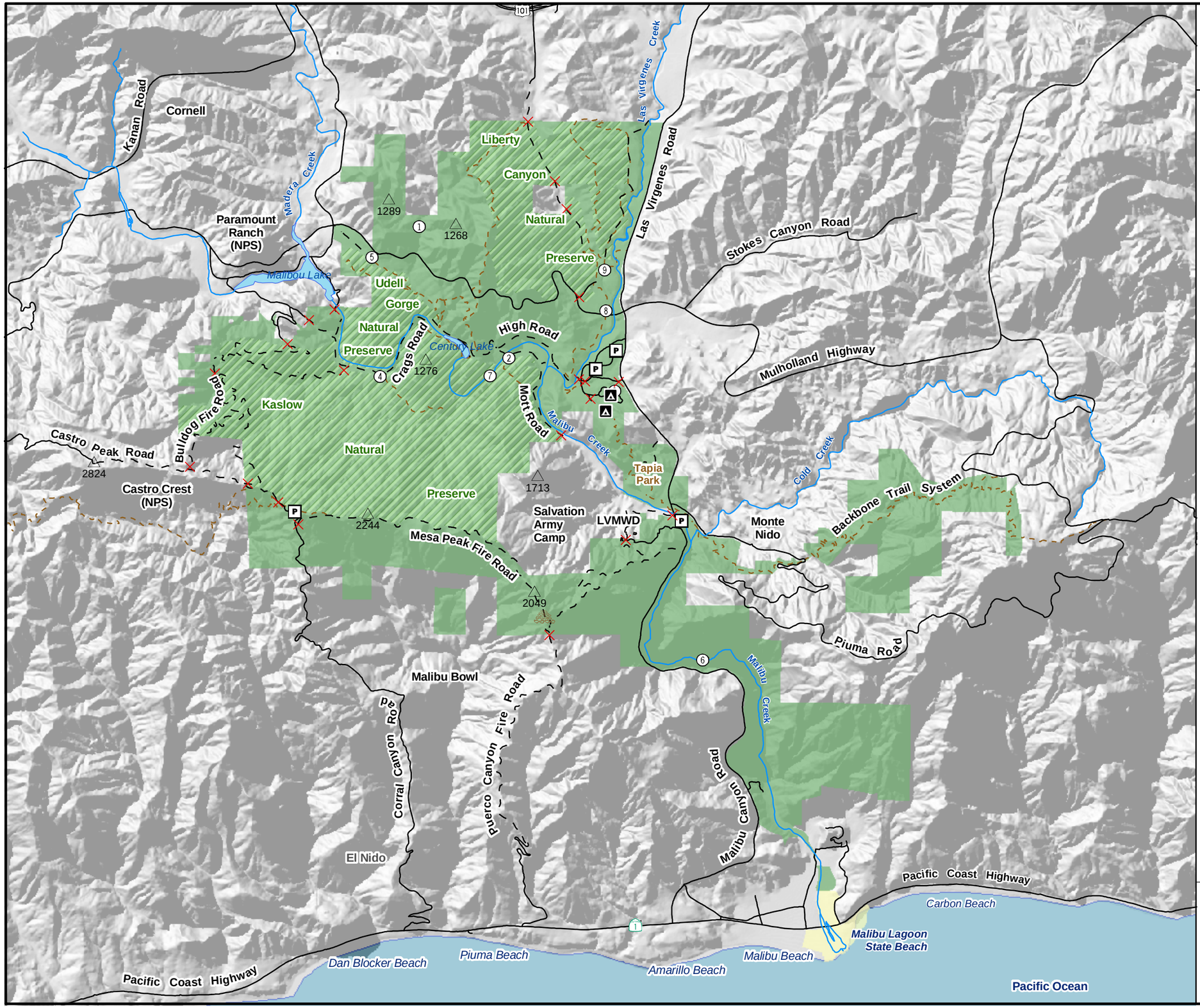
The Department continues to acquire land surrounding the Park in an effort to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources and expand recreational and support facilities for future generations.

1.3 SPIRIT OF THE PLACE

The Park is a place of rugged natural beauty. The Park provides escape from the urban environment with its outstanding scenic character, its historic buildings and cultural sites, as well as passive and active recreational opportunities. Visitors to the Park are greeted by dramatic geologic formations and inspired by vast open vistas and natural treasures. The name “Yosemite of Los Angeles” was inspired by the similar features in Yosemite National Park, particularly the dramatic rock formations and water elements.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 2
PARK FEATURES



Basemap Features

- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Landslide
- Mountains
- Natural Preserves

Park Features

1. April Road House/Greenhouse
2. Hunt House
3. Hunter House
4. MASH Site
5. Reagan Ranch
6. Rindge Dam
7. Rock Pool
8. Sepulveda Adobe
9. White Oak Farm
- Parking
- Existing Official Campground

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
Feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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The Park offers a wide variety of cultural perspectives reflective of the coastal southern California region. Evidence from thousands of years of Native American inhabitance can be found throughout the Park, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn about the region's first inhabitants. The area's history can be enjoyed by visiting the newly refurbished 19th century adobe (Sepulveda Adobe), the ruins of the Mott Adobe, an early 20th century hunting club and farm, and ranches owned by former President Ronald Reagan and actor/comedian Bob Hope. Visitors are also drawn to the Park by its long history of television and film activities, including popular filming locations for Tarzan, Roots, Planet of the Apes, M*A*S*H, and Pleasantville.

The Park's history has been greatly influenced by the natural conditions present in the Santa Monica Mountains. The following excerpt from author Milt McAuley's *Hiking Trails of Malibu Creek State Park* (1996) describes the natural attributes of the Park that have attracted humans for thousands of years:

> Welcome to this mountain park, nestled deep in the Santa Monica Mountains, and cradled in a bedrock of volcanic stone. Conceived of ocean deposits, matured by time, and born of compressive land forces, this land has seen fire and flood, and grown through earthquake and volcanic action.
>
> Come along with me on a hike into the Park. We'll walk a trail high on the ridge where we can view the ocean on one side and see Malibu Canyon on the other. We will make our way through canyons that see filtered sunshine only at midday and seldom feel the wrath of wind. We will lean against a sycamore at the edge of Rock Pool and marvel at this exquisite jewel mounted in a natural setting. Nature has indeed created a masterpiece with this enchanted spot.
>
> Come along with me some day in spring, and we'll see wildflowers in bloom along every trail, in every field, and on all the ridges. We'll work our way along a streambed and look for ferns; Golden back, Polypody, and Woody ferns are easy to find, so we'll look for the more elusive Maidenhair and Chain fern. You are challenged to find the Bigleaf maples, the Dogwood, and the Chocolate lilies – they are all here.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

General Plans are broad policy documents that set the direction for park management and development. State Park General Plans are mandated under PRC Section 5002.2 (a).

General Plans are designed to provide guidance for a broad, long-range strategic time frame. The General Planning process does not attempt to identify specific steps for meeting its identified goals. The specifics of implementation will be

addressed in follow-up management plans (operational, interpretative, landscape, recreation, natural resource protection, etc.), which will include the necessary detailed planning objectives to be achieved for individual park areas, resources, or programs.

Rick Montgomery, Malibu Creek Docents

Future planning efforts will invite public com-ments to address visitor needs and community interests. In addition, management plans and subsequent development projects are subject to additional environmental review to address issues unforeseen during the General Plan process.

The public has several opportunities to provide comments and suggestions for Park improvements during the general planning process. Three public meetings were held to ensure input from the community at key stages during plan development. The first meeting was held on January 9, 2003. The Department described the General Plan process and the community had the opportunity to comment on the Park's existing conditions, suggestions for Park improvements, and enhancements. A summary of the comments discussed at the public meetings is provided in Appendix B.

At the second meeting on July 23, 2003, three alternatives were presented to the community based on the first public meeting's existing conditions information. Based on the public comments, these alternatives were then refined into a Preferred Alternative.

A draft EIR was developed to assess the potential environmental impacts of the planned development and management strategies in the General Plan, pursuant to the requirements of the CEQA. At this point, the public and other governmental agencies received notification for comment on the scope of the Draft EIR and the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the General Plan.

After the completion of the Draft EIR review period, a Final EIR was completed. The Department then reviewed the EIR for adequacy and considered the document for certification. Both the Final EIR and Final Draft of the Park's General Plan were considered for approval or denial on a separate basis to the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

The General Plan does not attempt to identify specific objectives for meeting its identified goals, but rather sets broad goals to direct those steps. The specifics of implementation will be addressed in subsequent management plans, which will include the necessary detailed planning documents. These documents will require additional public and government agency review to ensure adherence to the goals established within this General Plan. Some management plans, such as those required for resource protection, are based on legislation or other directives. Future planning efforts will invite public comments to address visitor needs and community interests. In addition, management plans and subsequent development projects are subject to further environmental review.

The planning and development guidelines provided in the 1978 General Plan were developed for a park that had just been established. In 1978, the Park did not have an entrance, trails, parking, or other facilities, so the 1978 General Plan established a framework for a new park. This new General Plan supercedes the original General Plan, adopted just two years after the Park was opened to the public, and endeavors to restore and maintain the Park's natural and cultural resources, while improving opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Creative and strategic responses will be required by the Department as new opportunities to meet the established goals of the General Plan emerge.

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Chapter 2 Existing Conditions and Issues

2.1 PARK SUMMARY

Malibu Creek meanders through the Santa Monica Mountains supporting a complex mosaic of life critical to maintaining the regional ecosystem. The 7,553-acre Park serves as one of the last areas of natural open space in Los Angeles County and has a rich history dating back to early Native American occupation. The Park's rugged mountains and scenic vistas have attracted visitors since the turn of the 20th century. Visitors can spend the day picnicking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, swimming, or visiting historic sites. Overnight camping and special programs for school age children and outdoor recreational enthusiasts are available. On weekdays, the Park continues to be a much-used location for the film and television industry. The following section summarizes the existing land uses, facilities, and significant natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources of the Park.

2.1.1 Park Conditions and Resources

Classification

The Park is classified as a "State Park" as defined in Section 5019.53 of the PRC, which states:

> *State parks consist of relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or natural character, oftentimes also containing significant historical, archaeological, ecological, geological, or other similar values. The purpose of state parks shall be to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, and cultural values, indigenous aquatic and terrestrial fauna and flora, and the most significant examples of ecological regions of California, such as the Sierra Nevada, northeast volcanic, great valley, coastal strip, Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains, southwest mountains and valleys, redwoods, foothills and low coastal mountains, and desert and desert mountains.*
>
> *Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole 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.*

The Park has three areas that have been given the sub-classification of "Natural Preserve." The Natural Preserves, located at Kaslow, Liberty Canyon, and Udell Gorge, together encompass more than one-third of the existing Park acreage. A Natural Preserve is defined in Section 5019.71 of the PRC:

> *Natural preserves consist of distinct non-marine areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other state park system units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations that constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.*

Existing Park Areas

The Park's recreational areas include both day and overnight visitor facilities, as well as Park administrative, maintenance, operation, and staff housing areas.

The Park features over 40 miles of trails and fire roads for hiking, wildlife nature walks, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The existing Park areas are shown in Figure 2 and the main park entrance area is shown in Figure 3. The primary areas of the Park include the main entrance/campground/day use area, the visitor center/Rock Pool/Century Lake area, Tapia Park area, Sepulveda Adobe/White Oak Farm Area, Reagan Ranch Area, Saddle Peak Area, and the Natural Preserves. The main entrance/campground/day use area, the visitor center/Rock Pool/Century Lake area, and Tapia Park area have the most concentrated level of use.

Main Entrance/Campground/Day Use Area

The main Park entrance road is located just south of Mulholland Highway on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road. There is a check-in kiosk staffed by the Department. When open, visitors must check-in with staff and pay an entrance fee to enter the Park day use area or to camp overnight. When the kiosk is closed, visitors are required to use the self pay device for camping and day use fees; an automated system will be installed by May 2004. Visitors have access to parking, picnic tables, limited shaded areas, barbecues, and restroom facilities. As there is little shade in the area, the picnic and barbecue areas can be hot in the summer. Two campgrounds are located farther south of the day use area, and are used year round, but most heavily in the summer months. Camping is available through the Department Reservation System, either online (http://www.reserveamerica.com) or by telephone. The Park's camping facilities includes one group camp site and 63 individual sites that are open year round. The camp services and amenities include trails, fishing areas, fire pits, restrooms, showers, laundry tub, and a dump station.

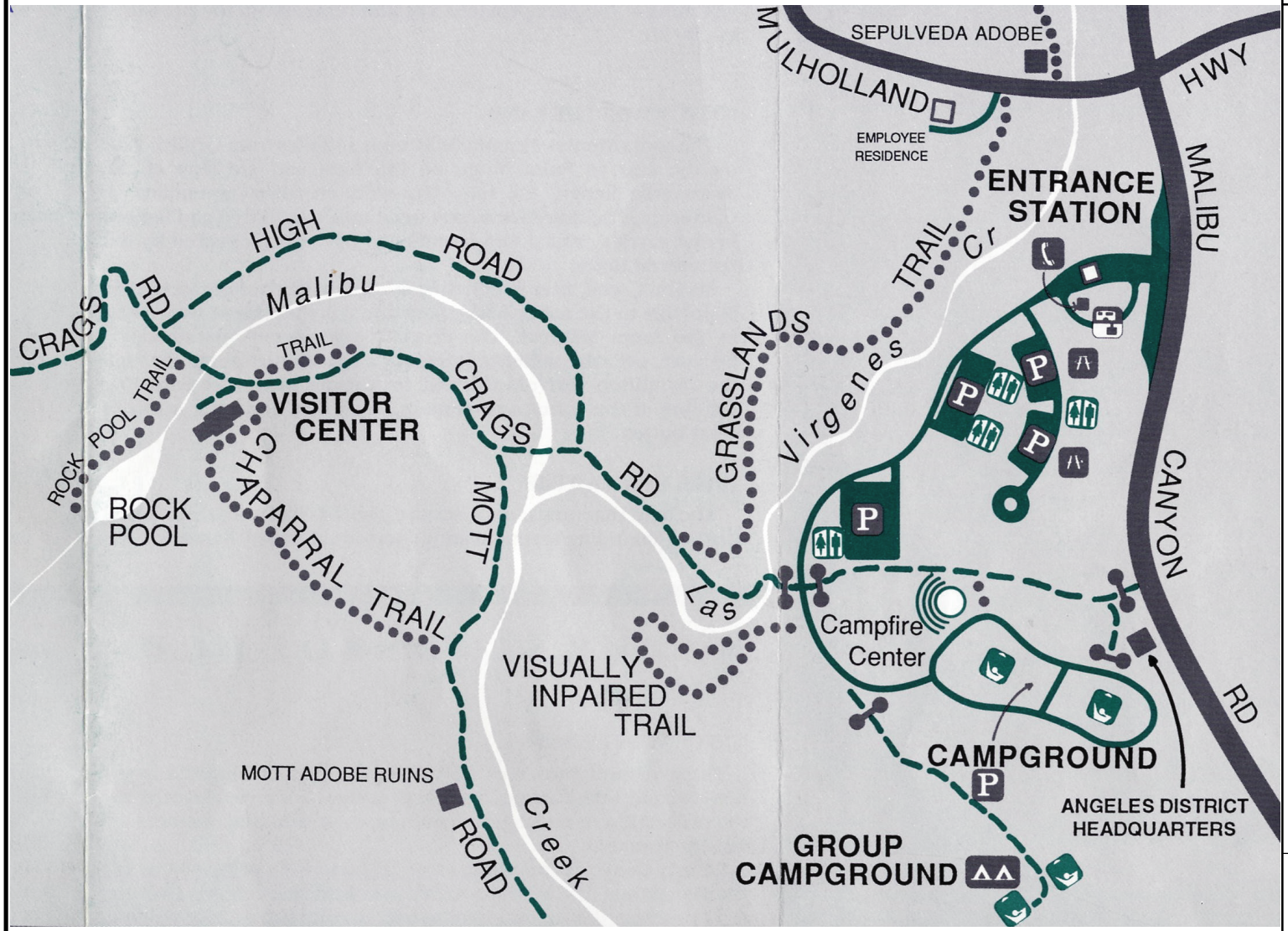
Visitor Center (Hunt House)/Rock Pool/Century Lake Area

A short downhill path leads from the main entrance in the lower (northern) parking lot to Crags Road. Visitors can follow the road a short distance and cross Malibu Creek via a lovely bridge and view or visit the colonial revival-style Hunt House, set amongst a grove of large sycamore trees. During the fall when the leaves are turning, the views are spectacular and often painted by artists. Visitors can view the Park's wildlife exhibits and monitor the latest interpretive activities. The Visitor Center is open on weekends and special holidays, weather permitting. Volunteers staff the Visitor Center from noon to 4 p.m. daily.

Just to the southwest of the Visitor Center lies the Rock Pool, a popular warm weather swimming and wading spot. A dramatic outcrop of granite boulders, and several species of trees and native shrubs surround the pool of water. During

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 3
PARK ENTRANCE AREA



Source: Malibu Creek State Park

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Nov. 25, 2003

the weekend and on hot days, the Rock Pool is used as a swimming, diving, and rock climbing area, which presents visitor safety challenges to Park staff. Further west on Crags Road lies a Century Lake, valued for its scenic appeal and bird watching opportunities. Century Lake is also a popular fishing area. Access is limited due to trail erosion and the dense brush that has grown around the lake.

Sepulveda Adobe/White Oak Farm Area

North of the main entrance area lies the Sepulveda Adobe, located off of Mulholland Highway and west of Las Virgenes Road. The adobe was damaged during the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, but renovated and reopened on May 31, 2003. Renovations were completed through State Park Bond funds, Deferred Maintenance Funds, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds. After renovation, the adobe was reopened to the public. Archaeological investigations are ongoing.

About a half-mile northeast of the Sepulveda Adobe on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road lies White Oak Farm, currently used as State Park staff housing. Motorists and recreationists can view the charming historic farm and barn while driving along Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road or using the trails in the area.

Reagan Ranch Area

Reagan Ranch is located in the northwestern corner of the Park, off of Mulholland Highway, and adjacent to National Park Service's (NPS) Paramount Ranch. Little remains of the original ranch except the stables and a few other structures. It is currently the Ranger Station Headquarters, with staff housing and maintenance facilities. A gravel parking lot just off of Cornell Road provides access to trails in the area and is primarily used by equestrians and hikers.

Tapia Park Area

The 126-acre Tapia Park subunit, located south of the main entrance and west of Malibu Canyon Road, was acquired from the County of Los Angeles. Tapia Park is a very attractive day-use area with picnic areas and numerous individual and group barbecues as well as a scenic and biologically sensitive dense oak canopy. An administrative building is also on the premises. Hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers can access trails that lead from Tapia Park into other portions of the Park. Tapia Park is a favorite picnic spot for families. The high intensity of picnic use hinders the regeneration of the oak grove.

Saddle Peak Area

The Saddle Peak area of the Park is located east of Piuma Road and west of Stunt Road along the Backbone Trail System. The Backbone Trail System enters the Park from the east in the Saddle Peak area. No facilities or services are located in this undeveloped portion of the Park.

Natural Preserves

Nearly 3,000 acres of the Park are set aside as natural preserves (Figure 4). The three natural preserve areas in the Park are Kaslow Natural Preserve, Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve, and Udell Gorge Natural Preserve. Resources protection is the primary emphasis of the natural preserves; active recreational use, vehicle use, and development are not permitted. Hiking and other passive uses are allowed in the preserves. The natural preserves contain many sensitive wildlife and plant species; a complete list of these species is included later in this chapter in Tables 2-2 and 2-3. Table 3-1 in Chapter 3 describes restricted and allowable uses within the natural preserves.

Kaslow Natural Preserve is a 1,900-acre preserve located near the center of the Park. The Kaslow Natural Preserve protects the natural habitat and nesting grounds of the golden eagle. It supports many other rare plants and animals, including the Santa Susana tarplant (*Deinandra minthornii*) and mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). Several streams flow through it.

Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve is a 730-acre preserve located in the northeast portion of the Park. Liberty Canyon is valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) woodland/savannah. Visitors can enjoy views of the area from trails in the preserve.

Udell Gorge Natural Preserve is a 300-acre preserve located north of Malibu Creek and west of Century Lake. This area encompasses oak woodland, river marsh, buttes, and Udell Gorge. The Gorge is bordered to the north by the meadow at Reagan Ranch. Several rare plants such as the Santa Susana tarplant and Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *Ovatifolia*), grow inside this preserve. The Deer Leg Trail runs along the eastern boundary of the natural preserve offering views into the preserved area.

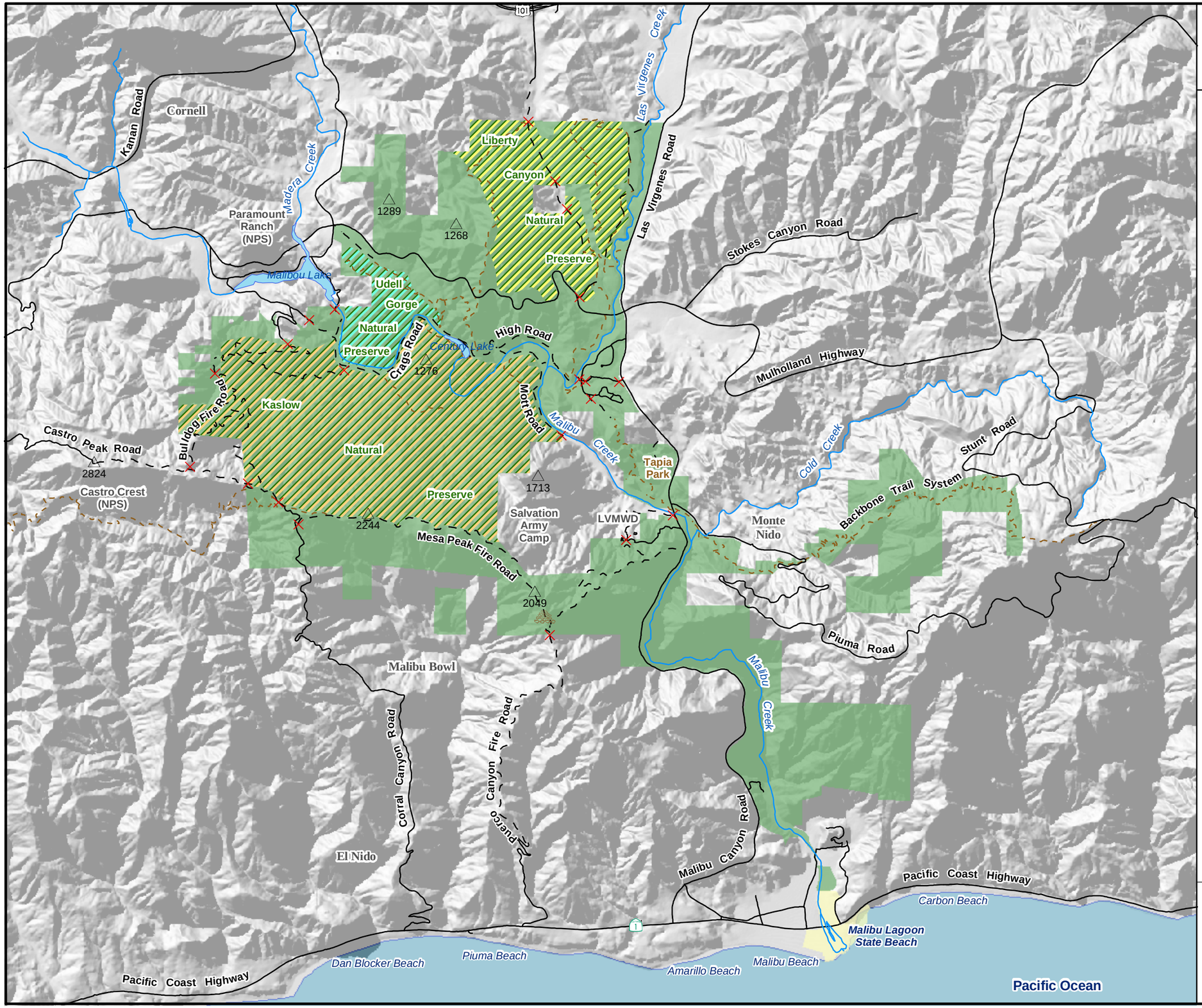
Fire management roads providing necessary access into all the natural preserves have, by default, became trails. The fire road trails are not easily accessible for individuals with disabilities. No more roads or trails will be built in the preserves.

Surrounding Land Uses

The Park is surrounded by parcels of private and public land. Open space and institutional land uses dominate the area. Adjacent to the Park are two privately owned camps, Mount Crags/Camp Gilmore Salvation Army Camp and David Gonzales Juvenile Detention Camp. The Salvation Army Camp is located immediately west of Tapia Park and is used primarily as a summer Christian recreation camp. David Gonzales Juvenile Detention Camp is a secure facility located immediately north of Tapia Park and is one of the oldest youth detention camps in California. Abutting the Park along the western boundary are Paramount Ranch and Castro Crest, owned by NPS.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 4
NATURAL PRESERVES



Basemap Features

- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Landslide
- Mountains

Natural Preserves

- Kaslow N.P.
- Liberty Canyon N.P.
- Udell Gorge N.P.

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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The Park is one of the largest park holdings in the SMMNRA, a 150,050-acre national recreation area established in 1978 by the United States Congress. The SMMNRA is 90 percent undeveloped, with nearly half of the land reserved as open space held by government and conservation agencies. The remainder of the land is under private ownership. NPS, the Department, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) jointly administer the public parklands in the SMMNRA. Several other Department units are located nearby, as indicated on Figure 1.

Outside of the SMMNRA are urban and rural residential land uses in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Malibu; and the unincorporated communities of Cornell, Agoura, Calabasas Highlands, Calabasas Park, Monte Nido, Malibu Bowl, El Nido, and Malibou Lake.

Open Space/Parkland Availability

The Park is surrounded by private and public land. The majority of the land surrounding the Park is unincorporated and is under the jurisdiction of the County. Much of this unincorporated land is undeveloped; however, some residential development borders the Park near the communities of Malibou Lake and Monte Nido. The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) owns a large tract of land along Las Virgenes Road on the northeastern side of the Park.

The Park is located in the SMMNRA, which is composed of a mosaic of land ownerships and land uses spread over 150,050 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains. In 1984, NPS prepared a Land Protection Plan (LPP) that identified lands necessary for the protection of the significant natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and necessary to provide public recreational and educational use of the SMMNRA. The plan, amended in 1987, 1989, and 1991, identifies a number of proposed NPS acquisition areas immediately west and south of the Park. In 1998, a revised LPP was prepared by NPS that focused on the execution and implementation of land protection strategies in the Santa Monica Mountains. The resource information and land protection strategies provided in the 1991 and 1998 LPPs can be used to help guide future acquisition efforts at the Park.

The Department encourages land acquisitions from willing sellers that would increase access to recreational lands and important cultural resources, offer

connections to wildlife habitat, and provide natural resource linkages to help achieve resource management objectives.

Existing Facilities

Entrance Station

The main entrance station to the Park is located on Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road, slightly south of Mulholland Highway, and is the only entrance that is staffed. At the Park entrance booth, a Park ranger or Park aide is available seasonally during the day to provide information and collect an entrance fee. The Park is also accessible from the north via Cornell Road and Mulholland Highway; from the east via the Stunt Road, Saddle Peak Road, and Schueren Road intersection; and from the south via Corral Canyon Road.

Visitor Center

The house that serves as the Visitor Center was originally a home for a member of the Crags Country Club and today is named the Hunt House. The Hunt House is divided in two, with staff housing on the south side of the building and the Visitor Center, operated by the Malibu Creek Docents, on the north side. Guests can browse through the center's pamphlets, videos, slide shows, and displays that explain the history of the Park and the types of flora and fauna found in the Park. A bookstore is also on the premises.

Operational Facilities

The Park's operational facilities are not located in one central location but rather are spread across various locations throughout the Park. The Hunter House, which serves as the Park's main administrative building, is also the Department Angeles District Headquarters. This two-story building is located adjacent to the family campground. Park Ranger and maintenance staff offices are located on the western side of the Park at the Reagan Ranch area. A small greenhouse/ nursery is located near April Road. Currently, a district administration center (DAC) is being constructed at the upper group day use area.

Concessions

The Park does not have a concession stand or restaurant; however, the Visitor Center carries some provisions and has a bookstore. The Park is within a short driving distance from restaurants, gas stations, and convenience stores in the cities of Calabasas and Malibu.

Employee Housing

Housing is provided for several Department employees at the Park. Employee houses are located at Reagan Ranch, White Oak Farm, and along Mulholland Highway.

Restrooms

Permanent restroom facilities are located at the designated campsites, main entrance parking lots, and at Tapia Park. All toilets provided are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible flush toilets. Portable toilets are located at the more popular locations in the Park, including the Rock Pool parking lot.

California Wildlife Center

The California Wildlife Center, a non-profit organization, is located on Park property in the El Nido area on Piuma Road. This facility provides veterinary services and special facilities to rehabilitate wild animals.

Circulation

Roads

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume along Las Virgenes Road between Lost Hills Road and Mulholland Highway was 18,900 in 1995. Along the Park, Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road is a two-lane roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour (mph) and a level of service (LOS) of F (City of Calabasas 1995). Being one of three major north-south routes from the Conejo Valley through the Santa Monica Mountains to the Los Angeles basin, Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road is heavily used by commuters as well as Park visitors.

Heavy use of the road has created traffic congestion, resulting in degraded air quality and increased noise in the Park area. The Park is only accessible by private vehicle as there is no public transit available to visitors or for commuters heading north or south through the Santa Monica Mountains. Due to interest in public transportation for the recreation area, NPS is proposing to implement a shuttle system throughout the SMMNRA. NPS and the Department want to determine the demand for such a shuttle service and have developed the "Heart-of-the-Park" Demonstration Shuttle Project. The program will run on weekends for one year. Shuttles will travel in a loop along Malibu Canyon Road, Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), Kanan Dume Road, and Mulholland Highway. If the program meets the projected annual ridership goal of 23,500 to 30,500 passengers, the Demonstration Program will likely be adopted as a public transportation option for SMMNRA (NPS 2002).

Parking

Several parking areas are located on the outskirts of the Park. There are five parking lots at the main Park entrance, one parking lot on Malibu Canyon Road slightly south of Piuma Road, street parking near PCH, and a parking lot off of Corral Canyon Road at the Backbone Trailhead. Combined, the parking facilities can accommodate approximately 798 cars and 14 buses, as shown below in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1
Malibu Creek State Park - Public Parking Facilities

Location	Parking Spaces					
	Regular	Handicapped	Restricted	Subtotal	Oversize	Total
Main Park Entrance Area						
Entry Kiosk	4	1	1	**6**	0	**6**
Upper Day Use Parking Lot	290	6	0	**296**	0	**296**
Lower Day Use Parking Lot	195	6	0	**201**	14	**215**
Campgrounds						
Campground	14	2	0	**16**	0	**16**
Group Campground	20	0	0	**20**	0	**20**
Tapia Park	159	9	0	**168***	0	**168***
Sepulveda Adobe	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0***
White Oak Farm	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0***
Hunt House	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0**
Rock Pool	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0**
Century Lake	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0**
April Road	0	0	0	**0**	0	**0**
Reagan Ranch	35**	0	0	**35****	0	**35****
Corral Canyon Rd.	35	0	0	**35**	0	**35**
Piuma Day Use Lot	20	1	0	**21**	0	**21**
TOTAL	**772**	**25**	**1**	**798**	**14**	**812**

* does not include dirt parking along road
** decomposed granite lot (parking numbers are approximate)

Trails

As mentioned above, there are over 40 miles of trails and fire roads in the Park. These trails and roads pass through areas available for rock climbing, bird watching, swimming, fishing, and camping. The Ann Skager Trail for the Visually Impaired has been in place for over 10 years (ca. early 1990s). It gives the visually impaired access to Park resources and provides opportunities for individuals to learn more about the plants and natural features. Trails are discussed in more detail in the Recreational Resources section.

Utilities

Sewage and Water Treatment

A sewage and water treatment facility, the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, is located on Malibu Canyon Road just south of Tapia Park and is jointly operated by the LVMWD and Triunfo Sanitation District. These two agencies provide wastewater service to over 80,000 residents over a 150 square-mile area. The facility was constructed in 1965 at a low point in the Malibu Creek watershed to allow for gravity flows to the plant. It currently has a capacity of 16 million gallons per day (mgd). On average, Tapia treats 9.5 mgd of wastewater. The treated water is discharged into the creek and is also used as recycled irrigation water.

In addition to treating water, the on-site State-certified water quality laboratory monitors water quality in Malibu Creek (LVMWD 2000). A force main carrying sludge from the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility to a composting facility runs beneath Las Virgenes Road and parallels the Park boundary. This line has ruptured in the past resulting in significant impacts to the Park. Sewer mains run along Las Virgenes Creek and Mott Road, parallel to Malibu Creek, to the LVMWD treatment plant.

High Voltage Power Lines

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) power lines currently run along Las Virgenes/Malibu Creek Road and Mulholland Highway and provide power to Park facilities (NPS 2002). A high voltage line and service road also traverse the Park's backcountry. An SCE substation and access road are located in the area between Sepulveda Adobe and White Oak Farm.

Park Support

Emergency Services

Numerous fire roads within the Park boundaries allow emergency service providers to access remote areas of the Park. Fire protection, Park security, and medical aid providers are discussed below.

Fire Management Protection

The Department, with assistance from the County, conducts fire management activities at the Park. This includes prescribed or controlled burning and maintenance of fire breaks and fire roads. The Park is serviced primarily by three County fire stations: Stations 67, 88, and 65. Station 67 is located just outside the eastern edge of the Park boundary at 25801 Piuma Road, Calabasas, and has a three-person engine company. Station 88 is located south of the Park at 23720 West Malibu Road, Malibu, and is equipped with a three-person squirt and a two–person paramedic squad. Station 65 is located north-west of the Park at 4206 North Cornell Road, Agoura. It is equipped with two 3-person engine companies and one 2-person paramedic squad.

Visitor Protection and Enforcement

Park rangers are the primary provider of visitor safety and law enforcement. A memorandum of understanding with NPS has been developed for law enforcement responsibilities. If a major crime is committed in the Park, the County Sheriff's Department is called to the Park. For major traffic accidents, the California Highway Patrol is contacted.

Medical Aid

Medical emergencies are handled by the local emergency responders as well as the local fire departments. Search and rescue operators are conducted by a combined effort with Park Rangers and County Fire and Sheriff's departments.

Park Capacity

Determining the visitor capacity of the Park is useful in evaluating the intensity, environmental performance, and land management expectations for optimum public enjoyment of the Park and its facilities. No formal capacity studies have been completed at the Park. Major factors governing the land carrying capacity are developable acreage, fire hazard, environmental sensitivity, quality of visitor experiences, existing visitor capacities, aesthetic impacts, access and circulation, and utility availability.

Park Access

Regional access to the Park is provided via US-101 from the north and PCH from the south. The main Park entrance is located on Las Virgenes Road just south of Mulholland Highway. Las Virgenes Road, which becomes Malibu Canyon Road farther south, connects to US-101 approximately 4 miles north of the Park and PCH approximately 6 miles to the south.

Visitors can enter the Park from a number of locations, thereby gaining access to different parking areas and trailheads. Parking lots are located immediately west of the main entrance station, at the end of Corral Canyon Road (pay use area), at Tapia Park off Las Virgenes Road just north of Piuma Road, and near Reagan Ranch Ranger Station on the corner of Cornell Road and Mulholland Highway. Hikers can enter the Park from a number of trails, including the Backbone Trail System, Grasslands Trail, Corral Canyon Road, Castro Peak Road, from the Tapia Park sub-unit, Lost Hills Road, Deer Leg Trail, and Las Virgenes Connector Trail at De Anza Park and Liberty Canyon. Within the Park, a network of fire roads and trails provides access to hikers, bikers, and equestrian users. Access points are shown in Figure 5.

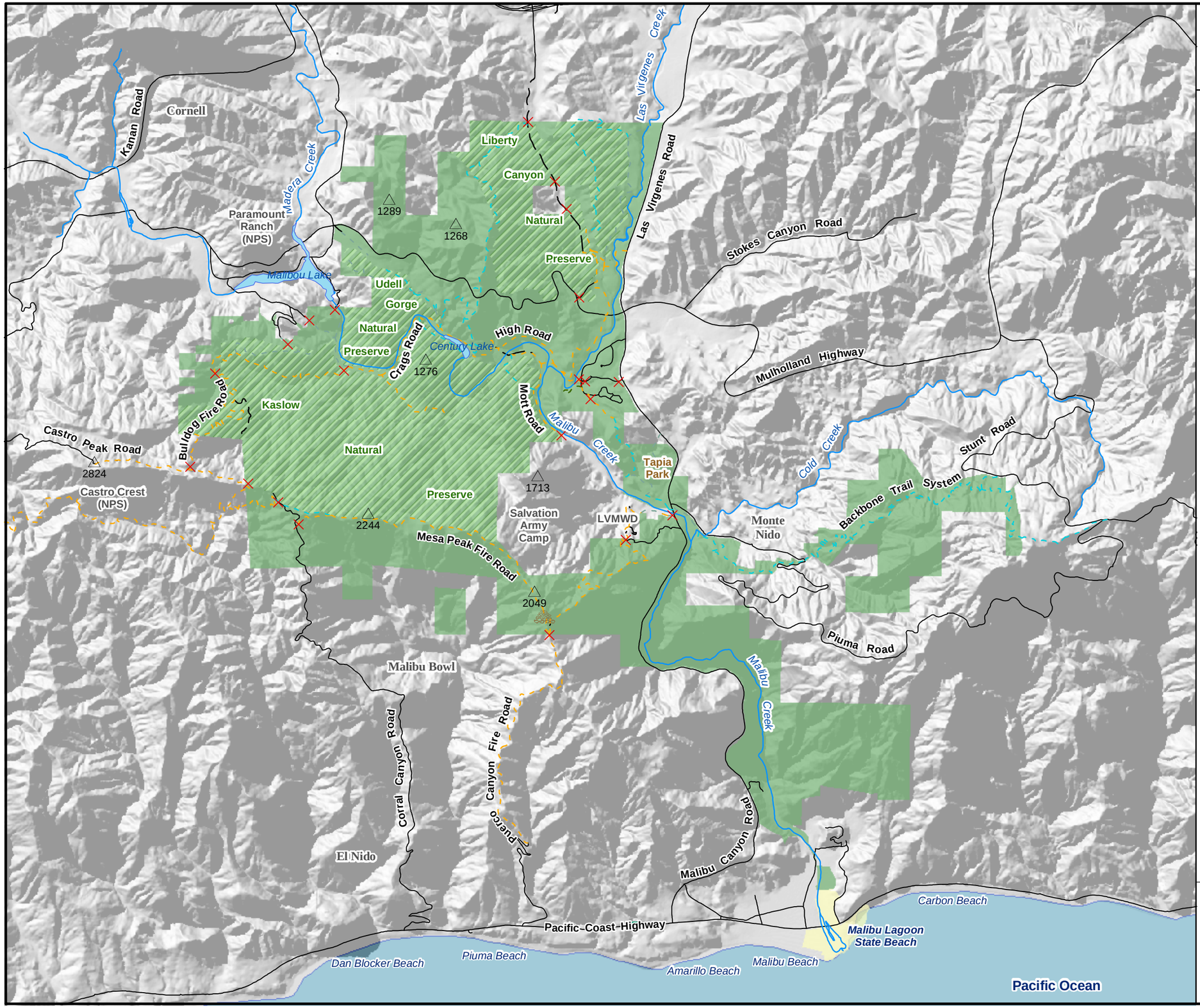
Visitor Profile

The Park attracts a wide variety of visitors including hikers, wildlife enthusiasts, bikers, college and university classes, equestrian users, campers, picnickers (large and small groups), and school groups. Most Park users are drawn from the southern California region; however, many visitors from other parts of country and from around the world visit the Park each year.

A State Park visitor satisfaction survey has been conducted annually by the Department since 1996. The surveys profile the demographic character of park users and solicit opinions regarding park facilities, staff, and overall satisfaction

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 5
TRAILS AND ACCESS ROUTES



Basemap Features

- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Hiker Only Trails
- Disabled Access Trails
- Hiker/Equestrian Trails
- Multi Use Trails
- Undesignated Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Landslide
- Mountains

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

0 1,450 2,900 5,800 8,700 11,600

Feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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with the visitor experience. The majority of the survey respondents were Caucasian; however, this does not necessarily reflect the use patterns of the entire Park. For example, Tapia Park is heavily used by Hispanic visitors, which is not reflected in the survey results. Based on the survey, most visitors who camp do so for at least two nights, and many enjoy hiking and horseback riding on the trails and fire roads that traverse the Park. The survey indicates that the Park is used primarily by people residing within an hour driving radius, some of whom enjoy the Park as an extension of their backyard.

Patterns and Levels of Recreational Use

There are several distinct patterns and levels of recreational use at the Park. High-intensity day uses such as hiking and picnicking are concentrated near the main entrance and at Tapia Park. Areas most frequently visited in this area include the Rock Pool, Century Lake, and the picnic facilities at Tapia Park. These areas experience moderate levels of use on the weekdays; however, extremely large crowds visit the Park on holidays and most weekends. Cars are occasionally turned away from the Park on the busiest holiday weekends.

The vast majority of the Park's land is undeveloped; therefore, trail use is one of the more common recreational activities. Trail use tends to increase in periods of warm and clear weather and decrease immediately after large storms; however, the Park's trails and fire roads are usually well populated by hikers, joggers, bikers, and equestrians.

2.1.2 Significant Resource Values and Constraints

Physical Resources

Meteorology

Coastal southern California is characterized by a Mediterranean climate, with warm, dry summers, and mild winters with occasional rain. Along the coast, the ocean buffers temperatures, preventing the extreme temperatures found inland, by converting the sun's heat into water vapor and producing cloud cover. Annual precipitation in the Santa Monica Mountains averages between 15 and 24 inches, with most falling between November and April. Park elevations above the 1,000-foot altitude line of the Santa Monica Mountains and west-facing slopes receive greater amounts of rain. Most of the Park is located above 1,000 feet in elevation, making it hotter in the summer and wetter and colder in the winter, compared to surrounding areas.

During the warmer months, a temperature inversion persists, trapping moist marine air below 1,300 feet. Canyon areas often enjoy moderate temperatures throughout summer, with cloudy mornings and clear afternoons, while higher slopes and peaks are clear and warm throughout the day. Summer average temperatures at higher altitudes do not generally exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit

(°F). Winters at higher altitudes tend to be cool, with temperatures averaging less than 50°F.

Topography

The Santa Monica Mountain Range is one of only three east-west trending ranges in California, extending 35 miles from Oxnard to the Los Angeles Basin. Deep, narrow canyons incise the steep mountain slopes. Along the western portion of the range, an area that includes the Park, the Santa Monica Mountains are at their broadest, ranging from 8 to 10 miles wide. This area also includes Sandstone Peak, the highest peak in the range, at 3,111 feet.

The Park is immediately north of the crest of the central Santa Monica Mountains. The topography of the Park is dominated by the deep canyon formed by Malibu Creek, which runs in a northwest to southeast direction, flowing through the mountains. Much of the canyon floor is boulder-filled. Away from the canyon walls and high ridges, the Park exhibits level fields and rolling hills.

Geology

The Santa Monica Mountains are composed of markedly faulted and folded coarse- to medium-grained sediments. From the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains in the south of the Park to the Thousand Oaks Corridor Hills in the Park's north lie belts of sandstone and fossil-bearing Miocene shale. Over 15 million years ago, during the Middle Miocene age, the sandstone and shale were covered by Conejo Volcanics, a molten volcanic rock. The volcanic rock, layered with sedimentary rock, began the mountain formation. After the volcanic activity, marine sediment formed the Calabasas formation, which consists of layers of sandstone, siltstone, and fragments of sedimentary rock imbedded in sandstone (McAuley 1996a). The Park has many steep canyons with shallow alluvial fills, ranging in thickness from 30 feet at the bottom of canyons to less than 4 feet on canyon slopes.

The Santa Monica Mountains display relatively low seismic activity, compared to the regionally high seismic levels in southern California. The mountains are bordered by two major fault lines, the Simi-Northridge-Santa Susana-Verdugo fault and the Malibu Coast-Santa Monica-Raymond Hill fault, to the north and south, respectively. No major earthquakes are known to have originated in the Park. The Park is not located in an Alquist-Priolo special study zone. Landslides are the seismic activity most likely to affect the Park.

Soils

The Malibu Creek watershed includes a range of soils, including loamy, silty, sandy, and clayey soils. These soils originated from a combination of rock types, including sandstone, shale, and igneous rocks, which were laid in place as marine and non-marine terrace deposits. Folding and erosion of these terraces, and deposition by rivers left the alluvial soils that are now abundant in the Park.

Hydrology and Floodplain

The Park is located in the Malibu Creek watershed, which contains eight subwatersheds. The Park is within the Malibu Creek subwatershed, the southern-most subwatershed. Ninety-three percent of this subwatershed is undeveloped natural open space.

Within the Park there are two primary watercourses: Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek. Malibu Creek eventually drains into Santa Monica Bay through Malibu Lagoon (USDA 1997). Most tributaries of Malibu Creek, with the exception of Las Virgenes Creek, are ephemeral; however, irrigation water as well as water released from Malibou Lake, has created year round flows down Malibu Creek and some of its tributaries. Both Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek are in designated 100-year flood zones, although the boundaries of this zone do not extend above the stream bank.

Lakes in the region tend to be small and shallow. Many were constructed as reservoirs or for recreation and only Las Virgenes Reservoir is currently used for water supply. There are two dams in the Park along Malibu Creek, Century Lake Dam and Rindge Dam. Century Lake Dam, constructed in 1901 by the Crags Country Club, creates Century Lake, which is the only lake inside the Park boundary,. Rindge Dam was constructed in 1926 and is located farther downstream. The creekbed upstream of Rindge Dam is presently filled with sediment.

Natural Resources

Water Quality

The existing beneficial uses of the water in the Malibu Creek subwatershed include contact and non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, migration and spawning, wetland habitat, and rare and endangered species habitat. Potential beneficial uses include municipal and domestic water supply. Although the subwatershed is primarily undeveloped, the beneficial uses of the waters are in jeopardy due to urban and natural area runoff, septic systems, fertilizers, erosion, wildlife, and domestic animals (USDA 1997).

Biotic Resources

Biological resources within the Park study area were compiled based on site visits and a review of existing environmental documentation for the region. Information reviewed included the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFG 2003) as well as documents pertaining to the Park, the adjacent SMMNRA, and the Malibu Creek watershed.

Many biological resources in California are protected and/or regulated by laws, regulations, and policies. Key regulatory compliance issues that may need to be

addressed prior to implementation of the General Plan are listed below. A description of each is provided in Appendix A:

- Federal Endangered Species Act
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Clean Water Act
- California Endangered Species Act
- Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code
- Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code

Plant Communities

The Park is a biologically diverse coastal setting. Based on vegetation surveys of the Park, descriptions and research provided in *Hiking Trails of Malibu Creek State Park, 2nd Edition*, and descriptions provided in R.F. Holland's *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*, the plant life of the Park can be divided into six different plant communities, which are briefly described below. In addition, this section provides information on sensitive plant species that have the potential to occur within the boundaries of the Park. A vegetation map of the Park is shown in Figure 6.

Chaparral

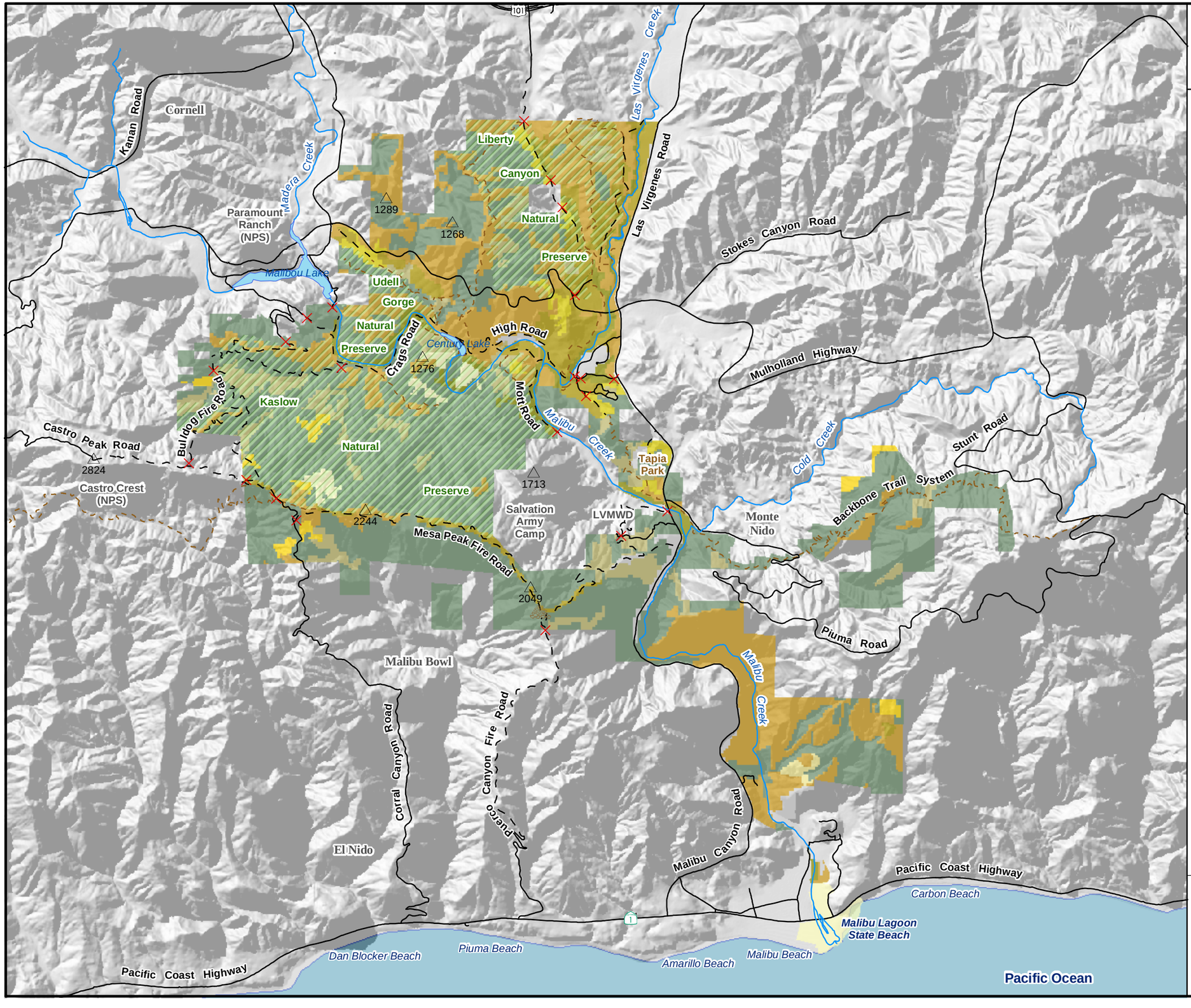
The chaparral plant community covers the hillsides of the Park. Chaparral consists of a variety of plants that thrive in poor, dry, sandy, rocky soils. In addition, the plant species comprising chaparral have evolved in a landscape that is subject to periodic fires, and hence, these plants have developed adaptations that allow for their continued survival or reestablishment following fire. Heavy chaparral cover provides hillside stabilization thereby minimizing erosion and sediment loads in streambeds. Chaparral species in the Park include, but are not limited to, ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), chamise (*Adenostema fasciculatum*), currant (*Ribes sp.*), fuchsia-flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), holly-leaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia in Jepson*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) (McAuley 1996b).

Oak Woodland and Valley Oak Savanna

The oak woodland plant community is dominated by coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). In some areas, thick oak woodland, which also includes elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), walnut (*Juglans californica*), laurel sumac, and several herbaceous plants, forms a forest environment. A number of small shrubs and

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 6
VEGETATION



Basemap Features
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Landslide
- Mountains
- Natural Preserves

Vegetation
- Coast Live Oak
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Coastal Sage Scrub/Chaparral Transition
- Chamise cChaparral
- Northern Mixed Chaparral
- Coastal Strand
- Non-native Grassland/Herbaceous
- Riparian (Sycamore-Oak) Woodland
- Rock Outcrops (barren inland)
- Salt Marsh
- Valley Oak
- Water
- Developed Lane

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

0 5 10 0 0 2,000 3,000 4,000
Feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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animals live within the protective borders of the oak woodland. Oak woodland communities are considered to be sensitive due to their scarcity, limited range, and high wildlife value. Valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) once covered large areas of flatlands forming open savannas, but now remain only as a few isolated stands. The valley oak grows in fertile soils and is the largest native oak within the Park. The valley oak woodlands at the Park define the southernmost extent of this species' range.

Riparian Woodland

Riparian communities are situated along stream courses and adjacent stream banks and require moist, bare mineral soils for germination and establishment, much like the conditions following periodic flooding (Holland 1986). The Park's riparian woodlands are located along Malibu Creek, Las Virgenes Creek, and other streams and water bodies. The trees and plants associated with the riparian woodland habitat include sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), cattail (*Typha latifolia* and *T. Domingensis*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), willows (*Salix* spp.), and a variety of flowering plants.

Grasslands

Grasslands consist of low-growing herbaceous species dominated by annual and perennial grasses and forbs. Grazing and cultivation in the Park has left only a few native grasses such as purple needle-grass (*Nassella pulchra*), California brome (*Bromus carinatus*), and blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) that occur in small, isolated patches as remnants of the former large expanses that once characterized the area's foothills and flatlands. Today, the dominant grasses in the Park are introduced, nonnative grasses such as various bromes (*Bromus* spp.), wild oats (*Avena* spp.), and ryegrasses (*Lolium* spp.). Open fields contain a mix of grasses and flowering plants (McAuley 1996b). Forbs found in the grassland community within the Park include, but are not limited to, California poppy (*Eschscholzia* spp.), tarplant (*Deinandra* spp. and *Madia* spp.), lupines (*Lupinus* spp.), lilies (variety), clover (*Trifolium* spp.), asters (variety), and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*).

A formal native grassland management plan has not been prepared for the Park; however, the reintroduction of native grass species has been conducted in areas where exotic plant species have been removed. Specifically, after the control of infestations of broadleaf exotic plant species by various methods (see discussion of Exotic Plan Species, below), native grasses raised from seed collected within the Park are planted. Future plans for restored areas may also include the reintroduction of native forbs and other measures as part of a comprehensive native grassland restoration program.

Coastal Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub is one of the major shrub-dominated (scrub) communities in California. This community occurs on xeric sites (i.e., sites that receive only a small amount of moisture) with shallow soils. Sage scrub species are typically drought deciduous plants with shallow root systems. Both of these adaptations allow for the occurrence of sage scrub species on these xeric sites. Coastal sage scrub, which includes buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp), sages (*Salvia* spp.), yucca (*Yucca whipplei*), and cacti (various), is considered a sensitive habitat by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (Holland 1986) because this community's relatively few remaining acres supports an extremely high number of sensitive species. Coastal sage scrub can be found on the hillsides of the Park, above the waterways and along the trails.

Freshwater Marsh

Freshwater marsh is a community dominated by perennial, emergent monocots (flowering plants that have one seed leaf), which grow in standing fresh water. This plant community can be found along Malibu Creek and on Century Lake, providing excellent habitat for animals and birds. Freshwater marsh species common in the Park include cattails (*Typha* spp.), bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.).

Sensitive Plants

Sensitive plant species are those that are candidates, proposed, or listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or, the CDFG and those plants that are considered sensitive species by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (CNPS 2001). There are several plant species found within or adjacent to the Park that are considered to be sensitive. These species and their potential for occurrence within the Park are presented in Table 2-2. A total of five sensitive plants occur within the Park. Four of these, Santa Susana tarplant, marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*), Santa Monica Mountains dudleya, and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*), are associated with chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. The fifth species, the inconspicuous round-leaved filaree (*Erodium macrophyllum*), is associated with clay soils within grasslands and woodlands. Known locations for these five species within the Park are noted in Table 2-2 below.

Exotic Plant Species

Exotic plant species are those that arrived in an area through human actions. Most nonnative species are not invasive and do not have adverse effects on native plant communities. However, exotic plants are considered "invasive" when they colonize natural areas and displace native species. Potential impacts resulting from exotic plant infestation include alteration of ecosystem processes, such as nutrient cycling, erosion, and fire frequency; suppression of native plant

recruitment and growth; and reduction of wildlife resources, such as food, cover, and nesting habitat.

Table 2-2
Sensitive Plant Species Known From
Malibu Creek State Park or within the Region

Species	Habit and Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CNPS	CDFG	USFWS
Braunton's milkvetch *Astragalus brauntonii*	A perennial herb associated with chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, closed-cone coniferous forest, and in carbonate soils of recent burned or disturbed areas. Blooms March-July.	Moderate potential to occur within the Park. Suitable habitat is present and the occurrence may have been an isolated accidental one resulting from a storm or flood. No known presence.	1B	--	FE
Coulter's saltbrush *Atriplex coulteri*	A perennial herb associated with alkaline and clay soils of coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Blooms March-October.	Low potential to occur within the Park. Only known population in the region is located west of the Park on the coastal bluffs of Point Dume.	1B	--	--
Malibu baccharis *Baccharis malibuensis*	A deciduous shrub found in chaparral, coastal scrub, and cismontane woodlands. Blooms in August.	Moderate potential to occur within the Park. Habitat occurs on-site. Four known reports occur near Malibou Lake outside of the Park. Nearest known populations are found along Las Virgenes Road along the northern border of the Park and at the base of Stokes Canyon, about 3 miles east of Malibou Lake.	1B	--	--
Plummer's mariposa lily *Calchortus plummerae*	A perennial herb found in granitic substrates of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and foothill grasslands. Blooms May-July.	Moderate potential to occur on-site. Suitable habitat occurs throughout the Park; the closest known site is located in Stokes Canyon approximately 0.85 mile up Mulholland Hwy, just east of the Park.	1B	--	FSC

Species	Habit and Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CNPS	CDFG	USFWS
San Fernando Valley spineflower *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*	An annual herb associated with sandy soils of coastal scrub. Blooms April-June.	Low potential to occur within the Park. Habitat occurs on-site, but closest known population is northwest of the Park in the Simi Hills. Most populations are reported from the Laskey Mesa.	1B	SE	FC
Parry's spineflower *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *parryi*	An annual herb associated with sandy or rocky soils of coastal scrub and chaparral. Blooms April-June.	Low potential to occur on-site. Suitable habitat occurs within the Park, but the only known location is southwest of the Park's boundary in Latigo Canyon.	3	--	--
Santa Susana tarplant *Deinandra minthornii*	A deciduous shrub associated with sandstone soils of chaparral and coastal scrub. Blooms July-November.	Present. This shrub is known to occur within the Park along the Backbone Trail, east of Corral Canyon. An additional population has been recorded northwest of the Park on Calabasas Peak. Most populations are reported from the Santa Susana Mountains.	1B	SR	--
Blochman's dudleya *Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *Blochmaniae*	A perennial herb found in clay or serpentine soils of coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Blooms April-June.	Moderate potential to occur on-site. The closest known population is just west of Malibu Creek in the mouth of Winter Canyon, near Malibu Lagoon State Beach.	1B	--	--
Santa Monica Mountains dudleya *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *Agourensis*	A perennial herb associated with rocky or volcanic soils of chaparral and cismontane woodlands. Blooms May-June.	Low potential to occur on-site. Suitable habitat occurs within the Park, but the closest known population is located in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, on Cornell Road.	1B	--	FT

Species	Habit and Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CNPS	CDFG	USFWS
Marcescent dudleya *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *Marcescens*	A perennial herb found in volcanic soils of chaparral habitats. Blooms April-June.	Present. This perennial herb is found in three different locations within the Park. All locations are on volcanic outcrops at an elevation of 600 to 800 ft.	1B	SR	FT
Santa Monica Mountains dudleya *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *Ovatifolia*	A perennial herb associated with volcanic soils of chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Blooms March-June.	Present. This inconspicuous herb occurs within the Park in the Udell Gorge Natural Preserve. An additional population is just outside the Park boundary along Malibu Canyon Road, approximately 2.0 miles north of PCH.	1B	--	FT
Many-stemmed dudleya *Dudleya multicaulis*	A perennial herb found in clay soils of coastal scrub, chaparral, and valley and foothill grasslands. Blooms April-July.	Low potential to occur on-site. Suitable habitat occurs within the Park, but the closest known population is located on the south side of Chatsworth Reservoir.	1B	--	--
Round-leaved filaree *Erodium macrophyllum*	An annual herb associated with clay soils of cismontane woodlands and valley and foothill grasslands. Blooms March-May.	Present. This annual herb has been found within the Park. The exact location of this plant was not recorded, but is noted to occur within oak woodland habitat within the Park.	2	--	--
Lyon's pentachaeta *Pentachaeta lyonii*	An annual herb associated with openings in chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Blooms March-August.	Present. This annual herb is found within the Park near Malibou Lake. Another population, previously detected near Reagan Meadows, may now be extirpated. An additional population is located north of the Park boundary, approximately 0.5 mile south of Mulholland Highway.	1B	SE	FE

Species	Habit and Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CNPS	CDFG	USFWS
Sonoran maiden fern *Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*	A perennial rhizomatous herb associated with meadows, streams and seeps. Fertile January-September.	Low potential to occur on-site. Suitable habitat occurs within the Park, but the closest known population is located in Encinal Canyon, west of the Park.	2	--	--

*Potential for occurrence is based on CNDDB 2002 records and other documents cited herein.
USFWS: FE = Federally Endangered, FT = Federally Threatened, FSC = Federal Species of Concern.
CDFG: SE = State Endangered, ST = State Threatened, CSC = State Species of Concern, SR = State Rare.
CNPS: 1B Species considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
2 Species considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
3 Species considered but need more information

Two particularly invasive plant species, yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and giant reed (*Arundo donax*) occur within the Park. Yellow starthistle has infested millions of acres throughout California. This annual weed usually occupies open grasslands or disturbed sites, and is highly competitive and invasive, displacing native vegetation and reducing wildlife forage and habitat. A combination of physical, chemical, and biological control measures, often coupled with revegetation, is necessary to reduce its occurrence. The giant reed, a hydrophyte, grows along lakes, streams, drainages, and other wet sites. It can grow quickly and uses large amounts of water. Many occurrences of these two species within the Park are being successfully contained, and a few outbreaks have been eradicated.

A number of additional exotic species that can be invasive and problematic are also known to occur within the Park, including tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Spanish broom (*Spartinum junceum*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*). Current management measures implemented throughout the Park have been successful in controlling these species. Control measures have included burning the problematic areas, followed by the use of herbicides and mowing. As noted in the description of Grasslands, these areas may also be planted with native grasses as part of the restoration efforts for that area.

Animals

The diversity of habitat types found within the Park provide habitat for a variety of animals. The natural setting of the Park is home to a number of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, as determined by the USFWS and/or the

CDFG. The following sections provide an overview of general wildlife and associated habitats that occur within and adjacent to the Park.

Aquatic Life

Aquatic life consists of a variety of fish and invertebrates that occur within the waters of the drainages and impoundments throughout the Park. The fish associated with these drainages include the arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*) and tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*). Carp (*Cyprinus carpio)*, an introduced species, are also found in Malibu Creek drainages. Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus myskiss irideus*) are found in the lowest part of the Malibu Creek and Malibu Lagoon. Black bass (*Micropterus salmoides)*, bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), black bullhead (*Ameiurus* melas), brown bullhead (*Ameiuru* nebulosus), and channel catish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), have been found in Century Lake and are introduced species. The crayfish (*Astacus fluviatilis*), an exotic aquatic invertebrate, is known to inhabit Malibu Creek.

Amphibians

The transitional area at the interface between the water in Malibu Creek and the riparian and upland habitats supports a variety of amphibians, including the California newt (*Taricha tarosa*), Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*), California treefrog (*Pseudacris cadaverina*), and California toad (*Bufo boreas halophilus*). Amphibians are typically associated with mesic areas along streams, or under leaf litter and other objects where moisture is present. Within the Park, these conditions are associated with the riparian and oak woodlands, and freshwater marsh habitats that occur primarily along Malibu Creek and at Century Lake, among others.

Reptiles

Several reptile species are known to occur at the Park, including the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), coastal western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*), San Bernardino ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus modestus*), San Diego mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltus zonata pulchra*), and coastal rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata roseofusca*). The pond turtle prefers permanent streams or ponded areas, typically associated with riparian woodlands and freshwater marsh within the Park. The horned lizard, western whiptail, and ringneck snake are often found in coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. The rosy boa also prefers to inhabit sage scrub and chaparral but is strongly associated with streams in proximity to these communities. The kingsnake is often found in riparian and oak woodland settings.

Birds

The broad and diverse vegetation communities, topography, hydrology, and geology combine to provide a variety of habitats for several resident and migratory bird species within the Park. In particular, the riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, and aquatic habitats attract migratory birds by providing valuable resources for nesting, foraging, and protective cover. Bird species typically associated with the riparian and oak woodlands within the Park include Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), phainopepla (*phainopepla nitens*), and Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*). The upland coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitats within the Park support species such as wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*), and bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*).

Mammals

Development in California has destroyed a great deal of natural habitat, limiting animals to pockets of land in which they can thrive. The Park maintains ideal habitat for many mammals, which flourish in an area untouched by development. Typical large mammals in the Park include the nonnative red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the native gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). These mammals roam the hillsides and feed on rodents, small mammals, berries, amphibians, and reptiles. Large mammals typically use a variety of vegetation communities, including riparian and oak woodlands for cover, grassland and scrub vegetation for forage, and marsh and aquatic communities as sources of water. Small mammals in the Park include Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), bats (including *Myotis* spp. and *Tadarida* spp.), brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), mice (including *Peromyscus* spp. and *Reithrodontomys* sp.), woodrats (*Neotoma* spp.), and others. Small mammals are associated with a wide range of habitats, including the coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, and riparian communities within the Park.

Sensitive Animals

Sensitive wildlife are those animal species that are candidates, proposed, or listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or the CDFG, and those animals that are considered species of concern or are listed as protected or fully protected by the State (CDFG 2003). Additionally, raptors protected under the federal Bald Eagle Protection Act are also considered sensitive species. There are several fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species found within, or in areas adjacent to the Park that are considered to be sensitive, as well as other sensitive species whose distributional range and habitats coincide with the Park. All of these species, and their potential for occurrence within the Park, are presented in Table 2-3.

Table 2-3
Sensitive Animal Species in Malibu Creek State Park or the Region

Species	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CDFG	USFWS
Fish				
Arroyo chub *Gila orcutti*	Slow-moving streams with mud or sand bottoms.	Known from Malibu Creek, north of Malibu.	CSC	--
Tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*	Fairly still brackish waters of lagoons and lower reaches of creeks.	Known from Malibu Creek, from the mouth of the creek to 1.5 miles upstream.	CSC	FE
Southern steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	Stream habitat with riffles on coarse gravel or sand is required for spawning.	Known from Malibu Creek, from Rindge Dam to the ocean.	CSC	FE
Amphibians				
Arroyo toad *Bufo californicus*	Breeds in shallow, slow-moving intermittent streams on sand or cobble substrate; over-winters in adjacent uplands.	Low potential to occur within the Park along ephemeral or intermittent streams. Malibu Creek flows perennially due to irrigation, reclaimed water usage within the watershed, and controlled flows from Malibou Lake. Known from below Chatsworth Reservoir, but believed to be extirpated.	CSC	FE
Red-legged frog *Rana aurora draytonii*	Frequents marshes, slow parts of streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and other usually permanent water sources.	Low potential to occur within the Park in areas of permanent surface water north of the Park in Las Virgenes Creek.	CSC	FT
Reptiles				
Southwestern pond turtle *Clemmys marmorata pallida*	Permanent or near permanent bodies of water associated with marsh and riparian vegetation.	Known from several locations along Malibu Creek.	CSC	--
San Diego horned lizard *Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*	Frequents a variety of habitats from sage scrub and chaparral to coniferous and broadleaf woodlands; often found on sandy or friable soils with open scrub.	Known from the Park at Tapia Park.	CSC	--

Species	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CDFG	USFWS
California horned lizard *Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*	Frequents a variety of habitats from sage scrub and chaparral to coniferous and broadleaf woodlands; often found on sandy or friable soils with open scrub.	High potential to occur within the Park. Known to occur at Point Dume, south of the Park.	CSC	--
Coast patch-nosed snake *Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*	Prefers open coastal sage scrub, chaparral, riparian habitat, grasslands, and agricultural fields with friable or sandy soils.	Moderate potential to occur within the Park. Suitable habitat occurs throughout most of the Park.	CSC	--
San Diego mountain kingsnake *Lampropeltis zonata pulchra*	Prefers rock outcrops in pine and oak woodlands with moisture present, but can occur in other habitats such as chaparral and wet meadow.	Known from Stunts Ranch and Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. High probability to occur in suitable habitats along Malibu Creek within the Park.	CSC	--
Two-striped garter snake *Thamnophis hammondi*	Habitat occurs along streams with rocky beds and permanent freshwater.	High potential to occur within the Park. Known from Triunfo Creek, 2 miles north of Lake Malibu and the Park.	CSC	--
Birds				
Least bittern *Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*	Fresh and brackish water marshes, usually near open water sources.	Moderate potential to occur in suitable freshwater marsh habitat within the Park.	CSC	--
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Inhabits lakes, rivers, marshes, and seacoasts.	Low potential to occur as a winter visitor to the Park. Not expected to nest within the Park.	CE	BEPA
Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*	Nests primarily in oak woodlands but occasionally in willows or eucalyptus.	High potential to occur within the woodland and riparian habitats within the Park.	CSC	--
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	Builds relatively fragile nests in shrubs and trees along wetlands and drainages, and in windbreaks in fields and around farmsteads.	Low potential to occur within the Park. Not known to nest in southern California.	CT	--
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	Forages in grassy and open scrub habitats; nests primarily on cliffs, with secondary use of large trees.	Known to occur within the Park, on the cliffs above Century Lake.	CSC	BEPA

Species	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CDFG	USFWS
American peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*	Primarily found near large bodies of water where they feed on waterbirds; nests usually located on rock ledges, escarpments, or bluffs.	Low potential to occur within the Park due to relatively small population size. Suitable habitat occurs around Century Lake.	CE	--
Western yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	Restricted to dense, tall cottonwood and willow riparian woodlands of the valley foothill and desert.	Extremely low potential to occur within the Park. Believed to be extirpated from the region, but may occur as a rare migrant.	CE	--
Southwestern willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*	Restricted to wide bands of dense riparian woodlands of willow, cottonwood, oak, and other deciduous shrubs and trees.	Low potential to occur within the Park due lack of wide bands of suitable riparian habitat.	CE	FE
California horned lark *Eremophila alpestris actia*	Resident of grasslands and open habitats such as agricultural fields, beaches, and disturbed areas.	Moderate potential to occur in the grasslands in the Park.	CSC	--
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	Steep river banks and gravel pits.	Low potential to occur within the Park. Last recorded observation in the region was at Lake Sherwood in Ventura County in the mid-1800s. Believed to have been extirpated from southern California as a breeding species.	CT	--
Coastal cactus wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*	Found only in coastal sage scrub with extensive stands of tall prickly pear or cholla cacti.	Low potential to occur within the Park. Suitable habitat does not occur in great quantity within the Park.	CSC	--
Coastal California gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica*	Coastal sage scrub habitats, typically on gentle slopes.	High potential to occur within the Park in suitable areas of coastal sage scrub habitat. Known to occur in the vicinity of Woodland Hills, east of Las Virgenes Road to the north of the Park.	CSC	FT
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	A variety of habitats, occurring wherever bushes or trees are scattered on open ground.	High probability to occur within the Park, particularly in areas with open vegetation.	CSC	--

Species	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence*	CDFG	USFWS
Least Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*	Restricted to riparian woodland and scrub, particularly in areas with an understory of dense young willows or mulefat with a canopy of tall willows.	Moderate potential to nest within the riparian woodland habitat along Malibu Creek and its tributaries.	CE	FE
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps canescens*	Prefers grassy or rocky slopes with open scrub, particularly coastal sage scrub.	High probability to occur within the Park throughout the scrub and grassland habitats in the Park.	CSC	--
Tri-colored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	Inhabits freshwater marsh habitat, usually in cattails or reeds.	Moderate potential to nest within the freshwater marsh habitat at Century Lake and other areas within the Park.	CSC	--
Mammals				
California leaf-nosed bat *Macrotus californicus*	Require caves, rock crevices, or undisturbed abandoned buildings for roost sites.	High probability to occur in suitable crevice sites along Malibu Creek and other areas within the Park.	CSC	--
Spotted bat *Euderma maculatum*	Habitats ranging from coniferous forests to scrub to desert often associated with high cliffs, riparian vegetation, and water sources.	High probability to occur in suitable crevice sites, particularly along Malibu Creek.	CSC	--
Townsend's western big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*	Often found in old mines or caves, not far from the entrance.	Moderate probability to occur in any isolated caves within the Park.	CSC	--
Western mastiff bat *Eumops perotis*	Require caves, rock crevices, or undisturbed abandoned buildings for roost sites; in areas of chaparral or live oaks and in more arid, rocky regions.	High probability to occur in suitable crevice sites along Malibu Creek and other areas within the Park.	CSC	--
San Diego desert woodrat *Neotoma lepida intermedia*	Inhabits a variety of scrub habitats where it constructs large middens, usually consisting of small twigs, cactus pads, and other plant material.	High probability to occur in the Park. The species has been documented immediately south of the Park, on the Pepperdine University campus.	CSC	--

*Potential for occurrence is based on CNDDB 2002 records and other documents cited herein.
USFWS: FE=Federally Endangered, FT=Federally Threatened, BEPA=Bald Eagle Protection Act.
CDFG: CE=State Endangered, CT=State Threatened, CSC=State Species of Concern.

Three sensitive fish species, arroyo chub, tidewater goby, and southern steelhead are known to exist in the portion of Malibu Creek that flows through the Park. Orange County represents the present-day southern limit of southern steelhead distribution in California. The Malibu Creek steelhead represent an especially important resource, the last of a local race that has survived in the hot, dry climate of southern California (ENTRIX 1989). Although no sensitive amphibians are known to occur within the Park, one sensitive amphibian species, the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), has been documented north of the Park, downstream of the Chatsworth Reservoir, and therefore could occur within the Park.

The southwestern pond turtle, San Diego horned lizard, and San Diego mountain kingsnake are all considered reptile species of concern by the CDFG. The pond turtle is known to occur along Malibu Creek. One record of the San Diego horned lizard exists in the CNDDB for Tapia Park in the southern half of the Park. The CNDDB also contains a record of the San Diego mountain kingsnake in the Cold Creek Natural Preserve area.

Several of the migrant and resident bird species of the Park are considered sensitive by the federal or state resource agencies. Within the Park, the golden eagle is known from the cliffs above Century Lake, the coastal California gnatcatcher has been documented to the north of the Park, and the coastal California gnatcatcher would have a high potential to occur within the Park due to the documented population in the region, and the presence of large areas of suitable coastal sage scrub habitat.

The San Diego desert woodrat, a sensitive mammal species, has been documented south of the Park on the Pepperdine University campus (CNDDB 2002) and could occur within the Park.

Exotic Animal Species

The aquatic invertebrate species of management concern at the Park is the crayfish, which is an introduced predatory species that preys on native amphibians and fishes and threatens the ecosystem of Malibu Creek. The Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) is a nonnative mammal species introduced to northern California in 1910, which has expanded its range down the entire length of the state and competes with native small mammals for food and other resources. Campsites and picnic areas likely attracts this species to the Park.

Ecology

The areas to the east and west of the Park, which includes portions of the SMMNRA, are relatively undeveloped. Concentrated development outside of the Park occurs to the north, within the San Fernando and Conejo valleys. Dense coastal development occurs to the south, primarily in the Malibu area. Within the Park, there are small pockets of development associated with Park offices, roads

and trails, day use areas, and overnight camping facilities. Despite the presence of these facilities and high levels of visitor use, the Park is a thriving environment for plant and wildlife species. Many sensitive plant and wildlife species are either found in the area or have a moderate to high possibility of occurring there. Many of the areas inside the Park may not get much usage due to the inaccessibility of the area (high mountains and lack of trails). Due to the dense development to the north, the Park plays an import part in maintaining biological resource values in the region by providing refuge for plant and animal species, habitat linkages, and possible wildlife movement corridors to other areas of open space.

Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

A wildlife corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width and buffer to allow animal movement between two patches of comparatively undisturbed habitat, or between a patch of habitat and some vital resources.

Habitat linkages can be defined as large areas of natural open space that provide connectivity to regional biological resources. Habitat linkages differ from wildlife corridors in that they are wide enough to allow relatively free movement of wildlife species along multiple paths between resources.

Wildlife corridors and habitat linkages are essential, particularly in proximity to urban areas, for the sustenance of healthy and genetically diverse animal communities. They promote colonization of habitat and genetic variability by connecting fragments of like habitat, and they help sustain individual species distributed in and among habitat fragments. Isolation of populations can contribute significantly to local species extinction.

The Park currently serves as a functioning wildlife corridor and habitat linkage within the Santa Monica Mountains. The natural open space provides biological resources that attract wildlife from throughout the region by providing protective cover, water, and forage for a variety of species, including the mountain lion, mule deer, and coyote. The vegetated drainages throughout the study area, including Malibu Creek and Liberty Canyon, provide local routes for wildlife species to move between resources within the Park. Most wildlife species are able to use these local corridors for their entire extent within the Park. The southern steelhead is the one notable species that faces difficulty moving through the Malibu Creek corridor. Currently, the southern steelhead can only travel upstream along Malibu Creek from the ocean to Rindge Dam.

In terms of regional wildlife movement corridors, the Park has the potential to play a significant role in maintaining connectivity between the Santa Monica Mountains and open protected space areas in Cheeseboro and Palo Comado canyons north of Highway 101. Liberty Canyon has been identified by the NPS in the SMMNRA GMP/EIS (NPS 2002), and in the California Wilderness Coalition's (CWC) *Missing Linkages: Restoring Connectivity to the California Landscape* (CWC 2001) as critical to maintaining this regional corridor linkage.

The NPS has identified the continuing losses and fragmentation of open space, and the resultant loss of habitat connectivity within the region, as a serious threat to continued survival of the mountain lion population in the Santa Monica Mountains and the surrounding area (NPS 2002). The CWC ranks the threat to the Liberty Canyon corridor as moderately threatened, but with a good opportunity to be conserved (CWC 2001).

Cultural Resources

Native American Prehistoric Background

The earliest preserved remains of human settlement and related cemeteries in California are associated with the Early period, which dates from approximately 6000 to 800 B.C. (King 2000). In the Santa Monica Mountains coastal region, the earliest occupation dates to the around 5,000 B.C. (Gamble and King 1997). Departing from the subsistence strategies of their Paleo Indian, big-game hunting predecessors, Early period populations established permanent settlements, frequently located on the coast. Artifacts and food remains recovered in this context evidence fishing with bone hooks, the use of rafts in trade activity with the Channel Islands, and the occasional taking of sea mammals and large fish. The presence of animal bones, stone projectile points, and stone knives suggests that hunting also provided an important portion of the Early period diet (Gamble and King 1997). The oldest Early period settlements tend to be small and are frequently located on elevated land features well suited for defense. Later in the period some settlements increased in size, with the largest reaching a population size of several hundred persons. These larger settlements tend to be less defensively situated (King 2000).

The conclusion of the Early period and the beginning of the Middle period (±800 B.C.) is noteworthy for changes in ornaments and other artifacts as well as changes in cemetery organization, which evidence the increased centralization of political and economic power (King 2000). Increased populations in the region necessitated more intensive exploitation of existing terrestrial and marine resources (Erlandson 1994). Evidence for shifts in settlement patterns at this time has been noted at a variety of locations and is seen by many researchers as reflecting increasingly territorial and sedentary populations. During the Middle period specialization in labor emerged and trading networks became increasingly important. Malibu Canyon was likely a heavily trafficked route (Gamble and King 1997) as Malibu Creek was the only stream running the entire width of the Santa Monica Mountains, emptying into Santa Monica Bay near *Humaliwo* (CA-LAN-264), the ethnographic Chumash village from which Malibu derives its name.

The Late period, spanning from approximately 1100 A.D. to the mission era, is the period associated with the florescence of the contemporary Native American group known as the Chumash (King 2000; Wallace 1955) and is characterized by a dramatic increase in population. Occupying the northern Channel Islands and adjacent mainland from San Luis Obispo in the north to Malibu Canyon in the

south and inland to the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, the Chumash were the most influential and populous prehistoric group in California. Chumash culture featured pronounced status differentiation, inherited chieftainship, inter-village alliance, and craft specialization (Moratto 1984).

The Chumash inhabiting the coast and the Channel Islands relied primarily upon marine resources for their subsistence (Landberg 1965) and allowed for populations in excess of 1,000 people in coastal villages. These likely represented the most populous settlements west of the Mississippi (Moratto 1984). An extensive trading network linked Chumash settlements situated in different ecological zones and relied upon the use of bead currency produced primarily on the Channel Islands (King 1976). With some 150 villages, the Chumash are estimated to have numbered between 15,000 and 20,000 in the Pre-contact era (King 2000; Johnson 1999). Approximately 1,300 inhabitants, comprising between 6.5 and 9 percent of the overall Chumash population, occupied the Santa Monica Mountain region (King 2000).

Historic Overview

The Chumash were first encountered by the time of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's 1542 voyage that represented the first European exploration of the California coast. The Spanish period began in earnest in 1769 when Gaspar de Portolá and a small Spanish contingent began their exploratory journey along the California coast from San Diego to Monterey. Passing through the Los Angeles area, they traveled over the Santa Monica Mountains, through the Sepulveda Pass, across the San Fernando Valley, and back to the coast, missing Malibu completely (McAuley 1996a). Returning the following year, the party missed Malibu again. In 1776, the Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition camped along Las Virgenes Creek in what is now the city of Calabasas (McAuley 1996a).

Missions were established by the Spanish in Chumash territory in the final decades of the nineteenth century. The Chumash inhabiting Ventura and Los Angeles Counties were under the jurisdiction of either *Misión San Buenaventura* or *Misión San Fernando,* respectively (Cooley and Toren 1990). A total of 9,972 Chumash converts are recorded in mission records (Johnson 1999). This represents somewhere between half and two-thirds of the pre-contact Chumash population. While there is substantial evidence of the persistence of Chumash socioeconomic and political structures into the early historic era (Johnson 1999), the Mission period undoubtedly saw catastrophic changes to Chumash society. Contact with Europeans resulted in the introduction of a variety of infectious diseases to which the native populations had no resistance. Nutritional problems arose through a combination of increased dependence upon a few staple crops produced by the Mission economy, the conversion of land to agriculture and husbandry, and the gradual loss of knowledge concerning aboriginal subsistence practices (Walker, Lambert and DeNiro 1989).

The Spanish and the subsequent Mexican periods saw the granting of large tracts of land. Initially these land grants were often associated with the missions. After the secularization of the missions under Mexican rule, the lands were often granted to individuals. Rancho Topanga Malibu Simi Sequit, which now comprises much of Malibu Creek State Park, was granted by the Spanish crown to rancher Jose Bartoleme Tapia in 1802. One of the last intact Spanish grants, it was sold to Leon V. Prudhomme in 1848, to Don Mateo Keller in 1857, and then to Frederick Hastings Rindge in 1892 (Kilday 1995).

The first large-scale development within the current Park boundaries occurred in 1910 with the establishment of the Crags Country Club (Maslach 2000). Built on a portion of creekside land, the exclusive club was founded by sixty significant early Los Angeles businessmen (Maslach 2000). Crags Country Club, which consisted of a clubhouse/hunting lodge as well as several homes, was a place where high-society members could enjoy a quiet, natural setting for various recreational activities, business networking, and closing of important transactions (Ovnick et. al. 2000). One of these homes, the Hunt House is still standing today; another, the Mott Adobe, has only partial standing walls (Maslach 2000). An additional house is represented by a foundation. Crags Country Club was active through the 1920s, and closed in 1936 as a result of declining membership.

The pristine and picturesque landscape of Malibu Creek has long attracted the film industry. Twentieth Century Fox selected the vicinity in 1941 for the filming of *How Green Was My Valley* and in 1946 purchased over 2,000 acres of the former Crags Country Club property and the 250-acre Reagan Ranch (Maslach 2000). During the period of studio ownership, many famed films and television shows were taped against the beautiful Malibu backdrop, including *Tarzan,* portions of *South Pacific* and *Sand Pebbles, Planet of the Apes, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, In Like Flint, Daniel Boone, Dr. Doolittle, Volcano,* and *Pleasantville* (Maslach 2000). Notable TV shows filmed at the Park include *M*A*S*H, F Troop, The Beverly Hillbillies, Pleasantville,* and the miniseries *Roots* (McAuley 1996a). In 1955, the studio tore down the 45-year-old Crags Country Club clubhouse/hunting lodge and nearby home because it interfered with backdrop scenes of the natural landscape (Maslach 2000). Filming of movies and television shows continues to the present day.

Archaeological Information

Archaeological surveys and excavations conducted within the Park over the past 50 years have revealed a diverse and extensive range of cultural resources. Sixty archaeological sites have been identified within the current Park boundaries. The range of site types include 5 villages, at least 4 containing burial/cemetery components; 1 cemetery; 10 midden sites indicating the possibility of either permanent or semi permanent habitation; 17 rock shelters, many of which contain midden components and one of which features pictographs; 21 lithic artifact scatters; 5 bedrock milling sites; and 1 quarry site,

all of which indicate the intermittent use of special-activity sites specific to the exploitation of the area's diverse resources. Spanning the Early, Middle, and Late periods, the Park's archaeological sites date from at least 5000 years ago (CA-LAN-225) to the mission era (CA-LAN-229). In general, these sites reflect Middle and Late Holocene cultural adaptations to changing environmental conditions and socioeconomic systems.

As an important location for abundant fresh water throughout the year, the areas along Malibu Creek and its tributaries appear to have been ideal locations for prehistoric villages. It has been suggested that one of these (CA-LAN-229) is the ethnographic Chumash village of *Talepop*, recorded as the home to a number of Chumash who entered the missions around the turn of the 19th Century (Johnson 1999; King et al. 1968; King 1982; King 2000).

The Park's cultural resources from the historic period include a variety of structures, features, and cultural landscapes, most of which are associated with early California settlement, resort life, and film production. The Park is a landscape littered with remnants of past activities in the form of structures, foundations, brick kilns, retaining walls, construction materials, trash dumps, and farming complexes. Although many of these lack individual significance, when evaluated collectively as features of the larger cultural landscape, their historical significance is apparent. A number of noteworthy structures stand out among these many historic resources.

Sepulveda Adobe (CA-LAN-1426H)

Built by Pedro Sepulveda in 1863 following a flood that swept away his first residence, the Sepulveda Adobe is located on the north side of Mulholland Highway approximately 500 feet west of Las Virgenes Road. The architectural design and materials used in the construction of the Sepulveda Adobe are consistent with the Spanish/Mexican style popular throughout early California (Sanchez et. al. 1987). Built in a foundation of stones, the original structure consisted of two rooms and a porch running the length of the house. Its walls were manufactured from sun-dried adobe blocks, which were mortared and plastered with adobe and then whitewashed (Sanchez et. al. 1987). Archaeological excavations of the Sepulveda Adobe indicate the presence of a prehistoric component extending to a depth of 20 centimeters (8 inches) (Foster et. al. 1987; Sanchez et. al. 1987).

Crags Country Club Foundation (CA-LAN-756H)

Crags Country Club was built on a knoll on the west side of Malibu Creek at the southern mouth of Malibu Gorge in 1910 and was open to high-society members until 1936 (Maslach 2000). Crags Country Club was demolished in 1955 to make way for new movie-studio-related development. Its multilevel foundation with cement-lined drains, remnants of plumbing, rock walls, and steps remain (Brown, T. 1976).

Mott Adobe Ruins (CA-LAN-735)

The Mott Adobe was a vacation home built around 1925 by Los Angeles lawyer and member of Crags Country Club, Johnny Mott, on Mott Road, just off Crags Road. The structure is a Spanish-style adobe with two-door garage, featuring local bricks, wooden doors and beams, and wrought iron fixtures (Newland 2000).

Hunt House

Based on its Colonial Revival architectural style, the Hunt House was probably built during either the 1920s or 1930s. The owner of this house remains a mystery, although it is likely to have belonged to either Sumner P. or Willis G. Hunt, both Crags Country Club members. This structure is currently used as the visitor center (Newland 2000).

White Oak Farm/Colyear Ranch

White Oak Farm, located west of Las Virgenes Canyon Road north of Mulholland Highway, encompasses 1,022 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains. Originally owned by the Velarde's, a family of farmers, the White Oak Farm property was sold to Curtis Colyear, then to Jennings and Ruth Shamel in 1947, to Bob and Delores Hope in 1952, and then to the State in 1975 when it was incorporated as part of the Park. It is currently a residence for one of the Park Rangers (Newland 2000).

Hunter House

Now serving as Angeles District Headquarters, the building known as the Hunter House was built in 1946. The house was filmed during its construction for the feature film *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*. The Hunter House was fashioned after the old Colonial Connecticut style of the home owned by Myrna Loy, the star of the film. Seventy-three additional homes were built around the country based on the style of the Hunter House. Following the completion of the film, May Hunter, owner of the property, bought the home and then later sold it to the State as part of Century Ranch. The structure continues to retain most of its original facade (Newland 2000).

Mendenhall Oak

Near the confluence of Malibu and Mendenhall Creeks, the Mendenhall Oak is a famed, 700-year-old coast live oak, used as a resting spot for Spanish explorers and stagecoach runs between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. The tree reportedly burned in the October 9, 1982 fire; however, a regenerated limb grew from the stump. The oak is currently growing.

Century Lake

Crags Country Club built a dam on the gorge at Malibu Creek in 1910, creating the 7-acre Century Lake. The Lake, located on a portion of Malibu Creek just

south of Crags Road and north of Kaslow Natural Preserve, continues to fill with sediment and is now a marshland at its upper end. Many vegetation and wildlife species flourish at the lake.

Century Ranch

The nearly 2,500-acre area known as Century Ranch consists of a diversity of topographic features from lush chaparral covered mountainsides, groves of live oak and open plains, to boulder-filled gorges, all of which provide filmmakers with a variety of settings from which to create movie set backdrops (Maslach 2000; Tryner 1975). The contribution of 20th Century-Fox to the cultural landscape of this portion of the Park consists of steel water tanks, storage facilities, and the various remnants the many temporary, semi-permanent, and in some cases permanent structures constructed for scenes (Maslach 2000).

Plowed Field and Structure Foundation (LAN-387H)

Located to the east of Malibu Creek near the Serra Retreat, this site contains an open field, a stand of olive trees, and the foundation of at least one structure. A number of historic artifacts are associated with this site (King, T. 1969).

*M*A*S*H Set (CA-LAN-749)*

The M*A*S*H set is located just off Lost Cabin Trail, between Udell Gorge Natural Preserve and Kaslow Natural Preserve. The set is accessible on foot from Reagan Ranch, at the intersection of Cornell Road and Mulholland Highway. A total of 251 episodes were filmed during this 20th Century Fox production between 1970 and 1982. The set was dismantled after the filming ended; only a jeep and an ambulance remain, as well as the helipad located on a bank above the road. The set was built on top of a prehistoric site (CA-LAN-749) (Bingham 1978).

Collections

The Park does not have any official archaeological collections onsite; however, limited artifacts are available for viewing at the Hunt House. The archaeological collections from sites CA-LAN225, -227, and -229, excavated in 1961, are presently stored at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Other collections are currently housed at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) and a Department facility in West Sacramento.

Interpretative/Educational Resources

Minimal human impact and the proximity to a large metropolis make the Park an important and unique place where visitors can explore canyons, volcanic buttes, and important natural areas such as valley oak woodlands. While enjoying the natural landscape, visitors can also learn about the region's history at the Park's numerous cultural and historic sites.

Themes

Several interpretive and educational themes are presented at the Park. In general, the themes stress the importance of preserving and maintaining the Park's natural and cultural resource values while understanding and appreciating the diverse human history of the region. Interpretive displays are located in the Park at the visitor center in the Hunt House and near the Park entrance station.

Programs and Special Events

The Park hosts a number of special events and programs every year for children and adults. Events include, but are not limited to, daytime and nighttime ranger-led hikes, campfires, bird watching, educational hikes, and a range of educational events for children. Private special events are also held at the Park, including over 200 events per year for fundraisers, Boy Scouts, and other groups. The special event program at the Park allows up to 500 attendees per event. Information about specific events within the Park can be found at the visitor center and online.

Many interpretive services at the Park are offered by volunteer and docent programs as well as Park staff. Teachers and school groups commonly use the Park for educational purposes. One statewide educational program, *Coming Home to California*, is designed to connect children and teachers to the State's natural and historic treasures. This program is intended to inspire optimism, concern, and a sense of responsibility to California's future (NPS 2002). Other common programs at the Park include guided tours, outdoor adventure groups, and trail programs.

Museums and House Museums

Currently, there are no museums or house museums within the Park; however, Sepulveda Adobe is being restored as a house museum and is expected to be open in Spring 2004. Interpretive displays are available for public viewing at several locations in the Park.

Aesthetic Resources

Visual Resources and Scenic Characteristics

The Park, located in the heart of the picturesque Santa Monica Mountains, is a testimony to the changing seasons. It is home to rugged mountains, rolling hills, creeks, and unique cultural and historic sites. The Park is noted for its pristine views and diversity of visual resources.

Upon entering the Park, views are dominated by large chaparral-covered mountains and the massive volcanic rock formations of the Goat Buttes. The Park's different plant communities provide unique visual settings, ranging from lush riparian woodlands along the creeks and streams to dry chaparral-covered hillsides and oak woodlands along the upland slopes and valleys. Malibu Creek,

which passes through the center of the Park, is lined with willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, mulefat, and other riparian plants.

The scenic characteristics of the Park vary greatly depending on the location and the time of year. In the spring, wildflowers carpet the hills and the shrub-covered hillsides turn green. Although the Mediterranean climate is fairly consistent throughout the year, red, yellow, and orange leaves are visible during the fall season along the riparian corridors. Coastal fog is common in the winter, when most of the rainfall occurs in the Santa Monica Mountains.

In addition to its natural scenery, the Park also offers numerous cultural and historic sites that define its overall visual character. These sites, including White Oak Ranch, Hunt House, Century Lake, and the Park's numerous famous filming locations, offer snapshots of human occupation in the region.

High visitor numbers, frequent use of the Park, and easy after-hours access has given rise to visual impairments in the concentrated day-use areas of the Park, such as graffiti and trash. These conditions are not typical in the Park; however, they occasionally impair the scenic quality of the Park. Outside of the Park's boundaries, some ridgelines and undeveloped hillsides that are visible from the Park are threatened by development projects.

Viewsheds

The Park's deep canyons, high ridgelines, and unique natural features provide dramatic views from almost any location. Several of these features serve as "key observation points" that are located in areas accessible to the public and provide views that have a particular effect on the visitor's experience.

One of the main observation points is the Park entrance area. Located on the valley floor, the entrance allows visitors to get an initial view of the chaparral-covered mountains, towering volcanic formations, and dramatic Goat Buttes to the west. A short hike from the Park entrance is Rock Pool, located in a stunning gorge surrounded by volcanic cliffs, boulders, and sycamore trees. Farther along the trail, Century Lake offers more views of the volcanic Goat Buttes to the west and sedimentary mountains to the east.

Visitors who venture to the outer regions of the Park along its numerous trails can observe many scenic vistas. Those who visit White Oak Farm in the north of the Park and hike the Phantom Stagecoach Trail, enjoy views of the valley oak savanna preserved by the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve. To the west, ridge-top Malibou Lake Vista provides beautiful views of the lake and the surrounding community. In the south, the Backbone Trail provides spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean to the south and the Park to the north. On a clear day, a number of distant mountain ranges can be seen from the Park's highest vantage points.

Designated Scenic Areas and Routes

There are several designated scenic corridors in the vicinity of the Park. A portion of Las Virgenes Road, which becomes Malibu Canyon Road to the south, was designated in 2002 as a state-protected scenic highway. The road is also designated as "county scenic highway" and was the first road in southern California to be awarded such designation. The 8-mile route from Calabasas to the Malibu coastline features oak and sycamore groves below rocky ridges. The scenic highway designation extends from Lost Hills Road to PCH. The road receives the same level of protection as a State Scenic Highway, including increased protection against billboards, utility lines, and other potential eyesores along the road.

Mulholland Highway was established by the city of Los Angeles as a protected scenic corridor in 1973. This east-west corridor runs for 55 miles from Griffith Park near downtown Los Angeles to Leo Carrillo State Park on the Pacific Ocean and is dotted with pull-outs and designated scenic overlooks (NPS 2002). It traverses the Park from just north of the Park headquarters at Las Virgenes Road through to north of Century and Malibou Lakes. Mulholland Highway is a popular two-lane road and was one of the first highways constructed in the area. NPS is considering designating a scenic loop that would run from Mulholland to Sequit Point, to Malibu Bluffs, to Malibu Canyon Road, and back to Mulholland Highway (NPS 2002).

All the trails in the Park offer spectacular scenic vistas of the mountains, creeks, and/or the ocean, but they are not designated as scenic routes. NPS considers the Backbone Trail system through the Park to be a non-motorized scenic corridor (NPS 2002).

Recreational Resources

A multitude of recreational activities are available to the public in the Park. Such activities include, but are not limited to, hiking, climbing, biking, bird watching, sight-seeing, picnicking, camping, swimming, fishing, and horseback riding. Numerous camps and special events are also held at the Park. These activities are discussed below.

Trail Use

SMMNRA is currently writing a Trails Plan for utilization and maintenance of the trail system through the Santa Monica Mountains. The Park trail system will be part of the SMMNRA Trails Plan, and consists of non-motorized trails and fire roads. The MSCP trail system, shown in Figure 5 and detailed in Table 2-4, accommodates a wide range of recreational activities and user groups. A number of active trail uses take place at the Park, including hiking, jogging, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Over 40 miles of trails run through the Park and are designated by use to reduce crowding. More passive uses of the trail network include birdwatching, nature study, and photography.

Camping

Overnight camping is allowed at the Park in designated camping areas only. There are two campgrounds at the Park, both located south of the main park entrance (see Figure 5). The family campground has 62 individual sites, each equipped with a grill and picnic table. Four RV sites are located in this area; however, no hook-ups are available. Flush toilets and solar-heated showers are provided at the family campground. A separate group campground, which accommodates up to 60 people, is located south of the family camping area. This campground also includes restrooms, showers, picnic tables, and grills.

Table 2-4
Trails and Fire Roads in Malibu Creek State Park

Trail Name	Miles	Hikers	Bicycles	Horses
Ann Skagen Trail for the Visually Impaired	0.4	X		
Backbone Trail (east of Malibu Canyon Road)	5.5	X	X	X
Bulldog Road	4.3	X	X	X
Cage Creek Trail	0.3	X		X
Chaparral Trail	0.6	X		X
Cistern Trail	0.3	X		X
Crags Road	2.4	X	X	X
Deer Leg Trail	0.6	X		X
Forest Trail	0.5	X		X
Grassland Trail	0.7	X	X	X
High Road	0.6	X	X	X
Lake Vista Trail	0.6	X		X
Las Virgenes Connector Trail	0.6	X	X	X
Las Virgenes Fire Road	1.4	X	X	X
Liberty Canyon Road	1.2	X	X	X
Lost Cabin Trail	0.7	X	X	X
Lookout Trail	0.9	X		X
Lookout Fire Road	0.7	X	X	X
Mesa Peak Fire Road	6.3	X	X	X
Mott Road	0.7	X		X
Phantom Trail	2.1	X		X
Piuma Trail	1.9	X		X
Rock Pool Road/Trail	0.2	X	X	X
Saddle Peak Trail	3.2	X		X
Talepop Trail	1.8	X		X
Tapia Spur Trail	1.3	X	X	X
Upper Grassland Trail	0.4	X	X	X
Total	**40.2**			

Source: State of California- The Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Malibu Creek State Park Brochure, 1994.

Picnic Sites

The day use picnic sites at the Park are primarily located in the vicinity of the Park entrance and at Tapia Park. Picnic tables and grills are located in the main parking lot and throughout the campground areas, including twelve covered

picnic structures in the main parking lot area. Many picnic tables are available to the public at Tapia Park, one of the most heavily used areas of the Park.

Rock Climbing

Rock climbing and bouldering are allowed at the Park. The most popular rock climbing locations at the Park include the pocketed sandstone rock formations near the Rock Pool and the M*A*S*H filming site. Several of the climbing routes in the Park are bolted; however, no new bolts can be placed on the rocks. Rock climbers use chalk on their hands, which can leave residue tracks on the rocks. Beginner and advanced routes are found in the Park, including several difficult overhung sport routes.

Other Activities

The size and diversity of resources at the Park allow for a variety of activities throughout the year. Filming, special events, school tours and group visits, field investigation work by university students and extreme sporting events. Many Park visitors prefer sight-seeing and exploring the Park.

Air Quality

Air quality in the State Park is regulated by several jurisdictions including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (ARB), and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Park is located in the South Coast Air Basin as defined by SCAQMD. The EPA has established primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and lead (Pb), which are referred to as criteria air pollutants. The primary standards protect public health and the secondary standards protect public welfare. The California ARB has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for these same pollutants, as well as sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride, and visibility reducing particulates, which in most cases are more stringent than the NAAQS.

Southern California's high density population, together with terrain and climactic factors, create some of the nation's highest smog levels. Due to the relative low population and isolation of the Park as compared to the whole of the South Coast Air Basin, together with the marine influence, air quality levels in this portion of Los Angeles County are consistently in attainment with federal and California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, PM_{10}, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfates. Air quality data from the nearest monitoring station, located at the West Los Angeles VA Hospital at the Wilshire Boulevard/Sawtelle Boulevard intersection are provided in Table 2-5.

Table 2-5
West Los Angeles VA Hospital – Ambient Air Quality Data Summary (1997-2001) [1]

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Air Quality Standards	Federal Primary Standards	Maximum Concentrations[1]					Number of Days Exceeding Federal Standard[2]					Number of Days Exceeding State Standard[2]				
				1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
O_3	1 hour	0.09 ppm	0.12 ppm	0.111	0.1127	0.117	0.104	0.099	0	1	0	0	0	6	7	4	2	1
	8 hours	--	0.08 ppm	0.084	0.078	0.074	0.079	0.080	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--
CO	8 hours	9.0 ppm[3]	9.0 ppm	4.24	4.46	3.59	4.31	4.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NO_2	1 hour	0.25 ppm	--	0.138	0.130	0.133	0.162	0.109	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	0	0	0
	Annual	--	0.053 ppm	0.028	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.024	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--
PM_{10}	24 hours	50 $\mu g/m^3$	150 $\mu g/m^3$	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
	Annual/AAM[4]	20 $\mu g/m^3$	50 $\mu g/m^3$	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	--	--	--	--	--
SO2	1-Hour	0.25 ppm (665$\mu g/m^3$)	--	na	na	na	na	na	--	--	--	--	--	na	na	na	na	na
	24-Hour	0.04 ppm (105$\mu g/m^3$)	0.14 ppm (365$\mu g/m^3$)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
	Annual/AGM[4]	--	0.03 ppm (80$\mu g/m^3$)	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	--	--	--	--	--

Notes:
[1] Concentration units for O_3, CO, and NO_2 are in parts per million (ppm). Concentration units for PM_{10} are in micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$).
[2] For PM_{10}, calculated days are the estimated number of days that a measurement would have been greater than the level of the standard had measurements been collected every day. The number of days above the standard is not necessarily the number of violations of the standard for the year.
[3] Prior to 1997, the state standard was 9.1 ppm.
[4] AAM = annual arithmetic mean; AGM = annual geometric mean.
na = data not available
-- = not applicable
Source: (CARB 2003a).

The largest contributing pollutant to air quality in the areas surrounding the Park is vehicular traffic. Las Virgenes Road/Malibu Canyon Road, the north-south two-lane highway that passes through the eastern section of the Park, serves as a commuter passage for traffic coming to and from the city of Malibu. Traffic does not pass directly through the Park; however, the proximity to Las Virgenes Road/Malibu Canyon Road and roadway segments that operate at unacceptable LOS (i.e., LOS F), results in a considerable amount of air contaminants.

Hazards

Land within the Park has had a number of previous owners, including ranchers, Crags Country Club, and 20th Century Fox Studios. Prior to becoming a State Park, the Park was owned by 20th Century Fox Studios, and was used for filming television and movies. The area was not developed by Fox and primarily remains undeveloped today. Hazardous materials databases were searched for sites on or near the project area sites: sites searched include the EPA's National Priorities List and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Cortese List. The Park is free of environmental waste and underground storage tanks, as it has never been used for industrial purposes (EPA 2003; DTSC 2003).

Noise

Noise is generally defined as sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or disagreeable. Federal, state, and local governments have established noise standards and guidelines to protect citizens from potential hearing damage and various other adverse physiological and social effects associated with noise. The federal government regulates noise levels in the work place, near aircraft, and for certain products. The State of California regulates vehicular and freeway noise affecting classrooms, sets standards for sound transmission and occupational noise control, and identifies noise insulation standards and airport noise/land use compatibility criteria. Local communities generally regulate land use/noise level compatibility by establishing allowable noise levels on private property and levels associated with the use of certain types of sources.

The intensity of environmental noise fluctuates over time, and several descriptors of time-averaged noise levels are used. The three most commonly used descriptors are L_{eq}, L_{dn}, and CNEL. The energy equivalent noise level, L_{eq}, is a measure of the average energy content (intensity) of noise over any given period. Many communities use 24-hour descriptors of noise levels to regulate noise. The day-night average noise level, L_{dn}, is the 24-hour average of the noise intensity, with a 10 A-weighted decibels (dBA) "penalty" added for nighttime noise (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.) to account for the greater level of sensitivity to noise during this period. CNEL, the community equivalent noise level, is similar to L_{dn} but includes an additional 5-dBA penalty for evening noise (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.). Knowledge of the following relationships is helpful to understand this report (EPA 1971):

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1 decibel (dB) cannot be perceived by humans.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3-dB change is considered a just-perceivable difference.
- A change in level of at least 5 dB is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected.
- A 10-dB change is subjectively heard as approximately a doubling in loudness and would almost certainly cause an adverse change in community response.

Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources, such as boats; automobiles; and trucks and stationary sources, such as construction sites and parking lots. Noise generated by mobile sources typically attenuates (is reduced) at a rate between 3.0 to 4.5 dB per doubling of distance; whereas, stationary source noise typically attenuates at a rate of approximately 6 dB per doubling of distance. The rate generally depends on the atmospheric conditions, types of ground surface as well as the number or type of objects located between the noise source and the receiver.

The Park is located in the 150,000-acre SMMNRA, which is 90 percent undeveloped. The only homes located within the Park are staff housing, and the surrounding land use is generally undeveloped. Due to the Park's isolation from development and human inhabitation, the Park maintains low noise levels. The greatest generators of noise near the Park are the traffic on Las Virgenes Road/Malibu Canyon Road and any temporary construction activities in the vicinity of the Park.

Traffic

Aside from the main Park entrance area and Tapia Park, there are no paved roads inside the Park. Trails are reserved for hiking, horseback riding, and biking. Access to the Park entrance is provided via Las Virgenes Road. Las Virgenes Road can be accessed on the north end by Highway 101 via Las Virgenes Road and on the south end via Malibu Canyon Road by PCH. Slightly south of Mulholland Drive, the road changes from Las Virgenes Road to Malibu Canyon Road. The portion of Las Virgenes Road/Malibu Canyon Road that passes the Park entrance currently maintains a LOS F, Extremely Heavy Traffic (City of Calabasas 1995). This two-lane roadway serves as a commuter route between the city of Malibu and the San Fernando Valley. This route has only one passing lane. This, in addition to steep grades and sharp turns, chronically results in dangerous and crowded traffic conditions.

2.1.3 Planning Influences

System-wide Planning

System-wide planning improves the ability of the Department to fulfill its mission by establishing methods and guidelines for managing State-owned park land. The Department's Mission Statement reads:

> *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.*

Statewide Trails Plan

The California Recreational Trails Plan (Phase One), published in June 2002, addresses the mission and overall role of the California State Parks Statewide Trails Office as well as provides guidelines for future actions of the Statewide Trails Office. The mission and vision of the Statewide Trails Office is to:

> *Promote the establishment and maintenance of a system of trails and greenways that serves California's diverse population while respecting and protecting the integrity of its equally diverse natural and cultural resources. The system should be accessible to all Californians for improving their physical and mental well-being by presenting opportunities for recreation, transportation, and education, each of which provides enhanced environmental and societal benefits.*

This plan serves as a guideline for establishing and maintaining parks in California and integrates the Department's trail programs with the local government agencies and private organizations that operate and maintain the trails. Furthermore, it serves as a planning and maintenance guide for the over 40 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails within the Park.

System-wide Park Operations and Concessions Policies

The concessions program provides a very important part of the visitors' experience. Concessionaires offer the facilities, services, and goods that the State could not otherwise provide, ranging from traditional food services and campground grocery stores, to Jeep tours and rafting trips. Within the system's historic parks, concessionaires help the Department achieve its educational mission by providing historical re-enactments and other educational programs, known in the park profession as "interpretation." These programs add vitality, interest, and excitement to our fascinating heritage preserved and protected by the Department.

The Department partners with a variety of businesses, non-profits, and public agencies through concession contracts, co-operative agreements, and operating agreements to offer the public these goods and services. How these opportunities are made available to the public is regulated by the California Public Resources Code, Sections 5080 et seq.

Access to Parks Guidelines

Access to Parks Guidelines, based on accessibility laws, was first published by the Department in 1994 and revised in 2000. The guidelines detail procedure to make state parks universally accessible, while maintaining the quality of park resources. Also included in the guidelines are recommendations and regulations for complying with standards for accessibility.

Public Resources Code

California PRC Sections 5019.50 to 5019.80, Classification of Units of the State Park System, provides guidelines for the designation of State Park Units and guiding principles for State Park improvements. The PRC classifies different types of State Park Units and provides guidelines for the upkeep and improvements of park units.

Guidelines for Filming

The Guidelines for Filming in California State Parks, dated 1998, outlines the measures that must be taken by film crews to protect natural resources, maintain public safety, and observe the rights of the public. Each park may establish its own park-specific regulations. Filming is allowed within the Park as long as activities comply with the Department's guidelines.

Regional Planning Influences and Cooperation

Planning for the Park must be wide-ranging to consider issues that cross Park and district boundaries. Federal, state, county, and community agencies are responsible for providing oversight and review of various planning-related laws and policies. Some of the land management plans that directly influence and potentially impact the Park are described below.

Natural Communities Conservation Program

The NCCP developed by the CDFG in 1991, is an effort unique to California. The NCCP provides regional planning strategies for the protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing suitable economic development. The primary objective of the NCCP is the conservation of natural communities at the ecosystem scale, concurrent with accommodation of compatible land uses (CDFG 2003). There are no designated NCCP areas in the Park; however, this General Plan adheres to the principles established in the NCCP regarding the protection of habitat and biodiversity.

California Heritage Task Force

Established in 1981 by the California state legislature, the California Heritage Task Force (CHTF) was created to develop a set of policies and programs for the State's cultural heritage resources. In 1984, the CHTF Report was published as a guide to cultural resource management legislation writing.

California Coastal Act

The California Coastal Act of 1976 (CCA) (California Public Resources Code Section 30000 et seq.) was enacted by the State Legislature to provide long-term protection of California's 1,100-mile coastline for the benefit of current and future generations. The CCA created a partnership between the State (acting through the California Coastal Commission) and local government (15 coastal counties and 58 cities) to manage the conservation and development of coastal resources through a comprehensive planning and regulatory program. The adopted Local Coastal Plan (LCP) for the Park is the County's Malibu LCP/Land Use Plan (LUP) described later in this section.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

The Park, located within the SMMNRA, is subject to the management goals, policies, and guidelines established in the SMMNRA GMP/EIS. In 1978, NPS was granted authority to promote joint administration of the parklands within SMMNRA with the Department and SMMC. All three agencies collaborated to develop management for SMMNRA, which, combined with this General Plan, will guide management of the Park for the next 15 to 20 years. The elements of this plan are consistent with the SMMNRA GMP/EIS.

County of Los Angeles General Plan

The County of Los Angeles General Plan provides general goals and policies and specifically addresses Conservation and Open Space, Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Noise, Economic Development, Safety, and Public Facilities. The Park falls specifically under the Regional Recreation Area Plan, which is within the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan. A regional recreation area is defined by the County as "an extent of land and/or water surface which, by its unique features and/or unusual or extensive development, offers recreational opportunities that attract visitors from beyond the immediate vicinity without regard to physical, political or community boundaries." The goal of this plan is "adequate regional recreation opportunities for County residents and visitors" (County of Los Angeles 1986).

Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan

The SMMNAP, adopted October 24, 2000, is an element of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The SMMNAP serves as a planning tool to regulate development within the unincorporated area of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The guiding principle of the Conservation and Open Space Element for managing the natural environment that "resource protection has priority over development." This principle recognizes that irreplaceable resources must be managed to protect biological habitats and corridors, water quality, scenic resources, open space, and recreation.

County of Los Angeles Malibu LCP/LUP

The County of Los Angeles Malibu LCP/LUP, adopted in 1986, was established in accordance with the CCA of 1976. It consists of selected local land use plans, zoning ordinances, and maps as well as implementation measures that meet the requirements of the CCA. The Park is almost fully encompassed within the Malibu Coastal Zone, which extends south-north from the shoreline approximately 5 miles inland and east-west from the Los Angeles City limits to the Ventura County line. In 2002, the City of Malibu Local Coastal Program/Land Use Plan (City of Malibu 2002) was adopted by the California Coastal Commission, for land within the Malibu city limits. However, the County's 1986 Malibu LCP/LUP still governs all unincorporated county land within the Malibu Coastal Zone. The County of Los Angeles is preparing to update the 1986 Malibu LCP/LUP.

City of Malibu General Plan

Malibu is located directly south of the Park. It extends from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Ocean and is within the SMMNRA. Many of the policies in the City's Open Space and Recreation Element pertain to preservation of natural resources similar to those at the Park.

City of Calabasas General Plan

Calabasas is located on the northwest border of the Park. Similar to the goals associated with the SMMNRA GMP/EIS and the Park General Plan/EIR, the City Open Space Element goals include the preservation of remaining open space, protection of resources, and efficient maintenance and management of open space areas.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Programs

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board programs cover a wide span of water-related disciplines, including Enforcement and Groundwater Permitting, Regional Programs (includes focus on Information Technology, Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads, Non-Point Source, and Watershed Management coordination), Remediation (Clean-up), Storm Water (including issuance and enforcement of Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits), Underground Storage Tanks, and Watershed Regulation (focusing on Municipal Permitting, Industrial Permitting, and General Permitting/Special Projects).

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Malibu Creek Watershed Management Plan

The Malibu Creek Watershed Management Plan represents the cumulative input of the cities in the watershed, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, and LVMWD. These groups formed a new approach to watershed management that integrates the many uses of the watershed with natural resource assessment, land use planning, and public involvement. The plan focuses on the watershed as a whole, with a goal of long-term sustainable management that will ensure sustainable water quality and watershed health. The Park is within the upper portion of the Malibu Creek watershed.

Southern California Association of Governments 2001 Regional Transportation Plan

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-term transportation plan which confronts the needs of six southern California counties: Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Orange, and Ventura. The main factors that influence the RTP are growth forecasts, financial assumptions, regional aviation system, regional transit services, transportation and air quality conformity, and environmental justice. The Park is within the SCAG region and will be affected by any plans related to the transit services or highway system; however, no new transit services or highway projects are proposed in the 2001 RTP that would directly affect circulation around the Park.

SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guideline Policies

The SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guideline Policies address issues of regional growth. The Growth Management Chapter (GMC) contains goals that are particularly applicable to the update of the General Plan. These goals include improving the regional standard of living, improving the regional quality of life, and providing social, political, and cultural equity in the region.

Demographic Profile

Population Trends and Projections

The changing demographic trends of an area affect the demand for and use of recreational space. The following key factors will affect future use patterns in the Park.

The population in the SCAG region is projected to increase by 40 percent by the year 2025 (SCAG 2001); however, most of the growth is expected to be in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, which are on the eastern side of the SCAG region (SCAG 2002). Los Angeles County grew by 7.4 percent between 1990 and 2000 (USDC 2000). Regional growth is expected to increase recreational demand at the Park. In addition to an overall growth in population, shifts in visitor types will occur as changes in regional demographics occur.

The Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander populations are increasing at a faster rate than other populations. By 2003, the proportion of Hispanics in the region will exceed that of non-Hispanic whites (SCAG 2001). These data suggest that Park user groups may change and, therefore, recreational use patterns may also shift.

Responses in surveys completed by Park visitors would suggest that most visitors have a bachelor's degree or higher and an average household income of $75,000 or more. Such figures are not representative of the immediate surrounding area and are not believed to represent the education and income levels of the majority of Park visitors. Within the SCAG region, only 24 percent of residents attained a bachelor's degree, and the region's per capita income in 2000 was $29,330 (SCAG 2002). Such data suggest that the Park serves people with diverse income levels and educational backgrounds.

Another anticipated trend is that the number of people in the SCAG region age 65 and above will increase by 2025 to 15.4 percent of the total population, from 9.9 percent in 1997 (SCAG 2002). This shift to an older population will affect how recreational places are used. Some facilities may need to be improved to meet the needs of an older, active population.

Local and Regional Residents

The northwest portion of Los Angeles County has a relatively low population density compared to the rest of the County because of the large amount of protected open space. The Park is located in the SMMNRA, which is 90 percent undeveloped. The two nearest cities to the Park are Calabasas and Malibu. Calabasas, located to the north of the Park, had a population of over 20,000 in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Malibu, located to the south of the Park, had a population of nearly 13,000 in 2000. Populations surrounding the Park in Calabasas and Malibu are over 80 percent Caucasian, approximately 5 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent African American. In contrast, the nearby city of Los Angeles has a population of 3.7 million, which is 31.1 percent Caucasian, 44.6 percent Hispanic, 12.1 percent Asian, and 9.5 percent African American (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

Existing and Potential Future Park Visitors

Seasonal Use Fluctuations

The Department collected attendance data for 2002 to understand the seasonal use patterns. The data are broken into three categories: paid day use, free day use, and camping. As shown in Table 2-6, overall use is highest in the summer. The heaviest paid day use for 2002 occurred in February, followed by July and June. Including visitors who entered the Park through free entrances, the largest attendance occurred during the summer months of July, June, and May. Likewise, the campgrounds were used most often in August, July, and June.

Table 2-6
Malibu Creek State Park 2002 Attendance

Month	Park Attendance			Total
	Paid Day Use	Free Day Use	Camping	
January	9,759	40,096	1,844	51,699
February	21,528	37,344	2,567	61,439
March	9,078	24,208	5,027	38,313
April	7,405	25,491	4,488	37,384
May	15,973	46,848	5,063	67,884
June	19,572	45,251	7,162	71,985
July	21,084	48,376	9,946	79,406
August	14,150	44,491	10,240	68,881
September	13,247	34,990	5,850	54,087
October	7,804	33,760	5,568	47,132
November	9,648	16,438	4,685	30,771
December	2,617	33,017	2,042	37,676
TOTAL	151,865	430,310	64,482	646,657

Attendance data correspond to the 2001-2002 Park visitor survey, which shows that visitors tend to use the Park year-round; however, Park use generally decreases in the winter with the colder weather. The seasonal fluctuation in Park use is largely due to changes in the weather as well as summer vacation schedules for school-aged children.

Visitor Characteristics

Each year, more than 33 million visitors enjoy the SMMNRA, including more than 650,000 visitors at the Park. The Park offers a multitude of active and passive recreational opportunities, which attract a wide range of user groups from throughout the southern California region. The majority of the visitors to the Park are day users who come for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and picnicking. The Park's picnic facilities in the vicinity of the entrance and at Tapia Park tend to attract large groups and families, including a much higher percentage of Hispanic users than the rest of the Park.

The Park's large open spaces and extensive trail network attract all types and levels of trail users. A significant number of the trail users drive to the Park and take short hikes on the more accessible trails located near the major roads and the Park entrance. Many local residents regularly use the Park's trails for jogging, hiking, and horseback riding. These users tend to come from the affluent communities that surround the Park. A recreational trail use survey conducted by the NPS in 2002 provided the following facts about trail users in the SMMNRA:

- The SMMNRA is a popular year-round recreational destination.

- Trail users were predominantly white, middle-aged males, who were born in the U.S., spoke English, were college-educated, and relatively affluent.
- Trail users typically visited the SMMNRA with friends and were return visitors.
- Minorities and low-income wage earners were noticeably underrepresented in the survey sample.
- Over 50 different nationalities were recorded in the survey sample.

Park Interest Groups

There are a number of interest groups and stakeholders in the Santa Monica Mountain region. Those directly affecting planning at the Park include:

Malibu Creek Docents – Malibu Creek Docents is a public benefit nonprofit organization that currently partners with the Department at the Park. The organization supports education and interpretive programs within the Park and operates the Hunt House visitor center.

California Wildlife Center – formed in 1998, California Wildlife Center is a nonprofit organization that provides veterinary services and special facilities to rehabilitate wild animals. Their facility is located in the El Nido area of the Park.

Heal the Bay – formed in 1985, Heal the Bay is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning up Santa Monica Bay and southern California's coastal waters and is one of the Park's longest-standing partners. They also participate in cleanup and education programs and conduct research on projects and events that are potentially harmful to California's coastline.

National Park Service – NPS is an important stakeholder and partner in the Park general plan process. Because the Park is located in the SMMNRA, cooperation and coordination between the Department and all SMMNRA partners, including NPS, is imperative. To this end, the Department has maintained close coordination with NPS throughout the general plan process.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy - Through direct action, alliances, partnerships, and joint powers authorities, the Conservancy's mission is to buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of southern California to form an interlinking system of parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are accessible to the general public.

Mountain Restoration Trust (MRT) – MRT is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains through land acquisition, cooperative planning, restoration, and offering educational and recreation programs.

Surfrider Foundation – The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves, and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research, and education. Surfrider Foundation conducts scientific research and provides and supports coastal education programs.

California Native Plant Society – CNPS is a nonprofit organization consisting of both amateur and professional members, dedicated to preserving native plants for future generations and increasing public understanding and appreciation of California's native plants in their natural habitat.

Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC) – SMMTC represents trail user groups in the SMMNRA through with the objective of preserving, maintaining, restoring, and building trails within the SMMNRA. The SMMTC is committed to protecting and enhancing trail systems for educational, recreational, and historic purposes.

Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) – CORBA is dedicated to the concerns and needs of mountain bicyclists in Los Angeles and surrounding areas. CORBA builds and maintains trails, provides bicyclists with information on trail access, and educates bicyclists on riding and trail safety.

Public Concerns and Comments

The Department typically receives information about public concerns and comments at the Park through written comments and visitor conversations with staff during a visit to the Park. Visitor comments collected on-site are then discussed in regular staff meetings.

A state park visitor satisfaction survey has been conducted by the Department annually since 1996. The survey profiles the demographic characteristics of park users and asks specific questions regarding park facilities, staff, and overall satisfaction with visitors' recreational experience. The survey is not distributed systematically to visitors as they enter the Park. Rangers noted that visitors usually fill out the survey only when they have a complaint. Completed surveys are returned to the Department headquarters for incorporation into a statewide database. Survey results from 2000 and 2001 are available for the Park. Fifty-nine respondents are included in the survey results from both years. Comments that are applicable to the planning process are listed below:

- Resource Protection: The Park's important cultural and natural resources should be protected.
- Public Safety: The Park is safe; however, more ranger patrols are needed at night.
- Facilities: Facilities should be improved, including better restrooms and campgrounds; additional trash cans are needed.

- Education/Interpretation: The Park should have more educational information and programs on the natural and cultural resources. The Visitor Center should be more accessible and offer longer hours.
- Recreation: Park staff are friendly; accessibility of many different activities within the Park is important.
- Improvements/Suggestions: A number of Park improvements were suggested. Furthermore, maps should be readily available and the signage should be improved.

Chapter 3 Park Plan

This chapter presents the vision for the long-term management of the Park. To serve the varied and diverse natural, recreational, and cultural priorities that the Park Plan must address, the Park Plan identifies management zones that provide visitors with a range of activities that are compatible with the resource characteristics of each area of the Park. Additionally, several levels of goals and guidelines are provided to direct Park management activities at the Park-wide level and for selected specific locations, such as Reagan Ranch and the main Park entrance. As such, some localities of the Park are covered by both Park-wide and area-specific goals and guidelines, while others are covered only by the broader Park-wide goals and guidelines.

3.1 PURPOSE AND VISION

3.1.1 Purpose of Malibu Creek State Park

The Park exhibits a natural beauty once common across southern California. Located centrally in the SMMNRA, the Park plays a prominent role in protecting and perpetuating the ecological integrity and picturesque character of the mountain features, while providing an important historical context for the interaction of humans with their environment and the changing landscape. The purpose of the Park is to provide environmental amenities and recreational and educational opportunities for the public in a manner compatible with the Park's enduring values and features. The value of the Park's important natural and cultural features will only increase as development continues to encroach upon the remaining natural areas in the region.

3.1.2 Vision for Malibu Creek State Park

Malibu Creek State Park is an area of outstanding natural and scenic beauty in the midst of a large metropolitan area. On any given day, visitors can access dramatic mountain peaks with views of the Pacific Ocean, walk through lush oak woodland valleys, relax on the edge of beautiful streams and pools and enjoy picturesque rock formations. Visitors of all abilities and ages can experience the natural environment and learn about the rich history of the Park. The Park is a place for visitors to retreat from their hectic daily life and be inspired and renewed by nature.

3.2 PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES

The Department uses management zones to spatially define appropriate management strategies for each State Park unit. The management zones differ from one general plan to another and are guided by land use opportunities and

resource sensitivities unique to each individual park. To develop management zones for a park, the distinct characteristics of each park area are defined and analyzed according to resource character and management, visitor experience, visitor uses, and range of facilities.

Four management zones have been developed based on the variety of natural, geographical, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation sensitivities and values found in the Park. Within these zones, the desired resource conditions, visitor experience and uses, and potential facilities vary depending on the resource inventory and stakeholder input. The management zones for the Park, illustrated in Figure 7, are Core Habitat Zone, Natural Open Space Zone, Cultural/Historic Zone, and Recreation/Operations Zone. A description of each zone is provided below. Allowed uses in each zone are summarized in Table 3-1.

3.2.1 Core Habitat Zone

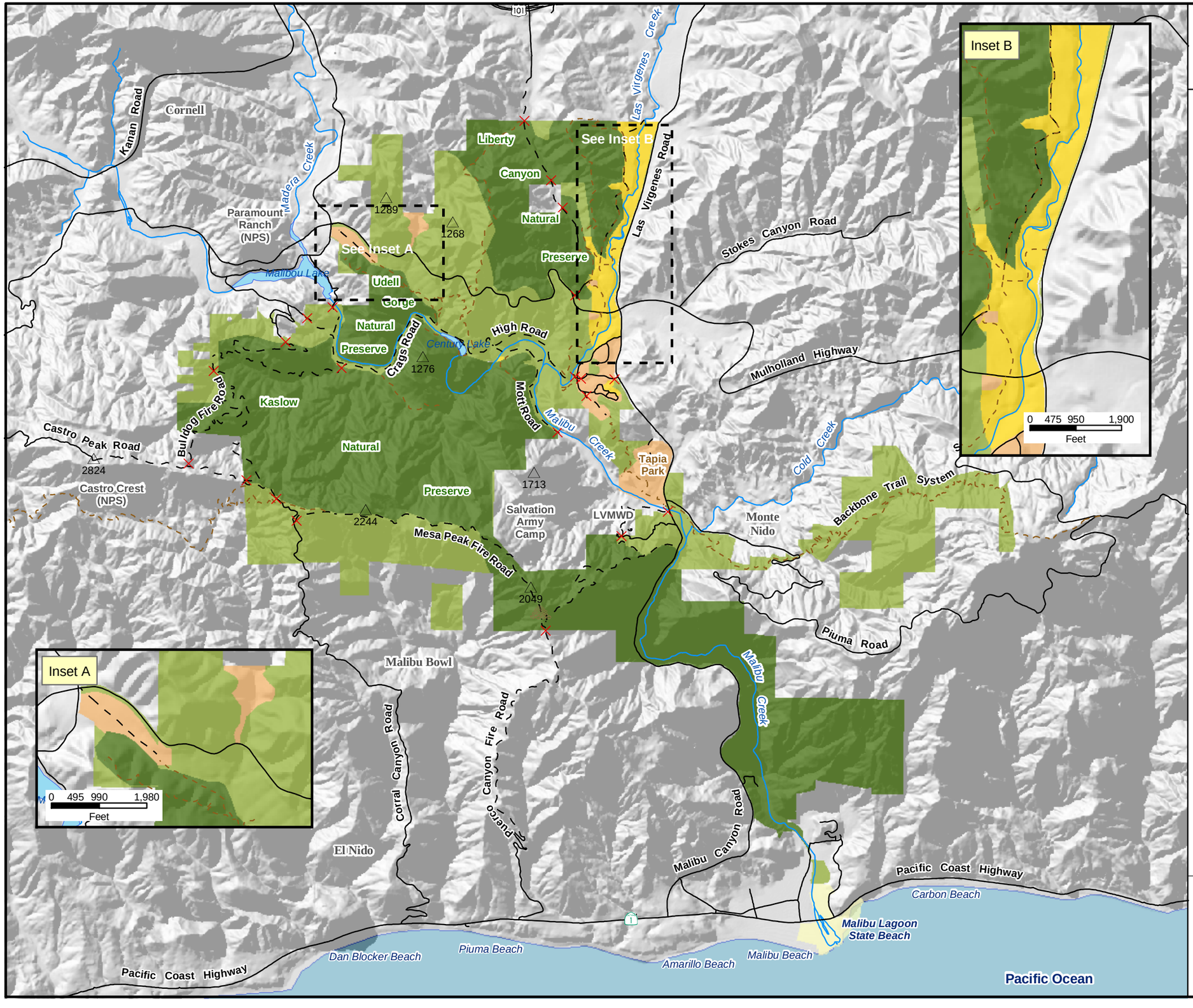
The Core Habitat Zone encompasses the areas of highest biological sensitivity in the Park. Resource protection is the primary goal of the Core Habitat Zone; however, restricted forms of recreation are permitted. This zone is a low intensity area where visitors can enjoy wilderness experience and often find solitude. The Core Habitat Zone includes all of the Park's legally designated Natural Preserves, which are governed by PRC Section 5019.71 (see Section 2.1.1) and are designated to recognize and protect areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance. In particular, Natural Preserves are established in areas of rare or endangered plant species and their supporting ecosystems, unique geologic features, or significant fossil occurrences and are to be of sufficient size to enable natural ecological processes to continue with a minimum of human interference.

Three areas, Kaslow, Liberty Canyon, and Udell Gorge, were designated as Natural Preserves prior to adoption of this current General Plan. This designation was supported by substantial vegetation and wildlife assemblages, including rare and threatened species, located in these areas. The preserves are shown in Figure 7.

In addition to the three previously designated natural preserves, one new natural preserve, Malibu Canyon Natural Preserve, is proposed for the Park. This preserve, also shown in Figure 7, is located along Malibu Canyon, one of the scenic treasures of the Santa Monica Mountains. The preserve protects rare and endangered species habitat, including that of the important steelhead trout, and maintains the ecological integrity of the creek.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 7
PREFERRED PLAN



Basemap Features

- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Landslide
- Mountains
- Lakes

Preferred Alternative

- Natural Open Space
- Cultural/Historic
- Core Habitat
- Recreation/Operations

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

0 1,450 2,900 5,800 8,700 11,600

Feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

EDAW

Nov. 25, 2003

p:/20032/1108 Malibu Creek/Graphics_GIS_CAD/Outputs/Final/Draft General Plan

Table 3-1
Malibu Creek State Park: Management Zones Matrix

		Core Habitat Zone	Natural Open Space Zone	Cultural/ Historic Zone	Recreation/ Operations Zone
Public / Visitor Uses and Facilities	Camping in designated areas	×	×	×	✓
	Hiking (on trails)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hiking (off trails)	×	✓	×	✓
	Equestrian (on trails)	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Equestrian (off trails)	×	×	×	×
	Mountain Bikes (on trails)	×	✓	✓	✓
	Mountain Bikes (off trails)	×	×	×	×
	Other recreation[1]	×	⊖	⊖	⊖
	Motorized equipment and vehicles on paved roads	×	✓	✓	✓
	Emergency access	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Parking in designated lots	×	✓	✓	✓
	Transportation hub	×	✓	✓	✓
	Education / Interpretation	⊖	✓	✓	✓
	Commercial filming / photography	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
	Picnicking and picnic facilities	×	✓	✓	✓
	Buildings for visitor support	×	⊖	⊖	✓
	Group camp facilities	×	×	×	✓
Operational / Administrative Uses and Facilities	Utilities	×	✓	✓	✓
	Souvenirs / Concessions	×	×	✓	✓
	Employee housing	×	✓	✓	✓
	Special events	×	🗎	🗎	🗎
	Research	🗎	🗎	🗎	🗎
	Administrative / Maintenance facility	×	✓	✓	✓
	Ecological restoration	✓	✓	✓	✓

1 May include, but is not limited to rock climbing, orienteering, geocaching, swimming, and other active recreation.

Legend			
✓	Permitted	⊖	Permitted, with restrictions
×	Not permitted	🗎	Permit required

3.2.2 Natural Open Space Zone

The Natural Open Space Zone protects natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources and allows for recreation to occur. This zone permits low to moderate intensity uses where visitors will have minimal to moderate contact with other people. The zone is considered less biologically and culturally sensitive than the Core Habitat Zone and Cultural/Historic Zone. However, the zone does contain sensitive resource areas receiving higher levels of protection than in the Recreation/ Operations Zone. The areas within this zone include all land within the Park not designated in Core Habitat, Cultural/Historic, and Recreation/Operations zones, including fire roads and trails.

3.2.3 Cultural/Historic Zone

The Cultural/Historic Zone protects areas of the Park that are representative of the region's heritage, including historic and prehistoric features and landscapes, while encouraging visitor participation and enrichment. All of the areas proposed for this zone are representative of the diverse local and regional heritage and are significant for their role in representing the human experience in California. This zone is a low to moderate-intensity use area where only essential visitor services and facilities will be located. Visitors will often encounter other people. Adaptive reuse of facilities is encouraged so that appropriate visitor services, recreational opportunities, and operational facilities can be provided. Multi-use trails may run through this zone and biological restoration is also allowed. As shown in Figure 7, this zone includes a few isolated pockets (Hunt House and M*A*S*H site), and one larger zone that connects the main Park entrance area to Sepulveda Adobe, White Oak Farm, and areas to the south.

3.2.4 Recreation/Operations Zone

The Recreation/Operations Zone designates areas where visitor recreational facilities, operational facilities, and maintenance facilities are focused and where future development should occur. While future development in this zone must be sensitive to any significant resources located in the vicinity, the zone is demarcated to avoid those areas of greatest resource sensitivity in the Park. Essential visitor services and operational facilities will be consolidated in this zone to maximize management efficiency and visitor use and enjoyment. This zone is a high intensity use area where the development will be concentrated and frequent contact with other people is to be expected. As shown in Figure 7, this zone is designated in four locations of the Park: the main Park entrance and day use area, Tapia Park, April Road property, and Reagan Ranch.

3.3 PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

To clarify the purpose of, and vision for, the Park, a series of Park-wide goals have been formulated. Broad management guidelines have also been

developed that underpin these goals and ensure a practical direction for implementation. This section describes the Park-wide goals and guidelines for natural and physical resources; cultural resources; recreational activities; scenic resources and aesthetics; facilities and services; circulation, trails, and access; Park-wide interpretation; visitor use and development; and relationships with local landowners and acquisitions.

3.3.1 Natural and Physical Resources

The Park encompasses within its boundaries a unique assemblage of resources that, properly managed and cared for, will provide enjoyment, recreation, and education for many generations. To better categorize the goals and guidelines for the Park's natural and physical resources, the following subsections are included below: vegetation, wildlife, wildfire management, and water courses.

Vegetation

Past land management practices, including ranching, have changed the ecological conditions under which native plant communities have evolved in many areas of the Park. Furthermore, the juxtaposition of the Park with an increasingly urbanized and developed landscape is increasing the susceptibility of the Park to invasion by exotic plants and animals.

Goal NR-1: Protect, restore, and enhance functioning native ecosystems within the Park boundaries by improving the type, connectivity, and extent of natural vegetation communities.

Guidelines:

- **NR-1.1:** A comprehensive understanding of the Park's native vegetation is key to improving the protection and enhancement of its natural communities. To this end, research opportunities concerning the type, extent, and ecological relationship of vegetation communities shall be undertaken. This research shall form the basis for vegetation management plans to improve and restore habitat. Vegetation management plan(s) shall be prepared for the Park and implemented to reintroduce native plant species and control the spread of exotics.
- **NR-1.2:** Coordinate with neighboring agencies and local groups to develop and implement plans to restore and maintain the native ecosystem of the Santa Monica Mountains, as appropriate to achieve Park goals.
- **NR-1.3:** Restore natural processes and functions to parcels that are acquired for their habitat values.

Goal NR-2: Implement guidelines to provide long term protection and enhancement of sensitive ecosystems and plant species.

Guidelines:

- **NR-2.1:** A database of the Park's sensitive species will be developed and maintained to ensure proper management of the Park's sensitive resources. This database will be updated regularly and will be coordinated with all appropriate resource agencies.
- **NR-2.2:** As understanding of sensitive species improves, plans shall be created to improve the specific management of Park-wide and regionally important ecosystems and plant species.
- **NR-2.3:** Landscape developed areas with plants native to local area.

Goal NR-3: Prevent the introduction and spread of exotic, invasive, and non-native species.

Guidelines:

- **NR-3.1:** Monitor, assess, and document the occurrence, extent, and type of exotics present in the Park and adjacent lands to gain an understanding of the presence and role of exotics in natural ecosystems and identify and eradicate the presence, occurrence, and extent of exotic plant species.
- **NR-3.2:** Develop management actions to minimize and, where possible, prohibit activities that spread non-native invasive plants. Human activities that disturb the natural ecological system shall be minimized.

Wildlife

The Santa Monica Mountains encompass contiguous areas of natural landscapes that include mountainous terrain, valleys, rock crags, and sweeping meadows. The faunal assemblage that inhabits this unique terrain is equally varied and diverse, but threatened by a variety of pressures, both human-induced and natural. The protection and enhancement of wildlife within the Park will be essential for the survival of the region's rich wildlife assemblage.

Goal NR-4: Protect, restore, and perpetuate native wildlife populations significant to the Park and the wider region.

Guidelines:

- **NR-4.1:** To properly protect and enhance populations, it is essential that a thorough and scientifically based body of knowledge be developed and tested. To this end, undertake and support research that enhances knowledge about the type and populations of native species at the Park and those of regional significance. Wildlife

management practices that enhance populations of native species will be developed and supported.

- **NR-4.2:** Regular monitoring of wildlife populations and movement is necessary to understand the relationship between fauna and habitat, other wildlife, and humans, as well as increases and decreases in population numbers. Undertake surveys to monitor the health and sustainability of sensitive animal populations.
- **NR-4.3:** If determined to be scientifically feasible and viable, implement breeding and reintroduction programs with an emphasis on sensitive and threatened species, in consultation with adjacent landowners, and federal and other state agencies.
- **NR-4.4:** Create specific management programs using sound ecological practices and professionally accepted methods to protect and restore sensitive wildlife populations and their habitats.
- **NR-4.5:** Undertake research to identify the presence, occurrence, and extent of exotic wildlife species, and to formulate a plan for their eradication.

Goal NR-5: Protecting biocorridors and enhancing the movement of wildlife through the Park is essential to the survival of local species. The Park will work to maintain and enhance the dispersal and movement of native animals within and beyond Park boundaries.

Guidelines:

- **NR-5.1:** Study wildlife populations to determine whether the protection and connectivity of critical habitat can be improved by expanding the Natural Preserve boundaries.
- **NR-5.2:** Design future development in the Park to minimize impacts to wildlife corridors. Furthermore, coordinate with other agencies and property owners to acquire or secure land acquisitions that ensure key wildlife corridors are preserved or enhanced.
- **NR-5.3:** The riparian corridors in the Park encompass unique assemblages of vegetation and wildlife. Protect and enhance these important habitat movement corridors throughout the Park.
- **NR-5.4:** Undertake efforts to enhance steelhead habitat and improve habitat connectivity through the Park, including monitoring results of ongoing USACOE studies regarding the possible removal of Rindge Dam.

Wildfire Management

Fire has been recognized as an important component to the natural processes of most wildland ecosystems of California. Wildland fires can also become a destructive agent to ecosystems and communities alike. Therefore, it is

important that a program be developed that will integrate fire management activities and natural resource goals to diminish the threat of unwanted fires while promoting sound ecological sustainability in the park unit. The California State Parks Prescribed Fire Management Policy states that "it is the policy of the department that the major goal of prescribed fire use is to restore fire to its proper role in the native ecosystems within units of the State Park System."

Goal NR-6: Restore the role of fire as a resource management tool to support ecosystem sustainability and to promote public safety awareness to the Park's visitors and surrounding communities.

Guidelines:

- **NR-6.1:** Develop an appropriate wildfire management program that addresses the current needs of the Park within the scope of the Park's ability to respond based on the latest practical understanding of fire management. Include coordination with other agencies, organizations, and neighbors and prescribed burning and routine vegetation maintenance, as necessary. Revise and update the plan as needed.
- **NR-6.2:** Include guidelines regarding the design of fuel management zones and setbacks between the Park and adjacent surrounding developments in the Park's wildfire management guidelines.
- **NR-6.3:** Create preventative measure to mitigate the risk of wildfires originating within the Park, through internal and external fire management education on the role of fire and in wildfire management guidelines.
- **NR-6.4:** Include collaboration, coordination integration between state, county and local governmental entities and neighboring communities related to fire management issues.

Water Courses

The Park is home to two major creeks, Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek. There are several popular areas along these creeks, including Century Lake and the Rock Pool. From the north, west, and east, water enters the Park to trickle, cascade, and meander its way through the Park's pools and gullies to the southern terminus of the Park and the entrance to Malibu Lagoon. Water is a vital part of the Park, contributing in large part to the region's rich cultural and natural heritage. Invasive plants, heavy visitor use, and inappropriate development have a destructive affect on water quality and the viability and stability of creekbeds. The Park's watercourses host numerous plant and animal species and are important sources of water for the Park's wildlife.

Goal NR-7: Allow for the free passage of water courses through the Park, in a pristine, natural setting.

Guidelines:

- **NR-7.1:** Support ongoing hydrology and hydraulic studies to better understand the role of water in the Park, including regular water quality sampling and monitoring.
- **NR-7.2:** Prepare and undertake strategies for the stabilization and restoration of streams. Develop natural bank stabilization measures and avoid structural engineering measures unless required for safety purposes.
- **NR-7.3:** Develop and implement best management practices (BMPs) to capture and treat stormwater runoff from Park roads and other paved surfaces. Paved areas within 500 feet of water bodies will be the priority in terms of areas to be addressed.

Goal NR-8: Operate Park facilities and manage resources in a manner that does not contribute to degradation in water quality of the watershed.

Guidelines:

- **NR-8.1:** Prepare and undertake strategies for the stabilization and restoration of streams. Develop natural bank stabilization measures and avoid structural engineering measures unless required for safety purposes.
- **NR-8.2:** Prepare and implement erosion control plans for projects involving excavation or other ground surface disturbances that would increase the potential for generating sediment-carrying runoff.

3.3.2 Cultural Resources

The Park is home to many regionally significant cultural resources. Evidence of prehistoric occupation, remnants of historic structures and features, and oral and written history contribute to the Park's unique and varied heritage. Within the context of the Santa Monica Mountains, these cultural resources provide important information and interpretive opportunities to better understand their local and regional cultural significance.

Goal CR-1: Identify, protect, and interpret the archaeological resources within the Park.

Guideline:

- **CR-1.1:** Ongoing coordination with local Native American groups will enhance the understanding and appreciation of the Park's cultural resources. Manage and protect the Park's cultural resources for preservation and interpretation of Native American artifacts and sacred sites. Develop measures to protect such sites from disturbance, vandalism, and decay.

Goal CR-2: Protect and preserve the paleontological resources within the Park.

Guideline:

- **CR-2.1:** Manage and protect paleontological resources in the Park using scientific principles and expertise. Prepare an inventory of the Park's paleontological resources for analysis in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Monitor and protect the Park's paleontological resources from theft and vandalism.

Goal CR-3: Protect and preserve the significant historic resources in the Park.

Guideline:

- **CR-3.1:** Restore and enhance historic structures to improve the understanding of and appreciation for these resources. Determine feasible adaptive reuse strategies for historic structures, including the Hunt House, White Oak Farm, Sepulveda Adobe, and Hunter House emphasizing enhancing interpretation.

Goal CR-4: Preserve cultural landscapes to provide interpretive education on cultural heritage.

Guideline:

- **CR-4.1:** Work to develop and maintain cultural landscapes in the Cultural/Historic Zone without significantly impacting the surrounding natural vegetation. To this end, operations specialists, ecologists, and cultural specialists shall work cooperatively when developing new facilities and programs in the Cultural/Historic Zone.

3.3.3 Recreational Activities

The Park is a prime location for a varied range of recreational pursuits. Hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and other users enjoy the Park's spectacular landscapes and diverse natural life from a variety of vantage points. The regional Backbone Trail system passes through the center of the Park, linking it to adjacent areas of natural open space. Rock climbing, swimming, and a variety of other pursuits offer visitors multiple opportunities to experience the diversity of the Park. Trends in recreation mean that popular pursuits vary from year to year. The Park provides an expanse of open space in which a number of activities can be accommodated simultaneously.

Goal REC-1: Accommodate diverse recreational uses while protecting the wilderness experience and protecting cultural and natural resources.

Guideline:

- **REC-1.1** Accommodate existing recreational opportunities and work to ensure compatibility between existing users. Evaluate new and emerging recreational activities and trends for safety, environmental

impacts, and compatibility with existing uses, consistent with Park guidelines.

- **REC-1.2** Create trail linkages to minimize recreationalist's off-trail impacts to natural resources.
- **REC-1.3** Provide trail maps to recreational enthusiasts, which explain signage, rules, routes and trail etiquette.
- **REC-1.4** Provide signage that clearly marks the trails and reinforces rules and policies of trail usage.
- **REC-1.5** Provide interpretive signage or other interpretive media that enhance the visitor's understanding and appreciation of the resources along the trails.

3.3.4 Scenic Resources and Aesthetics

Visitors to the Park experience scenic resources from a variety of vantage points. From the depths of canyons to the heights of mountain tops, the Park offers a rich array of aesthetic vistas. Negative impacts to aesthetic resources may include development and incompatible uses, both within and outside of the Park.

Goal SR-1: Protect and maintain significant viewsheds within and surrounding the Park from human-induced intrusions, to enhance the visitor experience of the Park's scenic resources.

Guidelines:

- **SR-1.1:** Incompatible structures in natural areas may include abandoned buildings, storage tanks, maintenance facilities, and other structures. If structures are removed, return sites to their natural condition through the use of appropriate native vegetation. Conceal structures from public view, including vegetative screening, use of natural paint colors, and camouflaging. Where feasible, relocate utility lines away from natural areas or placed underground. Within visual proximity to significant cultural sites and facilities, remove or conceal existing incompatible structures.

- **SR-1.2:** Shield light sources to reduce light pollution that can degrade night-time views. Utilize full cutoff luminaries, low reflectance surfaces, low-angle spotlights, and other appropriate measures to reduce light pollution where feasible.

- **SR-1.3:** Provide input and visual mitigation measures to local jurisdictions and other state and federal agencies regarding visual impacts of private and public developments and improvements that are visible from the Park.

Goal SR-2: Maintain aesthetically pleasing facilities and scenic views for visitor enjoyment that do not detract from the Park's natural and cultural resources.

Guidelines:

- **SR-2.1:** Design any development within the Park along the designated County Scenic Highway on Malibu Canyon Road to meet applicable standards and development guidelines. Preserve and protect scenic values along this corridor.
- **SR-2.2:** Provide guidelines that offer long-term protection of the scenic resources in the Park. Furthermore, coordinate with applicable agencies and local jurisdictions to protect visual resources and viewsheds significant to the Park and the region.
- **SR-2.3:** Assess the adequacy of the parks signage and wayfinding system. New signage shall be evaluated for consistency with Department guidelines, aesthetic appeal, traffic safety, obstruction of views, and compatibility with the surrounding natural environment. Signing should also be coordinated with governmental agencies adjacent to park boundaries.

3.3.5 Facilities and Services

A range of visitor facilities as well as Park and regional administration uses are located throughout the Park. Some of the Park's public facilities are located in areas that are not readily accessible to the public. Additionally, some of the Park's administrative and maintenance facilities are not optimally located to serve Park staff and visitor needs. There are no concession services in the Park, although it is commonly used for commercial filming activities.

Goal FAC-1: Consolidate and locate essential visitor services, staff accommodation, and operation facilities to minimize impacts on the natural environment and to allow better management and access.

Guidelines:

- **FAC-1.1:** Where determined feasible by studies, implement adaptive reuse strategies for existing facilities. Use sustainable building practices where new facilities are developed. Promote energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and other resource conservation practices in design and maintenance activities.
- **FAC-1.2:** Consolidate and strategically locate maintenance facilities in the Park to improve efficiency and accessibility by staff. As with all structures in the Park, construct facilities to minimize impacts to the natural environment.
- **FAC-1.3:** Remove inappropriate structures or adapt to screen from public view. Use vegetation to screen structures from public view. This is particularly relevant for temporary structures, or structures that are intended to be removed. Likewise, site all new development to

minimize impacts to views, limit disturbance of natural areas, and protect sacred and historical sites.

- **FAC-1.4:** Relocate maintenance and administrative facilities outside the existing Park boundaries to a joint facility with other Santa Monica Mountains regional agencies when feasible.
- **FAC-1.5:** Provide staff housing so that adequate Park staffing levels can be accommodated. Provide modular housing, if necessary, to accommodate staffing levels. Locate housing appropriately within the Park to facilitate response time to emergencies and diminish the impact of such structures on the scenic and natural qualities of the Park. Locate staff housing in high use areas where feasible.
- **FAC-1.6:** Conduct noise studies for development or improvements that may exceed State noise standards at nearby sensitive use (e.g., single-family residences) due to noise generated by construction activities, stationary sources, and traffic noise. Implement recommendations from the noise studies to reduce generated sounds to within acceptable noise levels

Goal FAC-2: Concessions provided must enhance the recreational and/or educational experience at the Park while being consistent with the Park's purpose and classification.

Guidelines:

- **FAC-2.1:** Use applicable Department guidelines and policies when determining the type, location, and contractual duration for concessions. Conform concession operations to the Park's General and Management Plans, the Operating Agreement, the Department and Recreation Commission policies, and the Public Resources Code. Contingent with these and other relevant policies, generally locate concessions in high use areas, such as Recreation/Operations Zone, or, in a restricted form, in Cultural/Historic Zone.
- **FAC-2.2:** Conduct a feasibility study for any proposed concession operation to determine economic viability, as well as contract terms and conditions, and the appropriateness of the concession to the recreational, cultural, and/or educational value of the Park and its conformation to the Park's purpose and classification. Evaluate potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the Park's resources by a proposed concession operation prior to approval to proceed with implementation.

Goal FAC-3: Regulate filming to ensure compatibility with natural and cultural goals and values.

Guideline:

- **FAC-3.1:** Continue to administer the commercial film permit process, with the aim, where possible, of restricting filming and film staging operations to existing developed areas. Update applicable filming guidelines regularly and continue to evaluate environmental impacts of all commercial filming activities.

Goal FAC-4: Allow maintenance of existing utilities and utility access in the Park. Discourage the development of new utility lines that are not associated with development of appropriate State Park facilities.

Guideline:

- **FAC-4.1:** Permit maintenance of existing utilities by utility service providers and, where appropriate, by Park staff, to ensure viability of these services within the Park and to adjacent users. Site no new utilities within or through the Park, unless necessary. Where utilities are necessary, conduct studies to ensure that the design and installation of utility lines are completed with minimal impact to the Park's natural and cultural values. Where feasible, place utilities underground. Minimize the number of utilities in and through the Park.

Goal FAC-5: Develop facilities that are supported by established infrastructure systems.

Guideline:

- **FAC-5.1:** Connect new facilities to public water and wastewater disposal systems wherever possible.
- **FAC-5.2:** Coordinate with local public works departments to extend utilities and other infrastructure to the Park where it does not exist.

3.3.6 Circulation, Trails, and Access

Vehicular access to the Park is provided via the main Park entrance, Tapia Park, and, to a lesser extent, Reagan Ranch. Few public transportation opportunities currently exist to transport the public to and from the Park. Pedestrians access the Park from a variety of locations, primarily through the regional trail network. There are over 40 miles of trails and fire roads in the Park. These trails and roads accommodate a variety of users, including hikers, joggers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The Ann Skager Trail for the Visually Impaired provides access to Park resources and opportunities for visually impaired individuals to learn more about the Park's plants and natural features.

Goal CTA-1: Create and provide safe, reliable, and easily located access to the Park and to main Park destinations while protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources.

Guidelines:

- **CTA-1.1:** Engage in cooperative planning efforts with NPS to implement the Heart-of-the-Park shuttle system and develop shuttle stops at the Park. Locate shuttle stops in high use areas and in areas where adequate visitor parking is unavailable.
- **CTA-1.2:** Indicate trailheads and Park entries though the use of consistent signage, developed in accordance with the Park and regional guidelines, including SMMNRA standards.
- **CTA-1.3:** Where new access points are identified as necessary, conduct a study to ensure natural and cultural resources are not compromised. Include analysis of impacts that would result from direct placement of the trail on the landscape as well as indirect impacts to vegetation, wildlife, cultural artifacts, and other significant and important resources associated with a greater visitor presence in the locality.
- **CTA-1.4:** Examine connectivity of trails to ensure the access through the Park is maintained and enhanced. Conduct any necessary trail improvements to close gaps in the trail system in a manner that is sensitive to the cultural and natural resources of the Park.
- **CTA-1.5:** Enhance the experience of trail users at the Park through provision of a sufficiently detailed trail map of the Park. Support production of regional trail maps.
- **CTA-1.6:** Examine the number of visitors on the existing trail and fire road network periodically to ensure visitor numbers are not detrimentally impacting natural and cultural resources. Such data may contribute to the development of a specific trail management plan for the Park, consistent with the NPS/Department trail management plan.
- **CTA-1.7:** Conduct a trail feasibility study for Malibu Canyon. Trail feasibility will be examined periodically, particularly as significant parcels, contiguous to existing Park property, are acquired.
- **CTA-1.8:** Examine the feasibility of incorporating features to make the trail ADA-compliant, when considering locations for new trails or considering upgrades to existing trails.
- **CTA-1.9:** Review all Park access points for security, emergency access, environmental impacts, and management coordination with other local agencies.

3.3.7 Park-wide Interpretation

An effective interpretive program can help visitors understand and appreciate the Park's natural and cultural history and develop a sustainability ethic that will ensure Park resources will be cared for and protected for future generations.

Interpretation is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. Through interpretation, the Park provides experiences, information, direction, and stewardship opportunities for visitors. People become advocates when they go through a process of awareness, exposure, involvement, understanding, and empowerment.

Goal INT-1: Increase visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural, cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources of the Park. Expand understanding of ecological relationships, and heighten awareness and sensitivity to human impacts, without compromising the integrity of the Park's exceptional resources.

Guidelines:

- **INT-1.1:** Use the most current interpretive techniques and philosophy as well as subject matter research and studies to provide opportunities for increasing the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural, cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources of the Park. Provide meaningful interpretive opportunities accessible to as many visitors as possible by offering multi-sensory interpretive opportunities in a variety of locations, and settings throughout the Park.
- **INT-1.2:** Strive to create "world-class" facilities that support stewardship and study of the Park's resources.
- **INT-1.3:** Develop an effective and comprehensive education program to promote visitor safety that recognizes the potential hazards of the Park's mountainous terrain, vegetation, wildlife, and climate.
- **INT-1.4:** Through the interpretation of resource management strategies, techniques, and practices, educate Park visitors to be responsible stewards of the Park.
- **INT-1.5:** Consider the use of non-intrusive interpretive techniques for the more sensitive and fragile resources.
- **INT 1.6:** Develop a Park-wide sign plan that coordinates the appearance of regulatory, informational, and interpretive signage.

Goal INT-2: Develop new themes for interpretive and educational programs and facilities using the most current interpretive philosophy.

Guidelines:

- **INT-2.1:** Develop interpretation of archaeological resources at the Park that explores the following topics:
  - How and what we learn from material culture.
  - The formulation of cultural landscapes.
  - Traditional cultural sites.
  - Cultural site management.
- **INT-2.2:** Develop interpretation of historical resources at the Park that explores the following topics:
  - The continuous interaction between people and the environment where they lived and worked.
  - The ways people have engaged in economic activities in the area.
  - The pursuit of scientific knowledge pertaining to the physical and social sciences.
  - People's expressions of their culture, whether about themselves or the world they inhabit.
- **INT-2.3:** Develop interpretation of natural resources at the Park that explores the following topics:
  - Protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species of concern in the Park.
  - How exotic species have altered the Santa Monica Mountains landscape and natural processes.
  - Visitor education about how recreational activities impact resources.
  - The significance of habitat buffers.
  - The ecological significance of wildlife corridors.
- **INT-2.4:** Develop interpretation of the geological resources at the Park that explores protection of fragile or otherwise special geological features such as Goat Buttes.
- **INT-2.5:** Develop interpretation on astronomy that includes the following themes:
  - Aesthetic aspects of the night sky.
  - Effects of light pollution on nighttime visibility.

Goal INT-3: Create a comprehensive strategy for Park interpretation and educational programs that will help to establish a culture of sustainability in which practices that preserve the environment and enhance individuals' quality of life become part of everyday living.

Guidelines:

- **INT-3.1:** Develop an Interpretive Master Plan for the Park.
- **INT-3.2:** Establish an interdisciplinary Interpretive Improvement Team to provide guidance, coordination, and help ensure continuous improvement for interpretation throughout the Park.
- **INT-3.3:** Conduct a visitor assessment survey to help ensure effective interpretation.
- **INT-3.4:** Develop a Scope of Collections Statement for the Park.
- **INT-3.5:** Integrate interpretation of sustainable practices as they are implemented in Park programs and facilities.
- **INT-3.6:** Organize unit research and reference systems so information is easily retrievable.
- **INT-3.7:** Establish an oral history program. Keep an active list of people associated with the Park. Obtain and preserve oral histories of these people.
- **INT-3.8:** Develop and implement strategies to strengthen the volunteer and cooperating associations.

Goal INT-4: Include outreach efforts to develop partnerships with and support from the community for interpretive programming and environmental education.

Guidelines:

- **INT-4.1:** Coordinate with other land management agencies in the Santa Monica Mountains to develop interpretive facilities and programs that serve visitors to the Park and the surrounding SMMNRA.
- **INT-4.2:** Develop outreach efforts with community groups to support and develop interpretive programs. Current and potential partners include local historical societies; Chambers of Commerce; local, regional, and non-profit organizations with similar or complementary goals; schools, colleges and universities; concessionaires; and government agencies (i.e., agency partners in the SMMNRA).
- **INT-4.3:** Develop outreach and partnerships with area schools, child-care, and youth groups. Create and present programs aligned with state educational standards featuring the Park's natural and cultural resources as well as the scientific processes associated with recording and understanding them.

- **INT-4.4:** Create valuable youth and adult educational, research, and interpretive opportunities. Develop an ongoing relationship with local school districts as well as colleges and universities. Create a program track that builds upon students' understanding and appreciation of Park resources from year to year. This includes, but is not limited to, in-school programs, remote learning programs, Park programs, ranger ride-alongs, student internships, professional mentoring, and student service projects.
- **INT4-5:** Establish interpretive programs at White Oak farm that focus on agricultural themes. Consider student farming programs in conjunction with local schools or agencies such as the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau.

Goal INT-5: Strive to achieve Park management goals through interpretation whenever possible, including public safety, land use, critical resources, human impacts, resource management strategies, and other issues.

Guidelines:

- **INT-5.1:** Support staff and volunteers through training (both in content and method), materials, facilities, and evaluation to promote high quality interpretive services.
- **INT-5.2:** Regularly review visitor and management demand for interpretive programming. Determine the most effective way to meet that demand with available resources and staff.
- **INT-5.3:** Use signs and other media to explain impacts and help protect resources from damage due to visitor use.

Goal INT-6: Traditional, new, and innovative technologies and techniques should be explored in the development of interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

Guidelines:

- **INT-6.1:** Develop guided and self-guided tours of the Park that enhance traditional and new recreational activities.
- **INT-6.2:** Create a publishing program to develop traditional and/or electronic publications about the Park resources.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes provide a focus that encourages audiences to consider resource meanings and understand and appreciate the resource in ways they otherwise might have missed. Effective interpretive themes help to cohesively develop meaningful ideas that say something important and powerful about the

location and that provoke and facilitate personal connections – not merely transfer information.

The Malibu Creek State Park Interpretive Prospectus (1977) identified the following as Interpretive Themes for the Park:

Primary Themes
1. Scenery
2. Geology
3. Hydrology
4. Plants, Birds and Other Animals

Secondary Themes
1. Chumash Indians and other early inhabitants
2. Craggs Country Club
3. Film-making

Although these are now considered to be topics rather than interpretive themes, they do reflect subject areas that can be developed to tell the story of the Park.

The Unifying Theme provides overall focus to the Park's interpretive development. It must relate to the resources, the mission of the unit, and visitors' interests. The most essential ideas of a unifying theme are presented through the development of primary and supporting interpretive themes. Defining the point of view to be given to the interpretation of resources will help guide many subsequent land use and management decisions.

Interpretive periods have been identified for the Park that reflect the resources and will guide the focus of the interpretive efforts. The key interpretive periods for the Park include Prehistoric Origins, Human Prehistory, Early European Settlement, the Ranching, Farming, and Hunting era, Filming History, and Present Day Life.

Unifying Theme: The Park's diverse natural resources and important historic treasures provide a timeline of the heritage of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Primary Themes:

- The Park is a sanctuary for important natural communities and sensitive native plant and wildlife species, which have great value ecologically, scientifically, aesthetically, and recreationally.
- The Park is an ongoing experiment exploring how people can live and recreate responsibly in the complex and dynamic Mediterranean environment.
- The natural and cultural heritage of Malibu Creek State Park reveals a dynamic interaction of people, place, and values that illustrate the

ongoing struggle to balance diverse resource uses and their consequences.

- Located near the second largest urban area in the nation, the Park's relatively undisturbed open space provides opportunities for solitude, exploration, inspiration, and renewal that can fulfill the human need for self-discovery through connection to the land.

Secondary Themes:

- The rare and important valley oak woodland community has flourished in the Park, while its overall range in Southern California has diminished.

Collections

Natural and cultural material and object collections at the Park will have a specific connection to its natural and cultural history, or provide support for interpretive themes and programs. Archaeological and paleontological materials, natural history specimens of Park flora and fauna, and historic objects such as furnishings, equipment, or personal items associated with the Park, are all potential collection items for the Park.

- Natural history specimens will be preserved when necessary to document the natural history of the Park.
- Architectural elements and other materials original to the Park or used in its historic structures will be preserved when necessary to document the history of the Park and its historic structures. Acquisition of historic object collections will have a direct connection with the historic sites in the Park and will be guided by future planning and management documents such as the Scope of Collections Statement, interpretive and furnishing plans.
- Archeological materials found onsite will be preserved, and stored at an appropriate facility. The Park does not have any official archaeological collections onsite; however, limited artifacts are available for viewing at the Hunt House. The archaeological collections from sites CA-LAN-225, -227, and -229, excavated in 1961, are presently stored at UCLA. Other collections are currently housed at UCLA, UCSB, and the Department facility in West Sacramento.

3.3.8 Visitor Use and Development

Visitors coming to the Park experience its natural and cultural wonders, enjoying a range of recreational pursuits in diverse landscapes. Trails traverse the Park, including the regional Backbone Trail system, offering many vantage points from which to enjoy the Park. Facilities include a Visitor Center, restrooms, interpretive facilities at key cultural locations, and campgrounds.

The growing population and shifting demographics of Los Angeles County will influence future recreational demand at the Park. Increasing population in urban areas will heighten the demand for outdoor nature-based recreation. Moreover, future demographics may change the types of recreation needed in the region. Maintaining a balance between the development of facilities and recreational resources and the protection of natural and cultural resources will be critical to the future of the Park.

Goal VU-1: Protect sensitive resources while permitting a wide range of recreational opportunities and visitor services.

Guideline:

- **VU-1.1:** The Park hosts a wide variety of recreational pursuits. Undertake development of new recreational opportunities and enhancement of existing recreational facilities in consideration of multiple factors, including compatibility with existing uses, consistency with Department guidelines, site suitability, and impacts to the Park's important resources.

Goal VU-2: Provide essential visitor services and operations facilities to enhance the visitor experience, Park maintenance, and operations.

Guidelines:

- **VU-2.1:** Track population growth in the area and coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions to ensure that Park activities respond to demographic trends. Establish a system for tracking visitor use at the Park and set up a database that can be readily accessed by district staff to gain information about visitor and use trends.
- **VU-2.2:** Locate visitor and operational facilities to minimize impacts on the natural environment while serving visitors and Park staff in a practical and accessible manner.
- **VU-2.3:** Implement the broader goals of resource protection when developing new facilities, or renovating existing facilities. Consider sustainable building, landscape, and site design principles in all new and renovated developments where feasible. Take opportunities to educate the public regarding these principles through their practical demonstration in the Park's built facilities.
- **VU-2.4:** When developing programs and projects in the Park, protect sensitive animal and native plant populations.
- **VU-2.5:** Prior to development, complete cultural resource surveys at proposed development sites. Undertake additional archaeological investigations such as archival research, detailed site mapping, and subsurface testing at any project that would disturb a known or potential cultural site. Employ project design modifications and/or monitoring during excavation, grading, and construction where

necessary to further minimize or prevent disturbance of significant archaeological resources.

- **VU-2.6:** Design and place facilities to be aesthetically pleasing and to blend with the surrounding natural environment. Do not create development to be a prominent visual component of the Park or to detract from the Park's natural features. Do not place structures in competition with prominent locations, such as ridgelines. Screen and blend facilities into the natural terrain with native vegetation, strategic siting, appropriate grading, and natural-appearing materials.

Goal VU-3: Ensure the safety of Park visitors during the planning, review, and implementation of new facilities and acquisitions.

Guidelines:

- **VU-3.1:** When planning new facility development or property acquisitions, include consideration of the needs for public safety personnel, equipment, and communication systems.
- **VU-3.2:** When reviewing potential new facility development or property acquisitions, assess the ability to provide for adequate public safety as part of the environmental review process.

3.3.9 Relationships with Local Landowners and Acquisitions

The Park is surrounded by private land as well as land owned by a number of local, state, and federal jurisdictions, including NPS, SMMC, cities, and counties. The contiguity of the Santa Monica Mountains provides an opportunity for the Park to contribute to this much larger region. For this reason, the relationship between the agencies and adjacent landowners is an important factor in successfully managing the Park. Park planning should be coordinated to ensure compatibility with the goals of federal, State, and local jurisdictions and stakeholders.

Goal REG-1: Create partnerships with surrounding public and private landowners to protect natural resources, provide recreational opportunities, and enhance circulation throughout the region.

Guidelines:

- **REG-1.1:** Cooperate and coordinate with neighboring public and private landowners and land managers on issues of mutual importance, including but not limited to trails, recreation, and watershed planning.
- **REG-1.2:** Actively participate in and encourage the development of jointly operated facilities and services within the Park and the SMMNRA, including a potential administration, environmental, and cultural education center, where such a facility would provide operational efficiencies and benefits to the Park.

- **REG-1.3:** Work with other interested organizations to improve regional circulation between areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, and to reduce car dependence and improve public transportation throughout the region. To this end, be an active participant in implementing a bus shuttle system, or other appropriate means of regional circulation, particularly within the SMMNRA.
- **REG-1.4:** Use the SMMNRA GMP/EIS as an advisory document for all future development within the Park.

Goal REG-2: Participate in regional development processes to ensure protection of the integrity of natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources in and surrounding the Park.

Guideline:

- **REG-2.1:** Address the effects of adjacent planning and development on the natural, cultural, and aesthetic experience. Monitor the planning and permitting process and comment, where appropriate, as it relates to Park resources and opportunities.
- **REG-2.2:** Outreach to agencies and landowners will be used to encourage their participation and ensure their awareness of recommended planning projects and potential Department actions.
- **REG-2.3:** Actively coordinate with the California Coastal Commission to ensure that all development within the coastal zone is consistent with the County of Los Angeles Malibu LCP/LUP.

Goal REG-3: Expand the Park to protect critical natural, cultural, and historic resources of local, regional, and state importance.

Guideline:

- **REG-3.1:** Actively pursue acquiring parcels to improve connectivity to other public areas. Evaluate and pursue land acquisitions from willing sellers that would increase access to recreational lands and important cultural resources, offer connections to wildlife habitat, and provide natural resource linkages to help achieve resources management objectives.

3.3.10 Sustainability

A widely used definition of sustainable development is a “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainability is integrated as a basic tenet of this General Plan, as illustrated in the management guidelines and recommendations for facility locations based on a natural and cultural resource–based opportunity and constraints analysis. This General Plan also encourages adaptive management techniques to monitor and adjust approaches to resource and visitor management with long-term benefits for each. Sustainable design

practices can also be incorporated into future area-specific projects during the planning and design phases. The benefits of sustainable design concepts and practices include:

- Increasing environmental benefits (conservation of natural resources and reduced waste);
- Reducing operating costs through less energy consumption;
- Promoting better health for park visitors (for example, through use of fewer toxic and low-emitting materials and interior climate control);
- Increasing operations and maintenance efficiency (more durable products, less maintenance of toxic substances, lower maintenance costs from resource and energy conservation; and
- Using adaptive management techniques to monitor and adjust approaches to resource and visitor management for long-term benefits to each.

Goal SUST-1: To the extent feasible incorporate principles and practices of sustainability into the park's design, improvements, and maintenance and operations, and utilize adaptive management principles.

Guideline:

- **SUST-1-1:** To the extent feasible, consider sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations. Sustainable principals used in design and management emphasize environmental sensitivity in construction, the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency.
- SUST-1-2: Programs such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, U.S. Green Building Council) should be consulted for development of facilities and site-related construction.

3.3.11 Visitor Carrying Capacity

The term "carrying capacity" is used to designate the level and type of visitor activity that can be accommodated while meeting desired levels of resource conditions and requiring certain levels of management effort. The PRC requires that recommendations made by State Park general plans consider carrying capacity limits, and that Park attendance and activities be managed within those parameters.

> *Section 5019.5. Before any park or recreation area development plan is made, the Department shall cause to be made a land carrying capacity survey of the proposed park or recreation area,*

including in such survey such factors as soil, moisture, and natural cover.

Section 5001.96. Attendance at state park system units shall be held within limits established by carrying capacity determined in accordance with Section 5019.5.

The interaction between land uses and natural systems is evaluated to determine how these interactions affect the land's integrity and sustainability over time. Maximum capacity is the point at which land regeneration is exceeded by demands made on natural systems with resultant degradation or destruction of the systems. Carrying capacity sets limits for environmental resources but also indirectly influences the visitor experience. Seemingly insignificant effects can have a permanent impact on valuable resources. Carrying capacity limits are established to avoid the gradual and incremental degradation of resources, as well as the more dramatic and obvious effects of overuse.

The great variety of factors involved in damage to natural resources and the complexity of the interactions among the factors makes establishment of carrying capacity numbers difficult. Visitation, individual or group usage, time, and types and patterns of recreational use all contribute to the impact on resource systems. Management policies and procedures are established to regulate capacity limits and land use, enact mitigation measures, educate the public, and ensure proper design. Determination of resource location and significance allows management to create guidelines for future public use and access to the Park.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a form of management that is responsive to feedback regarding the effects of current practices and uses. Adaptive management is an ongoing, iterative process of determining desired conditions, selecting and monitoring indicators and standards that reflect these desired conditions, and taking management action if the desired conditions are not realized.

Allowable use intensity correlates the significance, sensitivities, and constraints of the unit's resources with an allowable degree of human use. These uses may be defined by human activities and/or development of facilities. Allowable use intensity designations consider past, present, and future uses and may be used as planning tools in assessing the appropriateness of future proposals. Park Management Zones, described in Section 3.2, include allowable use intensities for specific areas of the Park, including future desired resource conditions, visitor activities, and facilities.

Visitor impact can be determined qualitatively via representative indicators. These indicators present a snapshot of environmental conditions without capturing the full complexity of environmental systems, thus simplifying the process by which information is synthesized and communicated. Indicators have

been developed to cover the range of activities, intensities of use, ecosystem types, and environmental systems present in the Park. Indicators can also be used throughout the lifespan of the General Plan to provide feedback that influences adaptive management decisions. Over time, this will provide an assessment of whether resource conditions are improving, allowing Park staff to identify where further corrective action may be required. The following are examples of indicators that may be employed over the long term to provide feedback on the health of natural systems and cultural resources in the Park.

- **Water Quality:** Changes in water quality between locations upstream and downstream of the Park.
- **Health of Natural Communities:** Level of development of understory vegetation coverage.
- **Exotics:** Type and extent of exotic species (plant and animal).
- **Soil Erosion:** Extent of soil erosion due to visitors (including trails).
- **Sensitive Resources:** Frequency and concentration of human activity near known sensitive resources.
- **Wildlife:** Presence of native wildlife.
- **Willful Destruction:** Presence of vandalism and trash.
- **Utilities:** Degree to which existing utilities (especially water, wastewater, electricity) can meet current visitor and Park staff needs.
- **Parking and Circulation:** Frequency of days with inadequate parking and/or vehicular congestion on internal roads.
- **Fire Access:** Accessibility of fire suppression vehicles to remote areas.

Such indicators could be used as the benchmark against which management expectations can be measured. If the Department determines that the entire Park or any specific area is not meeting the desired visitor experience or resource protection goals, management action can be initiated to identify and rectify the situation. Actions to manage or limit visitor use would be implemented when the desired condition was not met due to impacts associated with visitor use. Management actions should comply with the requirements of CEQA and other applicable regulations. Management actions could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Site management:** Facility design, barriers, site hardening, area/facility closure, redirection of visitors to suitable areas.
- **Regulation:** Limiting the number of people, the location or time of visits, permitted activities, or allowable equipment.
- **Enforcement of regulations:** Providing patrols, notification, citations.

- **Education:** Information signs and exhibits, interpretive programs, visitor center exhibits, brochures and fliers, public meetings, meetings with user groups.
- **Altering access:** Limiting parking in proximity to sensitive resources, permitting or restricting bike access, etc.

This General Plan aims to balance the needs of public use while maintaining the natural qualities that make the Park valuable and enjoyable. The potential effect of visitor use on natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources is considered in conjunction with feedback regarding the overall visitor experience to determine whether current practices are appropriate or require correction. The use of appropriately selected indicators, in conjunction with management goals and expectations, provides the basis of an adaptive management framework within which the Park's resources can be managed for the long term.

3.4 SPECIFIC AREA GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section of the General Plan refines the management intentions for several specific planning areas within the Park by proposing relevant goals and guidelines for the long term management of these areas. These area goals and guidelines complement the overall vision of the Park, as described in the Park-wide Goals and Guidelines and defined earlier in the Park Management Zones. The specific planning areas, shown in Figure 2, include Tapia Park, the main Park entrance area, White Oak Farm and Sepulveda Adobe, the Craggs Road corridor, and Reagan Ranch. Several locations in the Park are not covered by Specific Area Goals and Guidelines, since they can be adequately managed using the Park-wide Goals and Guidelines.

3.4.1 Tapia Park

The Tapia Park subunit is located south of the main entrance and to the west of Malibu Canyon Road. Tapia Park is in a Recreation/Operations Zone and offers picnic areas, barbecue facilities, and restrooms in the midst of an oak woodland setting. Tapia Park is a popular picnic spot for families and large groups. The area maintains very high levels of use throughout the year. Tapia Park was previously owned and operated by the County.

In many ways, Tapia Park functions as an urban park in a natural setting. Currently, many of the facilities at Tapia Park are in need of replacement or renovation. The consistently high levels of visitor use in proximity to sensitive natural communities offer unique management challenges. For example, soil erosion and other impacts of heavy visitor use in and around the picnic areas can affect the health of oak tree stands and degrade water quality in Malibu Creek. The management intent of the Tapia Park area is to accommodate high volumes

of visitors for picnicking and other passive recreational uses, while maintaining and promoting the ecological integrity of the area.

Goal TAP-1: Protect and enhance natural resources, including oak woodlands and riparian areas, while allowing recreational access and passive recreational opportunities at Tapia Park.

Guidelines:

- **TAP-1.1:** Continue to manage the oak woodlands at Tapia Park in a manner that ensures their long term health. Use the health of the oak tree population at Tapia Park as a key indicator of over-use and implement management measures, such as seasonal closures of restoration areas, as necessary.
- **TAP-1.2:** Designate access points to Malibu Creek. Discourage unrestricted access.

Goal TAP-2: Create interpretive facilities and programs that inform and educate Park users of the unique natural and cultural history of the Tapia Park area and promote a balance between human interaction and the natural environment.

Guidelines:

- **TAP-2.1:** Increase visitor sensitivity and appreciation of Tapia Park through interpretation. Incorporate the balance between human interaction and environmental protection and other interpretive elements into multi-language programs and displays.
- **TAP-2.2:** Use educational programs and interpretive facilities to identify and promote appropriate uses of Malibu Creek.

Goal TAP-3: Develop new group- and family-oriented recreational facilities and enhance existing public facilities to better serve Park users.

Guidelines:

- **TAP-3.1:** Rehabilitate existing facilities at Tapia Park and develop new public facilities with careful consideration of the surrounding natural environment. Restore and maintain site features such as the amphitheater and informal play fields and rehabilitate the rock ovens for visitor use. Address sustainable building practices and ADA accessibility in all new construction.
- **TAP-3.2:** Renovate the former youth camp facilities and establish a similar group camp. Include permanent camping facilities designed for group use on a reservation basis in the new group camp. Include clear designation of off-limit areas, protection and enhancement of sensitive natural areas, improved parking and access, regular ranger presence during periods of high use, and incorporation of interpretive and

educational facilities and programs in other visitor use improvements at Tapia Park.

- **TAP-3.3:** Provide adequate restroom facilities to serve Park users.

- **TAP-3.4:** Picnic/day use facilities should include amenities for large groups with large capacity barbeque pits, rock ovens or "Diablo Stoves."

Goal TAP-4: Improve parking, circulation, and vehicle access at Tapia Park.

Guideline:

- **TAP-4.1:** Develop all new parking areas within existing developed or disturbed areas. Limit the number of new spaces by the availability of suitable development areas and the carrying capacity indicators discussed in Section 3.3.

Goal TAP-5: Accommodate staff services and facilities at Tapia Park.

Guideline:

- **TAP-5.1:** Evaluate the relocation of the maintenance shop and yard to a more discrete location at Tapia Park and replacement with appropriate Park support facilities. Establish an administrative support facility at Tapia Park.

3.4.2 Main Park Entrance Area

The main Park entrance area is located in a Recreation/Operations Zone just south of Mulholland Highway and west of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road. The area encompasses the Park entrance, parking lots, day use facilities, and individual and group campgrounds, including the Hunter House. An entrance kiosk is located just off of Las Virgenes Road, which visitors must pass to enter the Park's main entrance/day use area and parking lots. Visitors have access to picnic tables and barbecues as well as restroom facilities. The two campgrounds are used year-round, but most heavily in the summer months.

The main Park entrance area is the initial visitor stop in the unit. The entry area provides parking and picnicking opportunities and magnificent views of the Santa Monica Mountains. With the exception of Tapia Park, the main Park entry area is the most heavily used portion of the Park. This area should continue to be the primary entry node into the Park and visitor services should be concentrated in this centrally located zone. Care should be taken to protect key views and disturbance of natural areas and cultural resource sites should be avoided.

Local and regional traffic and safety issues affect the Park, and should be addressed in planning for future use and development. Ingress and egress from Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road has been identified as a primary safety concern for the Park. The windy canyon road is heavily used by commuters as a

cross-mountain link between the San Fernando Valley and the Los Angeles basin. High speeds and sharp corners create dangerous conditions for visitors turning into or out of the Park main entrance. As the regional population increases, traffic safety problems will exacerbate. Visitors can also access the Park at other locations, including Corral Canyon Road, Tapia Park, and Reagan Ranch. Illegal Park access occurs on the edges of the natural preserves, especially Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve, which borders a residential area in the north.

Goal MPE-1: Provide an easily accessible and conveniently located visitor center at the Park.

Guidelines:

- **MPE-1.1:** Conduct a feasibility study to investigate options that improve traffic flow and safety when entering and leaving the Park from this location. Consult adjacent landowners and authorities in the development of feasible access alternatives.
- **MPE-1.2:** Conduct a feasibility study to determine options to slow traffic and to improve safety throughout the Park, especially at high use areas. Consider measures, including the use of passive traffic calming devices, in accordance with the Department and other relevant guidelines.
- **MPE-1.3:** Relocate the visitor center to an easily accessible area near the main Park entrance. Examine the feasibility of establishing a jointly operated administration, environmental, and cultural education center with NPS and other agencies. Incorporate sustainable building practices into the design and construction of all new buildings.

Goal MPE-2: Enhance the existing campgrounds and evaluate the need for additional campsites. Develop new campsites where appropriate.

Guidelines:

- **MPE-2.1:** Examine visitor use within existing campgrounds to determine impacts to natural and cultural resources. Use this information to develop a management plan for future levels of use at existing facilities and feasibility of developing new campsites. Monitor individual campsites to determine if visitor use is resulting in adverse effects to resources in the Park. If necessary, close individual sites and rehabilitate to restore degraded areas.
- **MPE-2.2:** Reconfigure the existing campground, where necessary, to optimize the configuration and layout of the campsites. Consider ADA accessibility, parking, shading, privacy, and campground amenities.
- **MPE-2.3:** Develop new campsites where appropriate in the main Park entrance (Recreation/Operations Zone) in areas that will not adversely impact significant natural and/or cultural resources. Determine the

number of new campsites based on an evaluation of visitor use data, the availability of suitable development area, and the carrying capacity indicators identified in this General Plan.

- **MPE-2.4:** Provide vegetative screening to increase privacy at individual sites.
- **MPE-2.5:** Retain the policy of requiring users to camp only in designated campsites.
- **MPE-2.6:** Provide electrical outlets, where feasible, as an alternative to using gas generators in the campground.
- **MPE-2.7:** Install solar panels or other renewable energy sources in the main Park entrance area, where feasible. These facilities should be sited appropriately, as not to significantly disrupt views or disturb sensitive areas.

Goal MPE-3: Evaluate and address traffic safety and circulation issues at the Park entrance and along the Park's public roads.

Guideline:

- **MPE-3.1:** Conduct a traffic safety analysis focusing on the main Park entrance area. Identify measures to improve access and egress and improve traffic safety conditions at the main Park entrance in this study. Identify traffic calming measures for the main Park access road as well.

3.4.3 White Oak Farm and Sepulveda Adobe

A Cultural/Historic Zone encompasses both White Oak Farm and Sepulveda Adobe and extends southward to the main Park entrance area and northward to the Park boundary. These historic structures tell much about the agrarian heritage that is connected with the early Europeans in the Santa Monica Mountains. The barn at White Oak Farm is one of the oldest remaining barns in the region. The character and integrity of the historic resources at White Oak Farm and Sepulveda Adobe must be maintained while providing improved public access and increased interpretive and educational opportunities for Park visitors.

Goal WSA-1: Provide interpretive facilities and programs that inform and educate Park visitors about the Park's early human settlement.

Guidelines:

- **WSA-1.1:** Develop an interpretive trail system connecting Sepulveda Adobe and White Oak Farm to the main Park entrance area. Create self-guided hikes and interpretive displays that highlight the history of early human settlement at the Park.

- **WSA-1.2:** Evaluate opportunities to provide a living history exhibit at White Oak Farm, which provides public enjoyment and education about early farming life in the region.

Goal WSA-2: Improve public access to White Oak Farm and Sepulveda Adobe.

Guidelines:

- **WSA-2.1:** Improve public access to Sepulveda Adobe and White Oak farm. Locate any new parking areas within the Cultural/Historic zone away from public view; access shall be regulated by the Department. Undertake a study to determine the most appropriate size and location of the parking area(s), considering, at minimum, ADA access; traffic safety; and impacts to visual, biological, and cultural resources. Evaluate roadside parking along Mulholland Highway.
- **WSA-2.2:** Encourage Park visitors to access Sepulveda Adobe and White Oak Farm from the main Park entrance area via the new interpretive trail system by limiting public access to any new parking areas within the Cultural/Historic Zone.
- **WSA-2.3:** Provide convenient pedestrian access across Las Virgenes Creek connecting Sepulveda Adobe to White Oak Farm.

3.4.4 Craggs Road Corridor

The Craggs Road corridor extends from the main Park entrance area to the western Park boundary. The corridor passes between Udell and Kaslow Natural Preserves and is located within the Natural Open Space Zone. Along the corridor, portions of the road have been washed out, which prohibits vehicles from using the full length of the road within the Park. Craggs Road is one of the primary access corridors for visitors to the Park, largely because it provides access to the Rock Pool, Hunt House, and Century Lake from the main Park entrance. The road is commonly used by pedestrians, bikers, and equestrian users. Authorized vehicles also frequently utilize the road. Due to the high level of use along this corridor and the variety of users, situations arise that negatively affect visitors' experiences. These include litter, vandalism, and conflicts between different user groups. This corridor should be managed in a manner that provides a safe and enjoyable experience for Park users, while protecting the Park's important natural and cultural resources.

Goal CRC-1: Protect the Rock Pool and other high use areas along Malibu Creek from negative impacts associated with heavy public use.

Guidelines:

- **CRC-1.1:** Prepare an interpretive program for the Rock Pool area that educates and informs Park visitors about ways to minimize impacts on the area's natural and cultural resources. Include elimination of litter and vandalism and protection of natural resources and water quality, as key themes.

- **CRC-1.2:** Establish restroom facilities that are accessible to Park users in the Rock Pool area.
- **CRC-1.3:** Improve public access in the Rock Pool area, particularly access to Malibu Creek. Use boardwalks, paths, or other means of restricting or directing public access to keep visitors out of sensitive areas.

Goal CRC-2: Provide a safe and enjoyable experience for visitors traveling along the corridor between Century Lake and the main Park entrance.

Guidelines:

- **CRC-2.1:** Prepare a circulation plan for the Craggs Road corridor between Century Lake and the Main Park entrance, which identifies trail use designations, restricted access areas, staging areas for filming activities, and other elements to minimize conflicts between different user groups along this heavily used corridor.
- **CRC-2.2:** Create small staging areas along the Craggs Road corridor for passive recreational opportunities. Impacts to biological and cultural resources shall be analyzed prior to establishing new public access to Malibu Creek.
- **CRC-2.3:** Conduct an adaptive reuse study for buildings at the Hunt House.
- **CRC-2.4:** Repair or replace the Way Cross Road dip crossing to provide access to the Hunt House.

Goal CRC-3: Create passive recreational opportunities at Century Lake.

Guideline:

- **CRC-3.1:** Develop small picnic areas and recreational amenities around Century Lake. Evaluate impacts associated with water quality, erosion, visual resources, natural resources, and cultural resources prior to development of such facilities.

3.4.5 Reagan Ranch

Reagan Ranch is located in the northwestern corner of the Park, adjacent to Paramount Ranch. It is currently the Ranger Station Headquarters and includes housing and maintenance facilities. A gravel parking lot just off Cornell Road provides access to trails in the area. This area is used primarily by equestrians and hikers to gain access to the northeastern portion of the Park. The Recreation/Operations Zone that encompasses Reagan Ranch will continue to provide Park visitors with an alternative entrance to the Park. Equestrian facilities shall be developed at Reagan Ranch in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Goal RR-1: Protect views of the Park from Mulholland Highway.

Guideline:

- **RR-1.1:** Include measures to reduce or avoid visual impacts from Mulholland Highway, including proper site selection, vegetative screening, painting with natural tones, and camouflaging for proposed developments at Reagan Ranch. Set back new developments from Mulholland Highway and screen them from public view, where possible. Develop the proposed equestrian group camp in a manner that is sensitive to views of the site from surrounding locations.

Goal RR-2: Establish an equestrian camp facility at Reagan Ranch.

Guidelines:

- **RR-2.1:** Develop an equestrian group camp facility at Reagan Ranch. Initially accommodate up to 10 sites with a two-horse capacity per site at the equestrian camp. Monitor the camp to determine if additional sites can be developed without resulting in significant environmental impacts. Do not exceed a capacity of 40 horses at the equestrian camp.
- **RR-2.2:** Incorporate pollution prevention measures, such as bioswales and catchment basins, into the design of the equestrian campground to eliminate water quality impacts resulting from the equestrian uses.

Goal RR-3: Develop interpretive facilities that focus on the areas' ranching history, and adaptively reuse the existing historic facilities.

Guidelines:

- **RR-3.1:** Focus the primary interpretive theme of the area on the history of the ranching activities at and near the Park. Include the history of Reagan Ranch in the interpretive facilities and displays.
- **RR-3.2:** Conduct an adaptive reuse study of the ranch-related structures at Reagan Ranch. Consider relocating staff housing and maintenance facilities away from ranch-related structures, closer to Cornell Road. Appropriately restore historic features, such as the horse stables.

Goal RR-4: Improve access and parking at Reagan Ranch and provide adequate public facilities to accommodate anticipated Park visitors.

Guidelines:

- **RR-4.1:** Develop a small pervious-surfaced parking area at Reagan Ranch near Cornell Road. Include an equestrian staging area in the lot. Provide restroom facilities in the area.

- **RR-4.2:** Install a self-pay kiosk at Reagan Ranch to collect Park entrance fees. Control public vehicle access to the former ranch area.

3.5 ISSUE RESOLUTION

This general plan process has identified issues and planning efforts that require attention beyond the scope of this General Plan. Funding and staffing limitations restrict the number and scope of issues and studies that the Department is able to immediately address, requiring that priorities be set. Many goals and guidelines of the Plan provide direction for each issue. Some of these goals and guidelines recommend future planning efforts such as management plans and studies. The following list of high priority issues is not intended to restrict progress on other issues or planning efforts.

As discussed in the Park-wide Goals and Guidelines, the General Plan recommends that the following issues be resolved:

Habitat Linkage and Core Habitat Areas - Protect the Park's biocorridors and core habitat areas through research; coordination with local, state, and federal agencies; and funding of appropriate acquisition and restoration projects.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management - Protect and enhance the Park's native plant communities and important wildlife through research and scientific management programs.

Wildfire Management - Develop a wildfire management program for the Park that addresses wildfire management needs without compromising resource integrity or public safety.

Cultural Resource Management - Preserve the important cultural and historical resources at the Park through comprehensive research and management efforts.

Protection of Scenic Resources - Identify and document sensitive views and viewsheds within the Park and establish appropriate mitigation measures and development guidelines.

Appropriate Recreational Uses - Provide quality recreational activities and public use facilities while protecting the Park's sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Pedestrian and Vehicular Access - Address internal road and trail circulation issues through development of management programs that are consistent with regional trail and roadway management strategies.

Park Access Points - Evaluate access at the main Park entrance through a detailed traffic and circulation study that would identify measures to make Park access safer.

The General Plan recommends that the following planning efforts and studies be undertaken:

- Vegetation management plan
- Database of the Park's sensitive species
- Exotic species removal plan
- Wildfire management plan
- Cultural resource management plan
- Adaptive reuse study of selected historic buildings
- Documentation of key scenic resources
- Feasibility study for concession operations
- Trail management plan

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Chapter 4 Environmental Analysis

4.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4.1.1 Purpose of the EIR

This section of the General Plan for Malibu Creek State Park constitutes an EIR, as required by PRC Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq., and is subject to certification by the California Park and Recreation Commission (Commission). The Commission has sole authority for the Plan's approval and adoption. Following certification of the EIR and approval of the Plan, the Department will prepare facility development and resource management proposals (or comprehensive plans) that implement provisions of the General Plan as staff and funding allow. Future projects, based on the provisions in this General Plan, may be subject to permitting requirements and approval by other public agencies that have resource protection authority over the activities in the project area.

As subsequent management plans and site-specific projects are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review. Appropriate environmental documents will be prepared with specific mitigation measures, as necessary, when subsequent projects are proposed. The General Plan proposes that at least ten management plans be prepared subsequent to adoption of the General Plan.

4.1.2 Focus of the EIR

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this General Plan was circulated to the appropriate federal, state, and local planning agencies. Based on comments received during the NOP comment period and the planning process to date, this EIR was prepared to analyze potential environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the management goals and guidelines as well as the area-specific management and facility prescriptions that, together, constitute the proposed General Plan. Environmental resources or topics that would not likely be affected by the General Plan are briefly addressed in Section 4.5, *Environmental Topics Eliminated from Further Analysis*. Those topics or issues that warrant further environmental analysis are analyzed in detail in Section 4.6, *Environmental Impacts*.

4.1.3 Subsequent Environmental Review Process

The tiering process of environmental review is incorporated into this EIR. This EIR represents the first tier of environmental review. Tiering in an EIR, particularly for a program-level project such as a general plan, allows agencies to consider broad environmental issues at the general planning stage. These environmental considerations will be analyzed in greater detail in subsequent

environmental documents when specific development projects and management programs are proposed. It should be noted that subsequent environmental documents incorporate, by reference, the general analysis from the program-level EIR included here and will concentrate on the issues specific to the characteristics of subsequent projects (PRC Section 21093; CEQA Guidelines Section 15152).

Future second-tier environmental review will be based on more detailed information about each proposed action, including facility size, location, and capacity. The environmental analysis for second-tier environmental review will be more specific and focused, identifying any significant environmental impacts and mitigation measures that are applicable to future projects. Future actions will also be evaluated to determine whether they are consistent with the proposed General Plan.

Because future environmental review will be more specific and focused, and the characteristics of future projects will be better defined, it will be possible to develop appropriate project-level mitigation measures that address potentially significant adverse impacts to the environment. Developing appropriate mitigation measures generally requires resource specialists to evaluate the scope of work, identify specific causes of impacts, and specify measures that avoid or contain impacts to a less-than-significant level. This information will be available once specific projects or actions are defined.

4.1.4 Contents of the EIR

The program EIR contained in this General Plan includes the following sections:

Introduction to the Environmental Analysis: This section includes a brief overview of the environmental review process, legal requirements, and approach to the environmental analysis.

EIR Summary: A summary of environmental impacts associated with the proposed General Plan and proposed mitigation measures to address the impacts identified, an overview of the environmental effects of alternatives considered to the preferred General Plan, and a description of any areas of controversy and/or issues to need to be resolved.

Project Description: This section provides an overview of the proposed General Plan, which is the focus of the EIR.

Environmental Setting: This section summarizes the existing (baseline) conditions for those environmental issues or resources that are not addressed in Chapter 2, *Existing Conditions*, of this General Plan.

Environmental Effects Eliminated from Further Analysis: This section describes those environmental topics that did not warrant detailed environmental analysis and the supporting rationale.

Environmental Impacts: This section describes the level of environmental impact associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan, including goals and guidelines that address effects on the environment.

Other CEQA Considerations: This section contains information on other CEQA-mandated topics, including cumulative impacts, growth-inducing impacts, significant and unavoidable impacts, and significant irreversible environmental changes.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project: The alternatives analysis describes the various alternatives to the proposed General Plan (including the No Project Alternative) that are considered in this EIR and the associated environmental effects of these alternatives relative to the proposed project.

4.2 EIR SUMMARY

4.2.1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation

Implementation of the General Plan is not expected to result in significant impacts on the environment. Implementation of the goals and guidelines contained in Chapter 3, in conjunction with compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, avoids potential significant effects or maintains them at a less-than-significant level. Additional mitigation measures, therefore, are not necessary.

4.2.2 Summary of Alternatives Considered

Several alternatives were considered during the planning process and an additional alternative was developed as part of the environmental review process. The three planning alternatives represent a range of management treatments for natural and recreational resources at the Park. Features of each of these alternatives were used to develop the Preferred Alternative (Preferred Plan), which is the focus of this EIR. As required by CEQA, the No Project alternative has also been considered here.

For the second public meeting, three plan alternatives were developed using resource data combined with Park staff, agency, and public input. Each plan alternative was presented at the meeting and public comments were solicited regarding the alternatives. It was explained at the public meeting that one plan alternative did not need to be selected over another, but that elements from each plan could be mixed to create an optimal plan alternative, given the sometimes conflicting needs of resource protection, visitor recreation and education, and Park operations. As a result of the public comments, a Preferred Alternative (Preferred Plan) was developed and the alternatives were refined into two distinct plans. These alternatives are shown in Figures 8 and 9 and are discussed in Section 4.7.

The Preferred Plan described in Section 4.3 was developed from public and agency comments received regarding the plan alternatives as well as resources and operational data accumulated during the general plan process. The Preferred Plan is discussed in detail in Chapter 3 and shown in Figure 7, *Preferred Plan.*

4.2.3 Areas of Controversy and Issues to be Resolved

Several areas of controversy emerged through public meetings and public comment periods. One of the largest controversies in the Park is related to trail usage and the connectivity of existing trails. Hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers would like access to all areas of the Park while enjoying safe trails. Currently, not all user groups experience high levels of connectivity and some users feel unsafe due to the mix of users on trails. Other areas of controversy identified by the public include the need for improved recreational facilities (e.g., equestrian camp, mountain biking trails) and the degree to which recreational uses, development, and resource protection should by balanced.

Some issues addressed in the General Plan cannot be resolved through this planning process. As described in Section 3.5, eight major issues were identified that cannot be immediately resolved due to shortfalls in current funding and staffing levels. Issues to be resolved include habitat linkage; vegetation and wildlife management; wildfire management; cultural resource management; scenic resource protection; appropriate recreational uses; pedestrian and vehicular access; and park access points. Identification of these issues as priorities does not preclude consideration of, and action regarding, other matters.

4.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As described in Chapter 1 and illustrated in Figure 1, the Park is located adjacent to a large metropolitan area, which will continue to grow and increase demand for recreation and open space in the region. For this reason, the General Plan strives to protect local resources while providing quality outdoor recreation to local and regional residents. Chapter 3 of this General Plan represents the project description and establishes the overall long-range purpose and vision for The Park.

Chapter 3 comprises two major components: goals and guidelines and area-specific management and facility prescriptions. Management goals and supporting guidelines in the General Plan are designed to address the currently identified critical planning issues and to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of uses that would be permitted in the Park. Area-specific management and facility prescriptions are not intended to represent site-specific facility planning in terms of precise placement of facilities. The prescriptions will serve as a guide for the placement of proposed future developments. Under the tiered environmental process, changes from existing conditions and operations

proposed by the Department would require site-specific planning and environmental review as each individual development project (e.g., Area Development Plans) is proposed to avoid or minimize impacts to resources. Based on the area-specific management and facility prescriptions, the Department can implement the issue-specific management goals and guidelines presented in the General Plan to the most appropriate locations to ensure consistency between uses and management.

As a program EIR (Guidelines Secs. 15166, 15168), the General Plan identifies potential broad-level environmental impacts. The EIR will be used to manage the Park for the next 20 years and will be reviewed each time specific Management Plans are written for the Park. Other agencies in the region, including NPS and SMMC will reference the General Plan and EIR as they create broad and specific management plans on adjacent lands.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Chapter 2, *Existing Conditions and Issues*, provides a description of the Park's existing land use, environment, and significant resource values. Information presented in Chapter 2 constitutes the CEQA environmental setting description for the following topics: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, traffic/transportation, and utilities.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Based on a preliminary review of the proposed project, several environmental topics do not warrant comprehensive analysis in this EIR because there is no potential for significant environmental effects resulting from the implementation of the General Plan. These topics include Land Use and Planning; Agricultural Resources; Energy and Mineral Resources; Population, Employment and Housing; and Recreation. A brief description of these topics and information supporting the decision to eliminate these topics from further analysis is provided below.

4.5.1 Land Use and Planning

Outside of the SMMNRA, the Park is surrounded by a number of cities and communities. Nearby jurisdictions include the Cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, and the County of Los Angeles. Coordination with these local governments is important to successful park planning and conservation efforts in the Santa Monica Mountains; however, development within the Park is not subject to the land use plans and policies of these agencies. Development

within the Park is regulated by State land use guidelines and regulations as described in this General Plan, including requirements set forth under the California Coastal Act. Any development outside of the current Park boundaries, including future land acquisition activities, would be subject to subsequent environmental documentation. For these reasons, no further consideration of land use impacts is necessary in this General Plan.

4.5.2 Agricultural Resources

There are no Williamson Act lands in mainland Los Angeles County (California Department of Conservation 2003). Additionally, there is no prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance at the Park. None of the General Plan components would affect agricultural land or important farmland; therefore, no further consideration of agricultural resource impacts is necessary in this General Plan.

4.5.3 Energy and Mineral Resources

The Park is not located within an area with existing or historic energy or mineral extraction land uses, and it is not designated as an important mineral resource by the California Department of Conservation. As such, no further consideration of energy and mineral resource impacts is necessary in this General Plan.

4.5.4 Population, Employment and Housing

The Park primarily serves the regional population of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, which had a population count of 9,519,338 and 753,197, respectively, in the 2000 census (USDC 2000). While implementation of the General Plan would not directly induce regional population growth, additional recreational facilities could attract additional visitation and potentially add to the employment base of the immediate area. Given the latest unemployment rate (2000 data) in Los Angeles County (5.0%) and Ventura County (3.4%) and the latest housing vacancy rate (2000 data) in Los Angeles County (4.2%) and Ventura County (3.4%), it is expected that the increase in demand for labor and housing would be met by the existing local population and that no additional housing would be needed to serve growth associated with additional visitation (USDC 2000). For these reasons, no further consideration of population, employment, and housing impacts is necessary in this General Plan.

4.5.5 Recreation

This General Plan establishes a long-term vision for the Park and provides the goals and guidelines necessary to implement this vision. Although public use of the Park will increase in the future, the goals and guidelines are designed to protect the Park from substantial physical deterioration while improving visitor experience. Development of specific recreational facilities at the Park would be subject to future environmental documentation, which would evaluate the project's effect on the environment and, if necessary, provide mitigation

measures to minimize these impacts. For these reasons, no further consideration of recreation impacts is necessary in this General Plan.

4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

4.6.1 Aesthetics

This section analyzes aesthetic impacts that would result from the implementation of the proposed General Plan. The analysis is based on the general location of proposed facility developments within the aesthetic setting of the Park as well as the goals and guidelines of the Plan.

Thresholds

The aesthetic analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant aesthetic impact if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.
- Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.
- Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Degradation of Viewshed and Nighttime Views

Development of new facilities and infrastructure at the Park could degrade the Park's outstanding scenic character. Adverse impacts may result from the creation of visually incompatible structures in or around the Park, removal of mature vegetation, or introduction of new sources of light. Impacts could also result from development activities that occur along the designated scenic corridors on Malibu Canyon Road and Mulholland Highway. These potential impacts would affect both daytime and nighttime views at the Park. Implementation of Goals SR-1, SR-2 and RR-1 and the associated guidelines would minimize degradation of the viewshed and night-time views, and this impact would be less than significant.

Implementation of the General Plan may result in the development of structures that are not compatible with the surrounding natural environment. Goal SR-1 and Guideline SR-1.1 would require the use of appropriate measures to minimize

visual impacts associated with incompatible structures, including screening, painting, and camouflaging. These goals and guidelines would protect and maintain the scenic natural character of the Park and minimize degradation of important viewsheds.

The land surrounding the Park is owned by a number of different public and private entities. Much of this land is currently undeveloped; however, future development could negatively affect views from the Park. In particular, development of hilltops and ridgelines that are highly visible from the Park would affect visitors' experiences by altering the character of the Park's natural setting. Additionally, new developments could also introduce new light sources that would degrade night-time views. Goal SR-1 would require submission of input, particularly during environmental review period of development projects, by the Department to local, State, and federal agencies in an effort to encourage mitigation for any potential visual impacts. While the decision to implement visual mitigation measures outside the Park is not within the jurisdiction of the Department, it is expected that feasible mitigation measures would be implemented in compliance with State laws. As such, this impact would be less than significant.

Significance

Implementation of Guidelines SR-1.1, SR-2.1, SR-2.2, SR-2.3, and RR-1.1 of the Preliminary General Plan would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.2 Air Quality

This section analyzes impacts related to air quality that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The analysis is based on ambient air quality conditions in the project area and is focused primarily on potential impacts associated with the construction of new facilities at the Park, as well as ongoing operations.

Thresholds

The air quality analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant air quality impact if it would:

- Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- Violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation.
- Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an

applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors).

- Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.
- Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Degradation of Air Quality

Implementation of the General Plan would result in construction activities that generate criteria air pollutants, odors, and air toxics. Air pollution from construction may include diesel emissions from heavy construction equipment and fugitive dust emissions from grading and other ground disturbing activities. Compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rules and regulations, including SCQAMD Rule 403, would minimize the emission of criteria air pollutants from construction activities and stationary sources. Air quality impacts during construction would be short-term and would be less than significant due to the implementation of air pollutant control measures required by these rules and regulations. Additionally, project-specific environmental analysis would be required for future development projects, which may provide additional measures to further reduce air quality impacts during construction.

New recreational development at the Park may generate additional vehicular traffic from increased visitation. The Transportation Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol (Garza et al. 1997) states that signalized intersections at level of service (LOS) E or F represent a potential for a CO violation. Due to limited number of intersections in the immediate vicinity of the Park, localized concentrations of vehicle-generated carbon monoxide would not be expected to exceed ambient air quality standards. As such, air quality impacts from mobile source emissions would be less than significant.

Typical recreational uses permitted in the State Parks system are not known to generate odors that would be considered objectionable to most people. Use of air toxics (e.g., regulated herbicides) would be in accordance with State and federal rules and regulations. Given the above, impacts related to air pollutants are expected to be less than significant.

Significance

Implementation of SCAQMD air quality rules and regulations would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.3 Biological Resources

This section analyzes impacts related to biological resources that would result from the implementation of the Preliminary General Plan. A variety of documents

and additional information were used to assess impacts on vegetation and wildlife that would result from implementation of the proposed General Plan. These include biological studies previously conducted in the vicinity of the project site, field surveys conducted during preparation of the Preliminary General Plan, aerial photographs, consultation with Park staff, and results of natural resource database searches.

Thresholds

The biological resources analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or the USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFG or the USFWS.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Increased exposure, threats to vegetation and wildlife

The large open space and natural areas of the Park host a variety of plant and animal species, a number of which are rare or endangered. The Park's biologically diverse and sensitive areas are threatened by development encroaching upon its boundaries. This General Plan encourages not only maintenance and preservation of the Park's natural resources, but also development of new Park facilities. Facilities development, infrastructure improvements, increased visitation, and invasive species in the Park all have the potential to impact the native species and wildlife corridors in the Park. There

are no HCPs or NCCPs in effect for the Park. Potential impacts to biological resources would be reduced to below the level of significance with implementation Goals NR-1, NR-2, NR-3, NR-4, NR-5, NR-6, NR-7, TAP-1, INT-1, REC-1, FAC-1, SR-1, and CTA-1 and the associated guidelines. These goals and guidelines would reduce impacts and improve protection of the natural biological resources within the Park.

Vegetation and wildlife within the Park have been exposed to many land management practices and outside factors that have affected the ecological conditions in the Park. Implementation of the General Plan has the potential to impact native species within the Park; therefore a thorough understanding of the natural ecosystems and relationships amongst the biological resources in the Park is needed to provide a basis for management and preservation. General Plan Goals NR-1, NR-2, and NR-3 and the associated guidelines outline study methods and scientific research for the vegetation communities in the Park. Guidelines NR-1.1, NR-2.1, NR-2.2, and NR-3.1 would require research, surveys, and inventory, of both native and invasive species, which would provide a basis for management. Guidelines NR-1.2 and NR-3.2 require specific management actions and coordination with agencies that would implement the plans to restore and maintain the resources, while minimizing human impact from Park usage.

Implementation of Goals NR-4 and NR-5 are similar to NR-1 through NR-3, but focus specifically on wildlife resources. Similar to the goals and guidelines for vegetation, these goals require research, surveys, and an inventory of the wildlife in the Park. Guideline NR-4.2 specifically requires regular monitoring of wildlife populations and movement that would provide a baseline for future management efforts. Guideline NR-4.3 entails the implementation of breeding and reintroduction programs, if it is determined that it would enhance native populations and is scientifically feasible. Guideline NR-5.1 identifies the need to further evaluate the natural preserve boundaries for maximum resource protection. Designation of the new Malibu Canyon Natural Preserve in the Park would ensure that no impacts occur to riparian or wetland areas along the lower Malibu Creek corridor. The new natural preserve would also protect important habitat for the southern steelhead trout. The proposed Core Habitat Zone designation offers clearly demarcated areas of habitat connectivity that will facilitate the movement of wildlife between different areas of the Park, and between the Park and adjacent lands. The research and management plans that would result from implementation of these goals would improve the knowledge base and protect the biological resources in the Park.

Vegetation and wildlife in the Park have experienced periodic and, at times, severe fire events that have the potential to greatly impair or promote regeneration and growth. Goal NR-6 highlights the need for appropriate, scientifically-based wildfire management practices. Potentially detrimental effects to biotic resources as well as structures will be minimized to less than significant through implementation of a wildfire management program, creation of

buffer zones, and education, as outlined in Guidelines NR-6.1 through NR-6.4, respectively.

In addition to the Park-wide planning components, the General Plan also provides goals and guidelines for specific areas within the Park. Tapia Park has high visitation, and is home to the important oak woodland resources. Goal TAP-1 and Guideline TAP-1.1 require proper care and management of the oak woodlands, the health of which is inversely correlated to Park usage, and is therefore a good indicator of over-use in the Park. Implementation of Goal TAP-1 would ensure that significant impacts do not occur to the oak woodland communities of Tapia Park.

Implementation of the General Plan would improve Park features, in turn encouraging increased visitation. The increase in Park users would expose biological resources to outside factors that have the potential to influence the habitat and relationships of the vegetation and wildlife in the Park. Implementation of Goal INT-1 requires and encourages education and enhanced visitor knowledge of the natural, cultural, historic, and aesthetic resources in the Park. Guideline INT-1.3 specifically requires a comprehensive education program that would help to protect the natural resources from the threat of human influence: guideline INT-2.3 provides additional guidance on key topics for the interpretive program. Additionally, REC-1, FAC-1 and CTA-1 provide guidelines for the locations and consolidation of facilities, services, trails, and access to the Park, thereby reducing natural resource exposure to the new developments within the Park. Education of Park visitors and careful Park development, combined with research and management efforts, would protect and enhance the biological resources in the Park and would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Significance

Implementation of Goals NR-1, NR-2, NR-3, NR-4, NR-5, TAP-1, INT-1, FAC-1, and CTA-1 and associated guidelines would reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.4 Cultural Resources

This section analyzes impacts related to cultural resources that would result from the implementation of the Preliminary General Plan. The analysis is based on a review of known (and potentially significant) cultural resources at the Park and proposed land use developments and resource management efforts prescribed in the proposed General Plan.

Thresholds

The cultural resources analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact on cultural resources if it would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources.
- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource.
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Risk of Impacts to Significant Cultural and Historic Resources

The Park has a rich and varied history and contains a number of significant cultural resources. The Park has an extensive history of human occupation and a number of historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources. Development and increased use of the Park has the potential to influence and impact the historic and cultural resources found inside the Park. Facilities development, infrastructure improvements, and increased visitation in the Park all have the potential to impact cultural resources. Potential impacts to cultural resources would be reduced to below the level of significance with implementation of Park Plan Goals CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, FAC-1, CTA-1, INT-1, TAP-2, WSA-1, and RR-3 and associated guidelines. These goals and guidelines would reduce impacts of the archaeological and historical resources within the Park.

The Park Plan includes a Cultural/Historic Zone that protects areas of outstanding cultural interest, while encouraging visitor participation and education of the resources. Potential impacts to cultural resources from development in this zone would be reduced through Guideline CR-4.1. This guideline involves the development and maintenance of cultural landscapes within the Cultural/Historic Zone, using methods that are not in conflict with the surrounding biological resources. Implementation of these goals and guidelines would help to ensure that no significant impacts would occur to the historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources in the Park.

Goals CR-1 through CR-4 and associated guidelines outline measures to protect and preserve these resources. Guideline CR-1.1 involves coordination with local Native American groups, who provide a historical knowledge base for the resources in the Park. This guideline requires the preparation of a plan for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the historic, archaeological, and

paleontological resources in the Park. Guidelines CR-2.1 and CR-3.1 specifically require the management, protection, and restoration of paleontological and historic resources. These guidelines require an inventory, monitoring, and education use about paleontological resources, and restoration, enhancement, and potential adaptive reuse of historic resources.

Implementation of the General Plan includes the development of facilities, services, and trails, which would increase access to, and circulation inside the Park. This development has the potential to influence the historic and other cultural resources in the Park. Goals FAC-1 and CTA-1 provide guidelines for development that would minimize impacts to cultural resources. Goal FAC-1 and Guidelines FAC-1.2 and FAC-1.3 require consolidation and strategic placement of structures in areas that would minimize impacts, and require the use of vegetative screening to limit disturbance of protected cultural sites. Strategic and consolidated placement of trails and access roads, and appropriate wayfinding signs, as described in Goal CTA-1 and associated guidelines would ensure that the trails do not disrupt any sensitive cultural resources. These guidelines would also require the development of detailed maps for Park users, which would educate Park users on the location and importance of the historical resources in the Park, thereby minimizing potential impacts.

The General Plan outlines an extensive interpretive program for engaging the public in the history of the Park and the region and educating the public of the significant cultural resources within the Park. Specifically, Goals INT-1 and TAP-2 provide guidelines for interpretation programs that would educate Park users. The guidelines in Goal INT-1 outline interpretive techniques and strategies that would inform Park users and encourage users to be stewards of the Park.

With implementation of the General Plan, it is also important to maintain the individual histories of specific areas within the Park. Goals WSA-1 and RR-3 provide guidelines specific to White Oak Farm, Sepulveda Adobe, and Reagan Ranch. These goals require interpretive facilities, trails, and programs that would educate users about the Park's early human settlement, and the unique histories of specific structures and areas within the Park. The historic resources of the Park would be protected through specific management plans and improved interpretation, thereby reducing impacts to a less than significant level.

Significance

The General Plan for the Park outlines a number of goals and guidelines that protect and preserve the many cultural resources in the Park. Implementation of Goals CR-1, CR-2, CR-3, CR-4, FAC-1, CTA-1, INT-1, TAP-2, WSA-1, and RR-3 and the associated guidelines would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.5 Geology and Soils

This section analyzes impacts related to geology, soils, and seismicity that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The analysis is based on a review of available geologic, seismic, and soils-related information for the project area in the context of development and resource management features included as part of the proposed General Plan.

Thresholds

The geology, soils, and seismicity analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to geology, soils, and seismicity if it would:

- Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, and/or landslides.
- Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.
- Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.
- Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.
- Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Risk of Geologic and Seismic Hazards

The Park is located in the Santa Monica Mountains, which display relatively low seismic activity compared to the high seismic activity levels in much of southern California. The mountains are bordered by two major fault lines. To the north lies the Simi-Northridge-Santa Susana-Verdugo fault, and to the south is the Malibu Coast-Santa Monica-Raymond Hill fault. No major earthquakes are known to have originated in the Park, and the Park is not located in an Alquist-Priolo special study zone. In addition, all structures developed within the Park would have to comply with the standards contained in California Code of

Regulations, Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code, through the Department's internal planning processes. As such, future development and improvements would include structural reinforcements and other features required by the California Building Standards Code that would minimize seismically induced structural damage. Therefore, seismic hazards impacts are less than significant.

The California Department of Conservation has issued seismic Hazard Zone Maps for much of southern California, including the Santa Monica Mountains area. The seismic hazard zone maps for the Malibu Beach, Calabasas, and Point Dume quadrangles show landscape hazard areas and liquefaction hazard zones covering much of the Park. Areas identified as being susceptible to landslides include the Park's steep and rugged hillside terrain. Liquefaction hazard areas are located along the Las Virgenes Creek and Malibu Creek corridors. Future development within these corridors would be subject to the requirements set forth in DMG Publication 117, Guidelines for Evaluating and Mitigating Seismic Hazards in California. Adherence to these and other required building codes would reduce potential impacts related to landslides and liquefaction hazards to a less than significant level.

Erosion risk increases with increasing slope, precipitation, currents, and decreasing vegetative cover. Due to the mountainous features of the Park, there is potential for landslides and soil erosion to occur, especially in areas near steep slopes and water courses. Guideline NR-7.2 encourages natural stabilization and restoration of streams that avoid structural engineering where feasible. This guideline also requires that bank stabilization measures be outside of the creekbed, unless it is required for safety purposes. Guideline NR-7.3 would reduce runoff from structures near the water courses. Goal NR-8 and Guidelines NR-8.1 and -8.2 require an erosion control plan and vegetation buffers to reduce the potential for soil erosion. These guidelines would reduce the risk of landslide and soil erosion to below the level of significance.

Significance

Implementation of Goals NR-7 and NR-8 of the Preliminary General Plan and the appropriate building and safety requirements would reduce potential impacts to geology and soils to a less than significant level.

4.6.6 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

This section analyzes impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The analysis considers the types of proposed uses at the Park and the standard equipment and materials used in operating and managing the Park in relation to proposed hazard that could affect Park visitors and staff.

Thresholds

The hazards and hazardous materials analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials if it would:

- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.
- Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.
- Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Risk of Wildland Fire, Emergency Response

The Park's facilities and programs do not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; therefore, no hazard to the public from risk of exposure to hazardous materials would occur. In addition, the Park is not within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school or two miles of a public airport, public use airport, or private airstrip. Therefore, impacts related to safety hazards from airplanes would not occur.

Implementation of the General Plan would encourage increased use of the Park, which may generate additional vehicular traffic to and from the Park. Due to low potential for queuing outside of the Park onto access roads and the limited number of intersections in the immediate vicinity of the Park, it is not anticipated that traffic generated by the Park would significantly impact emergency response time. In addition, Goal CTA-1 and its associated guidelines ensure that access to the Park remains safe and reliable, while protecting Park resources. As such, impacts to emergency response plans would be less than significant.

Implementation of the General Plan has the potential to increase risks associated with wildland fires. Goal NR-6 provides guidelines for safe fire management in the Park. Guideline NR-6.1 requires the development of a wildfire management program that would address the needs of the Park in coordination with agencies, organizations, and neighboring land owners. Implementation of Guidelines NR-6.2 and NR-6.3 would create appropriate set backs, buffer zones, and preventative measures that help to protect the Park and surrounding areas from wildfire hazards. Implementation of these goals and associated guidelines would reduce impacts to hazards involving wildland fires to a less than significant level.

Significance

Implementation of General Plan Goals CTA-1 and NR-6 would reduce potential impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.7 Hydrology and Water Quality

This section analyzes hydrology and water quality impacts that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. This analysis considers the proposed development and resource management efforts prescribed in the General Plan in the context of the hydrological conditions that currently characterize the Park.

Thresholds

The hydrology and water quality analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to hydrology and water quality if it would:

- Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.
- Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).

- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.
- Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.
- Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality.
- Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map.
- Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows.
- Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.
- Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Water Quality Degradation and Flood Damage

Implementation of the General Plan would allow for the development of new facilities and infrastructure, and has the potential to increase visitor use. Increased Park development and use could potentially derogate hydrology and water quality in the project area. Implementation of Goals NR-2, NR-7, NR-8, and RR-4 and associated guidelines would reduce impacts to hydrology and water quality to below the level of significance.

Implementation of the General Plan would be expected to result in improvements in water quality. Goal NR-7 and Guideline NR-7.1 requires support of ongoing hydrology studies, including water sampling and modeling that would improve water quality in the Park. Goal NR-2 and Guideline NR-2.3 encourages the establishment of additional native vegetative cover within the Park. In addition, Goal NR-8 and Guideline NR-8.2 would require vegetative buffers and other control features in order to minimize the potential for runoff to carry pollutants into water bodies during construction and operational activities. These requirements would minimize the contribution of sediments and other pollutants into the waterways to the extent feasible and required by RWQCB. Compliance with management goals and guidelines, as well as compliance with existing rules and

regulations, would reduce potential surface water quality impacts to a less than significant level.

Implementation of the General Plan would protect and restore the Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek watercourses. Goals NR-7 and NR-8 would ensure that the General Plan would not alter the course of the existing streams or cause substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Guidelines NR-7.2 and NR-7.3 provides that natural bank stabilization measures are undertaken on the stream courses and that structural development is located away from the creek channel. Additionally, Guideline NR-8.1 requires implementation of erosion control plans for new development. These goals and guidelines would reduce impacts to waterways and erosion to below the level of significance.

Development within the Park may impact the amount of pervious surface area in the Park, which has the potential to affect groundwater recharge and degrade surface water quality. Guideline NR-7.3 ensures that BMPs are developed and implemented to reduce stormwater runoff in the Park, especially paved surfaces within 500 feet of water bodies. Other guidelines are provided to reduce the surface area of impervious surfaces in the Park, thereby ensuring impacts to groundwater recharge are not significant.

The Park has not had a history of flood control problems. The streambeds of Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek are designated as 100-year flood zone; however, the flood zones are primarily limited to the banks of the creeks. Goal NR-7 and associated guidelines ensure that no structural engineering measures occur within the creeks, unless required for safety purposes. Implementation of the General Plan would not locate structures in a 100-year flood zone and would not result in hazards from flooding; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Significance

The General Plan has the potential to impact hydrology and water quality in the project area; however, implementation of Goals NR-2, NR-7, NR-8, and RR-4 of the Preliminary General Plan would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

4.6.8 Noise

This section analyzes noise impacts that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The analysis is based on typical noise levels generated by recreation uses that would be accommodated at the Park and the relationship with established noise standards.

Thresholds

The noise analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to noise if it would:

- Expose persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards.
- Expose persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.
- Cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.
- Cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Increase in Ambient Noise Level

The General Plan includes the development of facilities and infrastructure, and has the potential to increase visitor use of the Park. The generation of noise may increase during the potential construction of facilities and infrastructure, or from traffic noise associated with increased visitation of the Park. Implementation of Goals FAC-1 and REC-1 would ensure that development and infrastructure improvements occur in appropriate areas and that the wilderness experience is maintained and protected. These goals and associated guidelines and adherence to State noise guidelines would ensure that noise impacts are less than significant.

The three primary sources of noise expected within the Park are vehicular traffic, construction activities, and operations of facilities. Based on the California Office of Planning and Research's General Plan Guidelines, 60 dBA is the maximum acceptable noise level for the most sensitive land uses (e.g., single-family residences). While recreational activity in a natural setting is not included in the General Plan Guidelines, such activities would also be considered noise-sensitive uses.

Based on information provided by EPA, outdoor receptors within approximately 1,600 feet of construction sites could experience maximum instantaneous noise levels of greater than 60 dBA when onsite construction-related noise levels exceed approximately 90 dBA at the boundary of the construction site. With the exception of recreational users and a few scattered residences, there are no sensitive uses (e.g., residential or commercial uses) adjacent to the Park.

Potential stationary sources of noise within the Park include visitor center operations, which would generate occasional parking lot-related noise (e.g., opening and closing of doors, people talking). This type of noise is not

expected to exceed the established standards. If future development and improvements would generate additional visitation to the Park, then traffic volumes and the associated noise volumes along roadways would increase. Where the traffic noise level would exceed the noise guidelines at sensitive uses along the roadways and where such increases would be perceptible, an adverse noise effect may result. Long-term noise impacts are not anticipated, particularly because the most intensive Park uses would be concentrated in the Recreation/Operations zones, away from potentially sensitive receptors.

Guideline FAC-1.6 would require preparation of noise studies for any development or improvement projects within the Park that may generate unacceptable noise levels or groundborne noise at nearby sensitive land uses. The recommendations, which may include temporary noise walls, site design changes, and limits on hours of operations, would reduce noise levels at sensitive uses. Additionally, the construction of Park improvements has the potential to cause a periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Guideline FAC-1.6 would ensure that potential short-term impacts are reduced to below the level of significance. Short term construction activities would not permanently increase ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. As such, noise impacts would be less than significant.

Potential impacts from noise would also be addressed through Goal REC-1 and its associated guideline, which aim to accommodate Park users while protecting the resources within the Park. This would include evaluating new recreational activities for the potential environmental impacts, including noise. This goal would further reduce the potential for noise impacts in the Park.

Significance

Normal Park operations do not include activities that would generate substantial amounts of noise. Potential noise impacts from future development or increased Park usage are addressed in Goals FAC-1 and RFC-1 of the Preliminary General Plan. Implementation of these goals would reduce potential noise impacts, both temporary and permanent, to a less-than-significant level.

4.6.9 Transportation and Circulation

This section analyzes transportation and circulation impacts that would result from implementation of the General Plan. This analysis considers potential increases in visitation that would result from the proposed General Plan and the related effects on traffic and circulation in the project area. It should be noted that recreation use projections have not been developed for the Plan, and therefore, the analysis represents a qualitative evaluation of this issue.

Thresholds

The transportation and circulation analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to transportation and circulation if it would:

- Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections).
- Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.
- Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).
- Result in inadequate emergency access.
- Result in inadequate parking capacity.
- Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

Impact Analysis

Impact: Increase in Trips and Effects on Roadway Safety

Implementation of the General Plan would encourage increased use of the Park, which may generate additional vehicular traffic to and from the Park. Most of the additional vehicular trips would occur during holidays and weekends, particularly during holiday weekends, and few of the trips are expected during the peak commuter hours. Goals MPE-3 and CTA-1 and the associated guidelines would ensure that future Park usage would not significantly impact traffic and circulation in the project area.

The main Park entrance is located on Malibu Canyon Road, which is a designated scenic corridor. Ample parking inside the Park allows Park users to enter the main Park entrance without vehicles queuing on Malibu Canyon Road. In addition, there is only one intersection on Malibu Canyon Road near the Park entrance, located north of the Park entrance at Mulholland Highway. Goal MPE-3 and Guideline MPE-3.1 require that a traffic safety analysis be conducted to identify measures for safe ingress and egress from the main Park entrance. Implementation of these measures would ensure that traffic generated by the Park would not result in an unsafe design feature, nor would it significantly impact the capacity of the existing street system or exceed a level of service standard.

There are two other major access points to gain entrance to the Park, at Tapia Park and Reagan Ranch. Entrance to Tapia Park is provided via Malibu Canyon Road south of the main Park entrance. Use of this entrance is secondary to the main entrance and is not anticipated to impact traffic on Malibu Canyon Road. The Reagan Ranch access is an isolated parking area off of Mulholland Highway. As this road is not a high use roadway, it is not anticipated that parking at Reagan Ranch would affect traffic on Mulholland Highway or the adjacent roadways. As such, implementation of the General Plan would not be expected to contribute to traffic congestion problems on roadways in the area.

Goal CTA-1 requires safe and easy Park access with respect to the surrounding street system and the natural and cultural resources in the Park. Specifically, Guidelines CTA-1.2 and CTA-1.5 encourage proper wayfinding signage and maps, which would improve access and safety to the Park. Should access to the Park begin to affect the local street system, Guideline CTA-1.9 requires coordination with local jurisdictions to improve roadway conditions serving the Park. Implementation of these goals and associated guidelines would improve Park access and ensure that impacts remain below the level of significance.

The General Plan would not result in inadequate parking capacity or conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks). The Park encourages recreational activities such as biking or equestrian use, as well as education and group visitation, all of which utilize alternative transportation. Impacts would remain less than significant.

Significance

Potential impacts to traffic circulation and safety are addressed in Goals MPE-1, MPE-3 and CTA-1 of the Preliminary General Plan. Implementation of these goals and associated guidelines would reduce potential traffic and circulation impacts to a less than significant level.

4.6.10 Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems

This section analyzes impacts on utility and public service systems that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. The analysis based on the potential demands for public services and utilities as part of proposed facility developments included in the General Plan.

Thresholds

The public services and utilities analysis uses criteria from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to these criteria, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to public services and utilities if it would:

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for

new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities?

- Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed.
- Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.
- Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs.
- Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Impact Analysis

Impact: Increase Demand for Utility and Public Services

The General Plan would permit new developments and improvements in infrastructure that may generate an increase in the demand for utility and public services. Existing service providers and resource capacities are expected to be sufficient to meet this increase in demand, and Goals FAC-1, FAC-4, and FAC-5 would require utilization of existing facilities and utility systems where possible and would minimize impacts to the natural environment.

The General Plan would permit the development of new facilities and site improvements that may generate the demand for additional water, wastewater, electricity, propane, solid waste, telephone, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical, and road maintenance services. For electricity, propane, and telephone services, the Department would continue to contract with private service providers. The Department would continue to provide water from its existing wells or from new wells; due to the limited water requirements, it is expected that the existing groundwater supply would be sufficient. New water

treatment, storage, and conveyance facilities may be needed for water service and would be built based on new demand associated with specific facility developments. New septic systems or wastewater connections would be installed for new toilet facilities in the campsite areas. For solid waste collection and disposal and road maintenance services, the Department would continue to use existing services. For fire protection services, the Department would continue to coordinate with Los Angeles County Fire Department. The Park is serviced primarily by three County of Los Angeles Fire stations, located in Calabasas, Agoura, and Malibu. Law enforcement within the Park is provided by the rangers; in addition, the Department coordinates with the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department for major crime as well as California Highway Patrol for major traffic accidents. Emergency medical services are also provided by rangers and patients may be transported by ambulance to local hospitals. Alternatively, patients may be transported by helicopter to regional hospitals.

New equipment and facilities may be needed to serve the future development within the Park. Adverse environmental effects associated with new infrastructure and services are expected to be typical of the equipment and facility types. Goals FAC-1 and FAC-4 encourage limited facilities and utilities development; Guideline FAC-4.1 ensures proper maintenance of these facilities and utilities. The limited development of utilities would minimize disturbance of the natural conditions in the Park. In addition, preference would be given to the use of existing infrastructure over the development of new infrastructure, in accordance with Goal FAC-5 and Guidelines FAC-5.1 and FAC-5.2. This goal would also minimize the amount of new development required to provide utility and public services. Construction and operations of the equipment and facilities are expected to be in compliance with State and federal rules and regulations, as well as management goals and guidelines of this General Plan. As such, new infrastructure and services are expected to be environmentally compatible with the Park's resources, and any degradation of environmental values is not expected to be substantial. Environmental review for new development would be required. While the exact nature of the infrastructure and service needs would not be determined until the development proposal is available, it is expected that any adverse effects would be mitigated to the extent feasible in accordance with environmental guidelines. Impacts to utilities and service systems as a result of the project would be less than significant.

Significance

Public services are currently adequately provided at the Park; no impacts are anticipated as a result increased Park use. Development of utilities would be minimized through the implementation of Goals FAC-1, FAC-4, and FAC-5. These goals would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

4.7 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

4.7.1 Unavoidable Significant Effects on the Environment

This first-tier environmental review indicates that the potential significant environmental effects from implementation of the General Plan can be maintained at a less-than-significant level with appropriate facility siting, implementation of goals and guidelines included in this Plan, and the development of specific mitigation measures during the project-level environmental review process.

4.7.2 Significant Irreversible Environmental Effects

No significant irreversible changes to the physical environment are anticipated from the adoption and implementation of this General Plan. Facility development, including structures, roads and trails, may be considered a long-term commitment of resources; however, the impacts can be reversed through removal of the facilities and discontinued access and use. Ongoing adverse effects on the environment, if any, can be monitored by Park staff through their consideration of carrying capacity issues. The Department does remove, replace, or realign facilities, such as trails and campsites, where impacts have become unacceptable either from excessive use or from a change in environmental conditions.

The construction and operation of facilities may require the use of non-renewable resources. This impact is projected to be minor based on considerations of sustainable practices in site design, construction, maintenance, and operations that are generally practiced by the Department. Sustainable principles used in design, construction and management, such as the use of non-toxic materials and renewable resources, resource conservation, recycling, and energy efficiency, emphasize environmental sensitivity.

4.7.3 Growth Inducing Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) require that an EIR evaluate the growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, an EIR must discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Growth can be induced in a number of ways, including the elimination of obstacles to growth, or by encouraging and/or facilitating other activities that would induce new growth. Growth inducement itself is not an environmental effect, but may lead to environmental effects. Such environmental effects may include increased demand on other community and public services and infrastructure, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air or water quality, degradation or loss of plant or wildlife habitats, or conversion of agricultural and open space land to urban uses.

If implemented completely, the General Plan may indirectly foster economic growth in the region. This economic growth would be associated with the development of new recreational and interpretive facilities, which could increase visitation to the Park. The anticipated increase in Park visitation is based on an increase in the overall capacity of the Park (i.e., Park expansion), interpretive potential at the proposed visitor center, the development of family and group day-use and overnight camping facilities, and improvements to the trail system, including additional new trails and linkages between the Park and regional trails. Additional directional and informational signage outside the Park should raise the Park's profile as a destination for recreation and historical interpretation.

If visitation to the Park increases, tourism-related spending would increase in adjacent communities and surrounding region, which would in turn support tourism- and recreation-related businesses and employment. The extent of such economic effects is unknown at this time, but could indirectly result in growth of local economic activity.

In addition, there may be a need to expand permanent and seasonal Park staff to address increases in Park visitation and to operate facilities, such as the proposed visitor center. Increases in employment opportunities in both the public and private sector could result in increases in local population growth, but this effect is expected to be minimal because the number of new jobs is not expected to be substantial and any new employees would likely be from the local area.

4.7.4 Cumulative Impacts

This EIR provides an analysis of cumulative impacts of the proposed General Plan, as required in CEQA Guidelines Section 15130. Cumulative impacts are defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." A cumulative impact occurs from "the change in the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects." Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, projects taking place over a period of time (CEQA Guidelines Section 15355[b]). By requiring an evaluation of cumulative impacts, CEQA attempts to ensure that large-scale environmental impacts will not be ignored.

To evaluate cumulative environmental impacts, other projects that could cumulatively contribute to the impacts described in this EIR need to be identified. In addition to substantial growth in the Los Angeles region, several development and planning projects are being undertaken in close proximity to the Park by other public agencies, including NPS and the City of Calabasas. These projects are:

- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area General Management Plan (NPS)
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Regional Trail Management Plan (Department/NPS)
- New Millennium Trails System (City of Calabasas)

As described above, the facility development and resource management efforts proposed in the General Plan would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts based on implementation of the goals and guidelines included in the Plan. Although not individually significant, those environmental topics that are not expected to be subject to significant adverse effects from the proposed development in the General Plan may result in cumulative impacts to the extent that they are occurring in the region, such as water quality degradation and the loss of biological, cultural, and visual resources. However, features of the General Plan, including possible acquisitions and resource protection efforts, would act to protect existing Park resources, preserve viewsheds, and restore plant and wildlife habitat by providing habitat linkages and buffers. As a result, cumulative impacts associated with these environmental topics are expected to be less than significant.

4.8 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

4.8.1 Description and Environmental Effects of the Alternatives

The guiding principles for the analysis of alternatives in this EIR are provided by the CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6, which indicate that the alternatives analysis must: (1) describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project that could feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project; (2) consider alternatives that could reduce or eliminate any significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, including alternatives that may be more costly or could otherwise impede the project's objectives; and (3) evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives. The CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d) permit the evaluation of alternatives to be conducted in less detail than is done for the proposed project. A description of the project alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, is provided in this EIR to allow for a meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison of these alternatives with the proposed General Plan.

4.8.2 No Project Alternative

CEQA requires an evaluation of the "no project" alternative and its impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6[e][1]). The no project alternative represents perpetuation of existing management actions, and its analysis is based on the physical conditions that are likely to occur in the future if the project (the proposed General Plan) is not approved and implemented. The purpose of describing and analyzing a no project alternative is to allow decision-makers to

compare the impacts of approving the proposed project with the expected impacts of not approving the project.

A General Plan for the Park was approved in 1978; however, the importance and pressures on the Park are very different 20 years after the first General Plan. If a new General Plan were not adopted, the existing conditions, lack of needed facilities, and Park management limitations would continue as under the original General Plan.

Under the No Project Alternative, higher protection for the sensitive natural and cultural features found within the Park would not be established. Despite current efforts to protect, rehabilitate, or restore such features, visitor use patterns over time could be expected to impact these features. Without the General Plan, a holistic approach for protecting these features through management zones and other planning efforts would not be adequately implemented.

The No Project Alternative will make it difficult for the Department to systematically address land use and visitor use issues. Consolidating or improving visitor use or operational facilities to minimize environmental impacts, enhancing Park interpretation, and creating a higher quality visitor experience would be difficult to execute under the No Project Alternative.

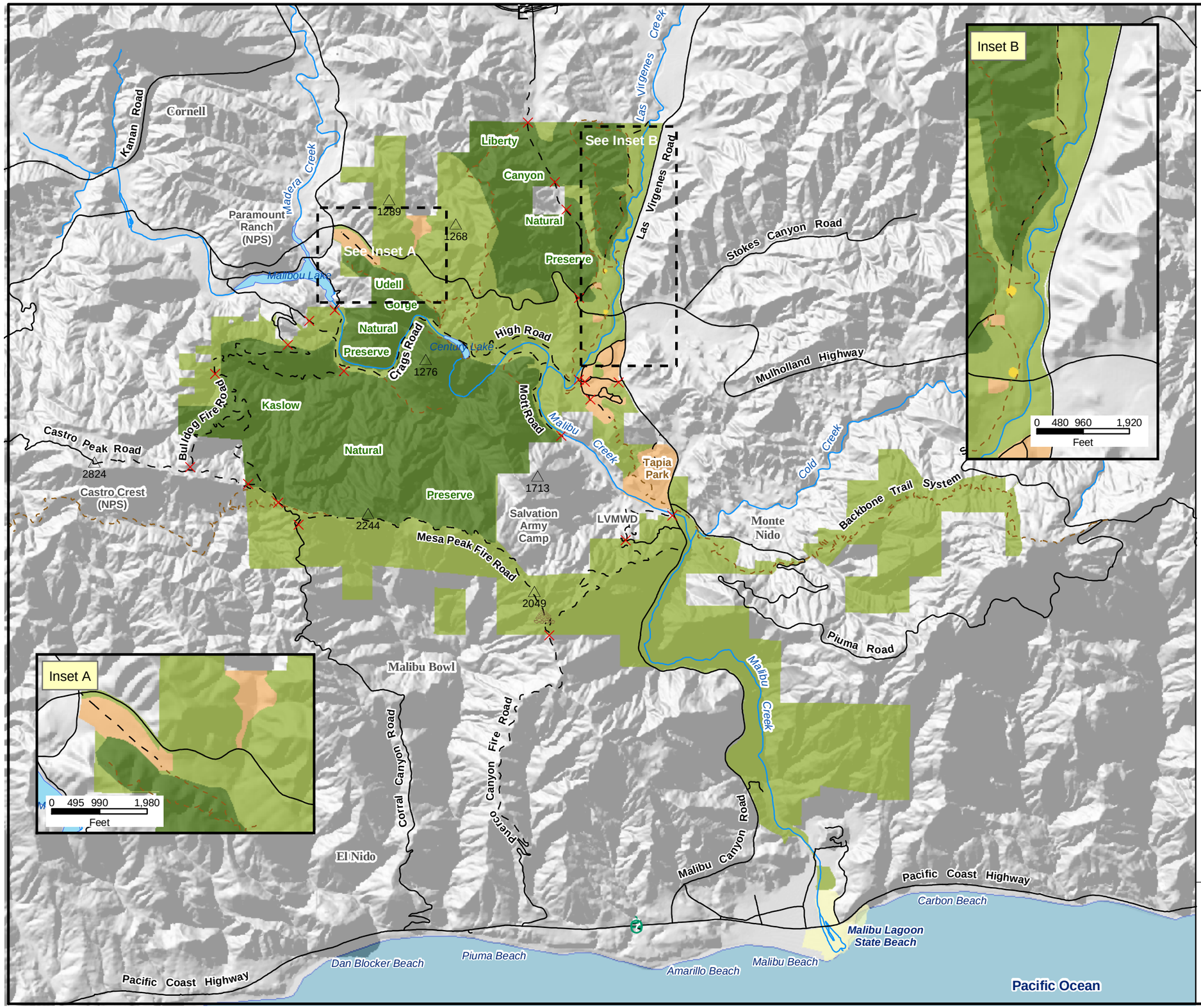
4.8.3 Alternative 1

Alternative 1, shown in Figure 8, emphasizes recreation as a key component in the Park's future and is considered to be the recreation-based plan alternative. It essentially continues the land use designations at the Park in their current condition, including 7,553 acres of State Park and approximately 3,000 acres of Natural Preserves. The Natural Preserves would be designated Core Habitat Zones and no new land would be designated as Natural Preserves. The existing Natural Preserves, which would be designated as Core Habitat Zones, would comprise 38 percent of the total Park area.

Visitor experience would be enhanced and recreation opportunities increased through the provision of appropriate operational and visitor amenities and services, such as picnic areas and Ranger stations at high visitor use areas. To facilitate this improvement, Reagan Ranch, Tapia Park, and the main Park entrance area, would be designated as Recreation/Operations Zone. At Reagan Ranch, an equestrian camp would be developed with up to 15 sites, while at Tapia Park, the group facility would be reestablished. Although such facilities are permitted in all zones other than from the Core Habitat Zone, they would be encouraged in the Recreation/Operations Zone. This zone would cover just over 200 acres, a similar area of the Park to that under this zone in the other alternatives.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 8
ALTERNATIVE 1



Basemap Features
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Trails
- Locked Gates
- Rivers
- Landslide
- Mountains
- Lakes

Zones
- Natural Open Space
- Cultural/Historic
- Core Habitat
- Recreation/Operations

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet

0 1,450 2,900 5,800 8,700 11,600
Feet

Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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Nov. 25, 2003

Cultural/Historic Zones would be designated around the building/site footprints of the Sepulveda Adobe, White Oak Farm, Hunter House, M*A*S*H site, and Hunt House area. This would facilitate the protection and restoration of each structure's cultural and historic significance, while encouraging public participation in the Park's rich cultural heritage.

Of the alternatives, this one includes the greatest area of Natural Open Space Zone, which would cover approximately 4,660 acres or 60 percent of the Park. Unlike the other alternatives, Malibu Canyon would remain as part of the Natural Open Space Zone.

4.8.4 Alternative 2

Figure 9 shows Alternative 2, the resource-based plan. In this alternative, Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve would be expanded to Las Virgenes Road to incorporate Las Virgenes Creek. Malibu Canyon Natural Preserve would be established to protect sensitive riparian habitat and grasslands. Creating east-west and north-south wildlife linkages through the Park and with neighboring areas of open space would be achieved by expanding the Core Habitat Zone to connect Malibu Canyon Natural Preserve to Kaslow Natural Preserve, and the Udell Gorge Natural Preserve to the Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve. Fish passage from Malibu Lagoon to Malibou Lake would be facilitated through the removal of Rindge Dam and Century Lake Dam. Of the alternatives, this one has the largest area of Core Habitat Zone, around 4,800 acres or 63 percent of the Park.

The Cultural/Historic Zone for Alternative 2 would be similar to that of the Preferred Plan. This designation would protect and restore the historic and cultural resources of the Sepulveda Adobe and White Oak Farm area, connecting the expanded Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve Core Habitat Zone with the Main Park Entrance area. As with the other alternatives, the M*A*S*H site, Hunter House, and Hunt House would be included in this designation. The remaining structures at Reagan Ranch would also be protected under the Cultural/Historic Zone, while the surrounding land at Reagan Ranch would be designated as Recreation/Operations Zone. These adjacent zone designations would protect the historic value of the property, and accommodate a group horse camp.

Development of visitor and operational facilities would only be permitted in Recreation/Operational Zones, which would encompass approximately 2.5 percent of the Park. The rest of the Park, close to 2800 acres, or 35 percent, would be designated as Natural Open Space Zone, balancing a diverse range of recreational and conservation needs.

4.8.5 Environmentally Superior Alternative

The State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6(d)(2) states that "if the environmentally superior alternative is the no project alternative, the EIR shall also identify an environmentally superior alternative from among the other alternatives." In light of this guidance, the EIR discusses whether the no project alternative or one of the other plan alternatives would be environmentally superior.

Alternative 2, the resource-based plan, is the environmentally superior alternative. Although the impacts would be similar to the preferred plan, this alternative would preserve a greater area of the Park as Core Habitat and would decrease the size of the proposed Recreation/Operations zone. Because this alternative places the greatest emphasis on resource protection, it would be environmentally superior to the other alternatives.

4.9 PUBLIC COORDINATION

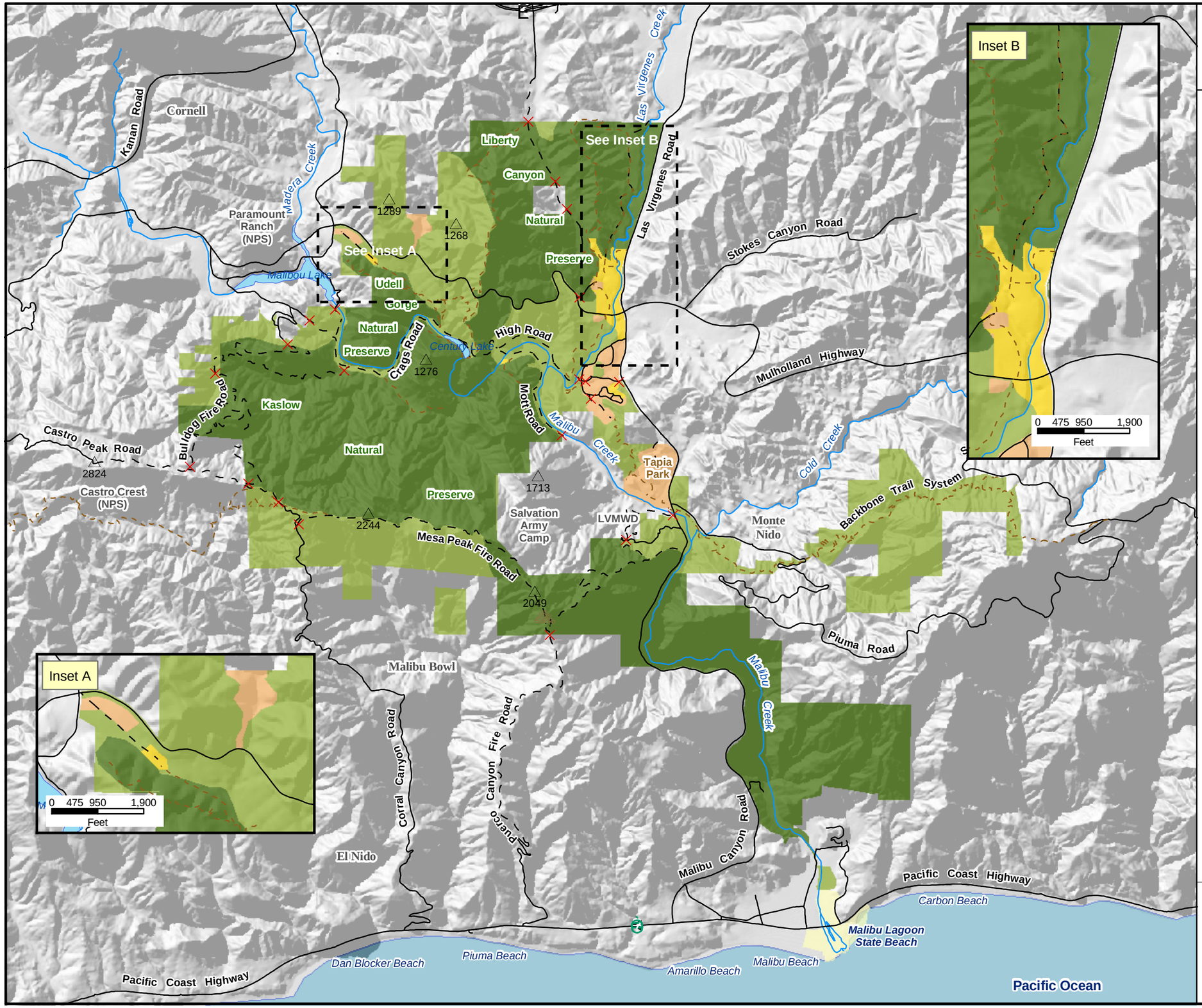
Public involvement in development of the General Plan included one public scoping meeting on January 9, 2003. The comments received at the scoping meeting and during the public comment period are explained in Appendix B. Another public meeting was held on July 23, 2003, to present and discuss the draft alternatives.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated through the State Clearinghouse to state agencies, as well as to appropriate City and County planning offices, Federal agencies, special interest organizations, and individuals. The State Clearinghouse reference number is SCH #2002121108. The public review period closed on January 21, 2003. The NOP and public comment letters were submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission for their consideration in approving the plan and are retained by the Department as part of the public record. To view these materials, please contact the Department at the address shown inside the front cover.

The Draft EIR was circulated for 45 days for public review and comment. Upon completion of the public review period, a Final EIR will be prepared that will include the comments on the Draft EIR received during the formal public review period and responses to those comments.

Malibu Creek State Park

FIGURE 9
ALTERNATIVE 2



Basemap Features
- Paved Roads
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- Lakes

Zone
- Natural Open Space
- Cultural/Historic
- Core Habitat
- Recreation/Operations

Scale of Main View: 1 inch - 4,000 feet
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Source Data: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), 2002; National Elevation Dataset (NED) Shaded Relief Imagery from United States Geological Survey (USGS), 2003.

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Chapter 8 Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
ARB	California Air Resource Board
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCA	California Coastal Act of 1976
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFP	California Fully Protected Species as designated by the California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CHTF	California Heritage Task Force
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CORBA	Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association
CORRP	California Outdoor Recreation Resource Plan
County	County of Los Angeles
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DAC	district administration center
dB	decibel
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report

DFG	State of California, Department of Fish and Game
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
GMC	Growth Management Chapter
GMP	General Management Plan
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
LADPW	Los Angeles Department of Public Works
LARWQCB	Los Angeles District Regional Water Quality Control Board
LCP	Local Coastal Plan
LPP	National Park Service Land Protection Plan
LOS	level of service
LUP	Land Use Plan
LVMWD	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
MCSP	Malibu Creek State Park
mgd	million gallons per day
mph	Miles per hour
MRT	Mountain Restoration Trust
N	nitrogen
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCCP	Natural Communities Conservation Program
NO_x	nitrogen oxide(s)
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NPS	National Park Service
O_3	ozone
Park Rangers	Department Peace Officers
PCH	Pacific Coast Highway
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCPG	Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guideline Policies
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCE	Southern California Edison
SMMC	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

SMMNAP	Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan
SMMNRA	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
SMMTC	Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SP	State Park
State	State of California
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Chapter 9 Glossary of Terms

Access to Parks Guidelines: as stated in Departmental Notice 95-32, November 8, 1995, California State Parks' "policy is to meet the recreational needs of all the people of California and to provide an accessible environment in which all visitors to the State Park System units are given the opportunity to understand, appreciate, and participate in the State's Cultural, historical, and natural heritage." Guidelines were developed that reflect the direction of the ADA. These guidelines are maintained and updated as needed by the Disabled Advisory Committee (DAC) with oversight by the Human Resources Office (HRO).

Active Fault: a fault that has moved recently and which is likely to move again. For planning purposes, an "active fault" is usually defined as one the shows movement within the last 11,000 years and can be expected to move within the next 100 years.

Adaptive Use: use of a historic structure for a purpose other than for which it was originally intended.

Aesthetics: refer to the visual, audible, and other sensory factors within the Park setting and its surrounding landscapes that, taken together, establish character or sense of place.

Alluvium: a general term for all detrital deposits resulting from the operations of modern rivers, thus including the sediments laid down in riverbeds, flood plains, lakes, fans at foot of mountain slopes and estuaries.

Ambient Air Quality: the atmospheric concentration (amount in specified volume of air) of a specific compound as actually experienced at a particular geographic location that may be some distance from the source of the relevant pollutant emissions.

Ambient Noise Level: the composite of noise from all sources near and far.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): the ADA was signed into law by President George Bush in 1990. Divided into four titles, it guarantees people with disabilities equal access to employment, transportation and public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

Archaeological: pertaining to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

Bedrock: the solid rock underlying unconsolidated surface materials.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): the most stringent emission limit or control technique that has been achieved in practice that is applicable to a particular emission source.

Bikeways: bicycle travel way, encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.

Best Management Practices (BMP): the most current methods, treatments, or actions in regards to environmental mitigation responses.

Biocorridors: interconnected tracts of land characterized by significant natural resource value through which native species can disperse.

Biodiversity: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals, as well as the relative abundance of all the species within a given area.

Biotic community: a group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.

Buffer: land that protects natural and/or cultural values of a resource or park from adverse effects arising outside the buffer.

California Administrative Code: the procedures that California state agencies must follow when adopting, amending, or repealing regulations.

California Coastal Commission: established by the 1972 Coastal Act to review and approve projects and actions within a defined zone along the California coastline for compliance with the Coastal Act.

California Department of Parks and Recreation: established in 1961 and originally consisted of the statutory Divisions of Beaches and Parks, Small Craft Harbors, Recreation and Administration, it is organizationally within the Resources Agency. It is the legal name for California State Parks.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): a state law (PRC Section 21000 et al.) requiring state and local agencies to take actions on projects with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General Plans require a "program EIR" and park development projects require a project environmental document.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in increasing the understanding and appreciation of California's native plans and conserving them and their habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture, and land stewardship.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNNDB): maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game CNNDB is a statewide inventory of the locations and condition of the state's rarest species and natural communities. It is a "heritage program" and is part of the National Heritage Network, a nationwide network of similar programs. The goal of CNNDB is to provide the most current information on the state's most imperiled elements of natural diversity and to provide tools to analyze these data.

California State Parks and Recreation Commission: established in 1927 to advise the Director of Parks and Recreation on the recreational needs of the people of California. In 1928 it gathered support for the first state park bond issue. The Commission schedules public hearings to consider classification or reclassification and the approval of State Parks' general plan (and amendments) for each park unit.

Chaparral: stands of dense, spiny shrubs with tough evergreen leaves that are in areas along the coasts between 30° and 40° latitude that usually have mild rainy winters and long, hot, dry summers. These shrubs have been prevented from growing due to various environmental stresses, including aridity, a short growing season, low-nutrient soil, and frequent fires.

Classification: official designation of units of the State Park System. Classification are established by the State Parks and Recreation Commission at the recommendation of Department staff and are based on the sensitivity and kind of unit's most important resources and what types of use the unit will receive from the public.

Clean Water Act (CWA): enacted in 1972 to create a basic framework for current programs to control water pollution; provide statutory authority for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Concession: a contract with persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations for the provision of products, facilities, programs, and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concession developments, programs, and services must be compatible with a park unit's classification and general plan provisions.

Conservation Easement: acquisition of rights and interests to a property to protect identified conservation or resource values using a reserved interest deed. Easements may apply to entire parcels of land or to specific parts of the property. Most are permanent, although term easements pose restrictions for a limited number of years. Land protected by a conservation easement remains on the tax rolls and is privately owned and managed; landowners who donate conservation easements are generally entitled to tax benefits.

Constraints: (1) the state of being restricted or confined within prescribed bounds (2) one that restricts, limits, or regulates; a check.

County Route: a segment of roadway that has been officially designated by the Director of California Department of Transportation as a scenic corridor.

Cultural Heritage Point of Interest: human activity site, interpretive exhibit. Utilizes both preservation and interpretation.

Cultural Landscape: a geographic area (including both the cultural and natural resources) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting cultural or aesthetic values. This type is a landscape that evolved through use by people whose activities or occupancy shaped it.

Cultural Resource: a resource that exists because of human activities. Cultural resources can be prehistoric (dating from before European settlement) or historic (post-European contact).

Cultural Preserve: the subclassification protects areas of outstanding historic interest in state parks, including such features as sites, buildings, or zones where significant events in the flow of history in California occurred. They need to be large enough to protect resources from potential damage and to permit effective management and interpretation and must also have complete integrity of the resources; no conflicting improvements, such as roads, are permitted. Natural resources values are secondary to historical values in cultural preserves.

Culvert: a drain, ditch, or conduit not incorporated in a closed system that carries drainage water under driveway, roadway, railroad, pedestrian walk or publicway. Culverts are often built to channelize streams and as part of flood control systems.

Cumulative Impact: as defined by the state CEQA Guidelines (Section 15355) two or more individual effects that, when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Declaration of Purpose (California State Parks): The “declaration of purpose” defines the purpose of the unit in the context of the State Park System and the broadest goals of management. It includes an identification of prime resources, a broad statement of management goals consistent with unit classification, and a general statement of appropriate recreational activities.

Degradation: the reduction of environmental quality in an area through a lessening of diversity, the creation of growth anomalies, or the supplanting of native species by nonnative plant and animal species.

Demographic: having to do with a particular characteristic of a segment of the public at large; may be connected to the group's age, the region where the group resides, a particular recreational interest, economic status, etc.

Ecology: the study of the interrelationship of living things to one another and their environment.

Ecosystem: a community consisting of all biological organisms (plant, animals, insects, etc.) in a given area interacting with the physical environment (soil, water, air) to function together as a unit of nature.

Effect/Impact: an environmental change; as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15358: (1) Direct or primary effects are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place (2) Indirect or secondary effects that are caused by the project and are late in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water quality and other natural systems including ecosystems.

Endangered Species: a species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy form one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Endemic: indigenous to, and restricted to, a particular area.

Environment: as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15360, "the physical conditions that exist within the area that will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historical and aesthetic significance."

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): a report required by CEQA that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects of impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General plans require the preparation of a "program" EIR appropriate to its level of specificity.

Environmentally Sensitive: an area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their role in an ecosystem. Such areas can be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

Ethnographic: a multi-format group of materials gathered and organized by an anthropologist, folklorist, or other cultural researcher to document human life and traditions.

Exotic Species: a species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced to or have inadvertently infiltrated into the system. Also known as non-native, ornamental, or introduced species. Exotic animals prey upon native species and compete with them for food and habitat. Exotic plant species can convert native ecosystems into a non-native dominated system that provides little benefit to other species in the ecosystem.

Floodplain: a lowland or relatively flat area adjoining inland or coastal waters that is subject to a one or greater chance of flooding in any given year (i.e., 100-year flood).

Floodway: the channel of a natural stream or river and portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel, which are reasonable required to carry and discharge the floodwater or flood flow of any natural stream or river.

Geology: the scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.

General Plan (GP): a general plan is a legal planning document that provides guidelines for the development, management, and operation of a unit of the State Park System. A general plan evaluates and defines land uses, resource management, facilities, interpretation, concessions, and operations of a park unit as well as addressing environmental impacts in a programmatic manner. A park unit must have an approved general plan prior to implementing any major development project.

Habitat: the physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs. It involves an environment of a particular kind, defined by characteristics such as climate, terrain, elevation, soil type, and vegetation. Habitat typically includes shelter and/or sustenance.

Hazardous Material: any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant presence or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Lead-based paint is an example of a hazardous material.

Historic Character: the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and species associated with a structure or cultural landscape's history, i.e., the original configuration together with losses and later changes. These qualities are often referred to as character defining.

Hydrology: pertaining to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying geology, and in the air.

Impervious surface: any material, which reduces or prevents absorption of water into land.

Infrastructure: public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water supply systems, other utility systems, road and site access systems.

Initial Study: as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15365, an analysis of a project's potential environmental effects and their relative significance. An initial study is preliminary to deciding whether to prepare a negative declaration or an EIR.

Interpretation: in this planning document, it refers to a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, through involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, sties, and oral histories.

Landform: configuration of land surface (topography).

Mitigation Measure: a measure proposed that would eliminate, avoid, rectify, compensate for, or reduce significant environmental effects (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15370).

National Park Service (NPS): in 1916, Congress established the National Park Service to manage the 14 national parks and 21 national monuments then assigned to the U.S. Department of the Interior. NPS now helps conserve over 380 parks "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): the official federal list of buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts worthy of historic preservation. The register recognizes resources of local, state, and national significance. The register lists only those properties that have retained enough physical integrity to accurately convey their appearance during their period of significance.

Native species: a plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific site area.

Natural Preserve: a subclassification within a unit of the State Park System that requires parks and Recreation Commission approval. Its main purpose is to maintain such features as rare and endangered plants and animals and their supporting ecosystems in perpetuity.

Negative Declaration: when a project is not exempt from CEQA and will not have a significant effect upon the environment a negative declaration must be written (see State CEQA Guidelines Section 15371).

Notice of Preparation (NOP): a document stating that an EIR will be prepared for a particular project. It is the first step in the EIR process.

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP): the governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program in California. Its responsibilities include identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations.

Open Space: an area with few or no paved surfaces or buildings, which may be primarily in its natural state or improved for use as a park.

Project: as defined by the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, a project can be one of the following a) activities undertaken by any public agency; b) activities undertaken by a person that are supported in whole or in part through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies; c) activities involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

Public Resources Code (PRC): in addition to the State Constitution and Statues, California Law consists of 29 codes covering various subject areas. The PRC addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources of the State.

Riparian: riparian habitat represents the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams and are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near fresh water.

Runoff: that portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

Septic System: an on-site sewage treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absences of oxygen. Septic systems are often used where a municipal sewer system is not available.

Significant Effect on the Environment: as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15382, substantial or potentially substantial, adverse change on any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.

Siltation: the process of silt deposition. Silt is a loose sedimentary material composed of finely divided particles of soil or rock, often carried in cloudy suspension in water.

Solid Waste: term used to describe the mixture of items, discarded by agricultural, residential and non-residential activities.

Special-Status Species: plant or animal species that are typically listed (State and Federal) as endangered, rare and threatened, plus those species considered by the scientific community to be deserving of such listing.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): the chief administrative officer for the OHP and is also the executive secretary of the State Historic Resources Commission.

Subclassification: a separate classification for a portion or unit of the State Park System. The State Parks and Recreation Commission establish these at the recommendation of Department staff. Cultural preserves and Wilderness are subclassifications.

Subsidence: the gradual sinking of land as a result of natural or man-made causes.

Threatened Species: an animal or plant species that is considered likely to become endangered throughout a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future because its prospects for survival and reproduction are in jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Topography: graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations.

Trailhead: the beginning of a trial, usually marked by information signs.

Viewshed: the area that can be seen from a specified location.

Watershed: the total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to the flow of the watercourse; entire region drained by a watercourse.

Wetland: includes the environment of subtidal, mudflats, tidal salt marsh, periodically inundated or brackish marsh, diked marshland, associated upland, and freshwater marsh.

Wilderness: within state parks, this is a subclassification requiring approval by the State Parks and Recreation Commission. It provides protection for plants and animals and their supporting ecosystems while also encouraging

recreational use. Its provision includes no permanent facilities other than "semi-improved campgrounds" and possible retention of structures existing when the land was designated. No mechanical equipment may be used in a wilderness (including bicycles), and there is a 2,000-foot no-fly zone above.

APPENDIX A
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REGULATORY BACKGROUND

APPENDIX A
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REGULATORY BACKGROUND

Many biological resources in California are protected and/or regulated by laws, regulations, and policies. Key regulatory compliance issues that may need to be addressed prior to implementation of the General Plan are listed below.

Federal Regulatory Issues

Federal Endangered Species Act

Pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), USFWS has regulatory authority over projects that may affect the continued existence of a federally listed (Threatened or Endangered) species. Section 9 of ESA prohibits the take of federally listed species; take is defined under ESA, in part, as killing, harming, or harassment of such species. Under federal regulations, take is further defined to included habitat modification or degradation where it actually results in death or injury to wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Section 7 of ESA outlines procedures for federal interagency cooperation and participation in the conservation and recovery of federally listed species and designated critical habitat. Section 7(a) (2) requires federal agencies to consult with other federal agencies with regulatory authority to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Critical habitat identifies specific areas that have the physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of a listed species, and that may require special management considerations or protection.

For projects where a federal nexus is not involved and take of a listed species may occur, the project proponent may seek to obtain an incidental take permit under Section 10(a) of ESA. Section 10(a) of ESA allows USFWS to permit the incidental take of listed species if such take is accompanied by a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that includes components to minimize and mitigate impacts associated with the take.

Clean Water Act

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the placement of fill into Waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Waters of the U.S. include lakes, rivers, streams, and their tributaries and wetlands. Wetlands are defined under Section 404 as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions. Activities that require a permit under Section 404 include, but are not limited to, placing fill or riprap, grading, mechanized land clearing, and dredging. Any activities that results in the deposit of dredge or fill

material within the "Ordinary High Water Mark" of Waters of the U.S. usually requires a permit from USACE, even if the area is dry at the time the activity takes place. A variety of processes are available for obtaining Section 404 authorization from USACE, ranging from the Nationwide Permit Process to the Individual Permit Process.

State Regulatory Issues

California Endangered Species Act

Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is required for projects that could result in "take" of a state-listed Threatened or Endangered species. Section 2080 of CESA prohibits take of state-listed species. The take of state-listed species incidental to other otherwise lawful activities requires a permit, pursuant to Section 2081(b) of CESA. The state has the authority to issue an incidental take permit under Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code, or to coordinate with USFWS during the Section 10(a) process to make the federal permit also apply to state-listed species.

Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code

All diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake in California that supports wildlife resources is subject to regulation by CDFG, pursuant to Sections 1601 of the California Fish and Game Code. Section 1601 makes it unlawful for any governmental agency, state or local, and any public utility to substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake without first notifying CDFG of such activity. The regulatory definition of a stream is a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having a surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation. CDFG's jurisdiction within altered or artificial waterways is based on the value of those waterways to fish and wildlife. A CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement must be obtained for any project that would result in an impact to a river, lake, or stream.

Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code

Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds-of-prey in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes." These orders include hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons. The loss of an active nest is considered a violation of this code by CDFG. This statute does not provide for the issuance of any type of incidental take permit.

APPENDIX B
MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK
PUBLIC MEETING NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

APPENDIX B
MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK
PUBLIC MEETING NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS
JANUARY 9, 2003

KEY ISSUES

Category/Subcategory	Comment
Acquisition	Ask National Park Service (NPS) to turn NPS properties contiguous to Malibu Creek State Park over to the State Park. Also, all public lands adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park should be donated to Malibu Creek State Park.
Acquisition	Acquire SOKA
Acquisition	Leave SOKA alone. Some of us utilize it and do not want it part of the Park System.
Acquisition	Acquire Ahmanson Ranch
Acquisition	Acquire a sufficient trail loop so as to allow mountain bikers to have a complete safe alternative
Acquisition	Acquire land adjacent to Serra retreat
Acquisition	Acquire inholdings
Acquisition	Acquire land out to natural boundaries
ADA	Liberty Canyon access point should facilitate disabled access and allow wildlife movement
Circulation	Main park entrance/exit is dangerous, especially at rush hour.
Circulation	Add a new exit at Mulholland Highway.
Circulation	Less auto access within the Park.
Circulation/Transit	Need bus service at least twice daily.
Circulation/Transit	Encourage transit/shuttle service to and from the Park.
Cultural Resources/Vandalism	Chumash cave paintings are frequently vandalized.
Development	Protect scenic character of Mulholland Highway.
Equestrian	Water locations are needed for horses.
Equestrian	Equestrian campground needed (group and individual sites).
Equestrian	Equestrian staging area is needed.
Equestrian	Need more areas to tie up horses (e.g., Hitching rails at bathrooms).
Facilities/Camping	Improve campground by adding trees.
Facilities/Camping	Improve campground by separating campsites from each other – too close.
Facilities/Concessions	Authentic concession area: no roads, one must hike, bike, or ride to access – like a “dude ranch.”
Facilities/Concessions	Remove vending machines.
Facilities/Concessions	Remove brand name vending machines.
Facilities/Cultural	Restore Sepulveda Adobe as it is an important resource for Hispanic visitors.
Facilities/Entrance Station	Relocate entrance station.
Facilities/Fire	Fire protection shelters for historic structures: inflatable tents with fire retardant foam.
Facilities/General Comment	Minimize structures and new facilities. Part of the Park’s value is it’s wildness and lack of development.
Facilities/Landscaping	More natural landscaping around park buildings.

Category/Subcategory	Comment
Facilities/Parking	Use alternative types of parking lots (i.e., pervious surface).
Facilities/Visitor Center	Visitor Center should be closer to main entrance and hours of operation should be expanded.
Facilities/Visitor Center	"Comfort Station" at the Visitor Center.
Facilities/Visitor Center	If more room is needed at the visitor center, expand into the ranger residence and move residence to a new facility.
Facilities/Visitor Center	Relocate visitor center closer to entrance.
Facilities/Waste	Add trash cans and recycling bins to the Park.
Filming	Filming is imposing on the natural resources.
Filming	Eliminate filming within the Park.
Filming	Expand educational and interpretive information about filming within the Park.
Filming	Movie industry should not be accommodated in the Park.
General Comment	MCSP could be one of the most beautiful spots in the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Angeles.
General Comment	Acknowledged that E Udell and W. Udell Creek are at Reagan Ranch.
General Comment	We love MCSP.
General Comment	Century Lake is nice.
General Comment/Equestrian	Equestrians are an underserved park user.
Infrastructure	Infrastructure, roads, new facilities should be limited in the Park.
Infrastructure	Fencing should be wildlife friendly.
Infrastructure	Fix Texas crossing.
Infrastructure	Create maintenance standards.
Infrastructure/Improvements	Rebuild the Low Road and shut down the High Road corridor for trucks.
Infrastructure/Improvements	Reconfigure Logan's Run.
Infrastructure/Improvements	Find a way for equestrians and others to better use the tunnel near the entrance station to cross Las Virgenes Road. Currently the conditions are bad.
Infrastructure/Improvements	The bridge on Mulholland Hwy, adjacent to Sepulveda Adobe is dangerous for horses.
Infrastructure/Improvements	Grade roads to be less wide.
Infrastructure/Removal	Identification and removal of all barbed wire in the Park – same areas are dangerous.
Infrastructure/Removal	Remove abandoned water towers.
Infrastructure/Removal	Dam at White Oak Farm should be eliminated.
Infrastructure/Removal	Dual culvert on Crags Road should be eliminated.
Infrastructure/Removal	Remove Century Lake dam.
Infrastructure/Vandalism	Remove graffiti at Tapia.
Interpretive/Cultural	Interpretive Plan should include outdoor living history exhibit/program (stressing ancient survival skills). • On-site program • Documentary • Traveling exhibit
Interpretive/Cultural	Interpretive Program focusing on filming history and earlier at MCSP.
Interpretive/Cultural	Emphasize cultural history of MCSP from early Native American to present.

Category/Subcategory	Comment
Interpretive/Cultural	White Oak Farm should be used as a living history exhibit. • Interpret agriculture/farm/ranching life
Interpretive/Cultural	Ranching life is an important interpretive theme.
Interpretive/Cultural	Cultural history is very important.
Interpretive/Cultural	Create a “faux” Chumash rock painting for visitors/interpretation.
Interpretive/Education	More rangers, ecologists, archaeologists, interpreters are needed.
Interpretive/Natural	More natural interpretation is needed.
Mountain biking	Mountain biking issues are taking too long to resolve.
Natural Resources	Conserve habitat corridors.
Natural Resources	Priority should be on protection and restoration of natural resources.
Natural Resources	Expand the natural preserves.
Natural Resources	Focus on preservation of natural resources to provide for park enjoyment.
Natural Resources	Protect resources while maintaining recreational uses.
Natural Resources	Need a Comprehensive Resource Inventory of the Park. • Update the database • Trails and high-use areas should avoid sensitive plant and archaeological sites
Natural Resources/Wildlife	Active reintroduction of endangered species.
Natural Resources/Wildlife	Attract endangered species back to the Park.
Natural Resources/Wildlife	Wildlife corridors should be preserved and expanded.
Planning/General Comment	Larger planning concern- “Planning to death” think of the resources $ we are using that could be spent on natural/cultural resources.
Planning/General Comment	Timeline too involved with the process. Too long! Wears the public down.
Preserves/Cultural	Expand the cultural preserves.
Programs	More special events in the Park.
Signage	Need bilingual signs.
Trails	Less roads in MCSP, retain the trails.
Trails	Las Virgenes Valley View Trail (MRCA): • Connector trail is dangerous due to poor site distances and steep drop-offs
Trails	Ridge-top trail on north side of Mulholland going east and west.
Trails/ADA	Are there enough ADA trails?
Trails/Education	More education on trail etiquette is needed between equestrians and mountain bikers.
Trails/Equestrian	Create a “bridal path”: keep sections of park roads soft for horses to canter. Currently the roads are very hard due to all the trucks on the dirt roads.
Trails/Hiking	New hiking-only trails should be added: • Beyond Lost Cabin Trail up to Brents Mountain • Some trails should be widened
Trails/Improvement	Reroute Talepop Trail.
Trails/Links	A trail from Solstice Canyon parking lot to Solstice Canyon Park (PCH) is needed.
Trails/Links	Need a trail from creek to lagoon.
Trails/Links	Trails should link safely (crossings).

Category/Subcategory	Comment
Trails/Links	Missing links include: • Tapia Spur Trail • Backbone Trail from MCSP to Topanga SP • Trail for Solstice Canyon Parking lot to Solstice Canyon • Paramount Ranch into Park
Trails/Management	Trails should be maintained to avoid hazardous conditions.
Trails/Management	Improve drainage on trails.
Trails/Management	Maintain and improve vegetation on trail edges.
Trails/Management	Make improvements to trails to reduce erosion problems.
Trails/Mountain biking	Trails should stay open to mountain bikes.
Trails/Mountain biking	Mountain bikers are concerned with regional access beyond the Park and within.
Trails/Mountain biking	Mountain biking should be restricted to separate trails.
Trails/Multi-use	Multi-use trail access from Paramount Ranch is needed (Deer leg? Yearling?).
Trails/Multi-use	Priority should be to complete work on Tapia Spur Trail and open to multi-use as promised.
Trails/Multi-use	The Backbone Trail from Old Topanga to Piuma should be multi-use.
Trails/Multi-use	Tapia Spur should be a multi-use trail.
Trails/Multi-use	Tapia Spur: concern over mountain biking, horse back riding, and ADA compatibility.
Trails/Multi-use	Multi-use trails and linkages.
Trails/Multi-use	In steep areas find creative ways to split horses and bike onto separate paths.
Trails/Question	Who manages Backbone Trail Corridor east of Park to Topanga?
Trails/Regional	Connect to Anza Trail: coordination with NPS, and private land.
Utilities	Move the telephone poles and sewer line.
Utilities	Place utilities underground on Malibu Canyon Road.
Utilities	Put utilities underground along scenic highway.
Utilities/Floods	Many areas where sewer pipes are susceptible to wash outs during flood events.
Viewshed	Concern over potential dredging at Century Lake.
Viewshed	Protect views from the Park.
Water/Dam	Remove Rindge dam.
Water/Dam	Remove Century Lake dam.
Water/Flood control	Creek crossings must take into account flood flows.
Water/Quality	Ensure water quality and BMPs.
Water/Quality	The water quality in Las Virgenes and Malibu Creek should be improved.