



**El Capitán State Beach  
Entrance Improvements Project  
FINAL  
Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)  
SCH# 2018031015**

**March 2018**



**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The Draft Initial Study was circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. All comments mailed were considered before approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Electronic copies of the Final IS/MND may be requested via [enviro@parks.ca.gov](mailto:enviro@parks.ca.gov) or through the contact information below:

California State Parks  
Southern Service Center  
2797 Truxtun Road San  
Diego, CA 92106  
(619) 221-7060

## Notice of Determination

## Appendix D

## To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research  
 U.S. Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk

County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## From:

Public Agency: CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
 Address: 1416 Ninth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Contact: Bethany Weisberg  
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Lead Agency (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.**

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2018031015

Project Title: Entrance Improvements Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR)

Project Location (include county): El Capitan State Beach, Santa Barbara County

## Project Description:

El Capitan State Beach is a heavily used park with outdated entrance facilities, which create potential public safety uses, congestion for vehicles entering the park, which result in damage to park facilities and resources. This project would: 1) enhance public safety by providing an alternate park entrance route for pedestrians; 2) improve vehicle circulation by widening the park entrance road and entrance kiosk area and by replacing the narrow culvert crossing at El Capitan creek with a bridge; and 3) improve service to the public by replacing the entrance kiosk and office buildings with one ADA-compliant kiosk.

This is to advise that the California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above  
☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on April 9, 2018 and has made the following determinations regarding the above  
 (date)  
 described project.

1. The project ☐ will ☒ will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations ☐ was ☒ was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings ☐ were ☒ were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

2797 Truxtun Rd, Barracks 26, San Diego, CA 92120 and [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=983](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983)

Signature (Public Agency): B. Dewey Title: Deputy Director, Acquisition/Development

Date: April 9, 2018

Date Received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.  
 Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

APR 10 2018  
 RECEIVED 2018  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources            | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions      | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

## DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ The proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☒ Although the Proposed Project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ The proposed project **may** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared.
- ☐ The proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.
- ☐ Although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.

## **Project Purpose & Need**

El Capitán State Beach is located on the central portion of the Santa Barbara County coastline and adjoins Refugio State Beach to the west. The park contains both camping and day-use facilities and is heavily used especially during the summer months. However, the narrow, two-lane park entrance road is used by pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, decreasing safety for all.

The entrance road also crosses El Capitán Creek, a designated critical habitat for the southern California steelhead, over a large culvert which has introduced erosion to the creek. The crossing location also narrows the road. A wider bridge crossing at this location would allow for fish passage and improve safety for the public.

Finally, the entrance kiosk for this park has reached the end of its useful life. It is small, not ADA compliant, and is located such that it is often damaged by the larger recreational vehicles (RVs) entering the park due to tight turning radii around the entrance area. The repeated repairs to the kiosk are costly, use valuable maintenance time, and are causing long term damage to the kiosk.

## **Project Description**

This project will enhance public safety by separating pedestrian traffic from bicycles and vehicles via an improved pedestrian trail, will improve circulation for larger RVs by improving the park entrance road and entrance kiosk area, will provide for fish passage by replacing the culvert crossing with a bridge, and will improve service to the public by replacing the entrance kiosk.

## **Impacts**

With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures such as Native American and archaeological resource monitoring, designing the facilities to avoid sensitive natural and cultural resources, mitigation for impacted oak trees, use of Best Management Practices to minimize water and air quality impacts, scheduling of construction to avoid high-visitation times, impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Project should remain less than significant. Refer to the **Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program (Chapter 4)** for details regarding all mitigation measures.

No impact would occur to agriculture resources, air quality, mineral resources, population and housing, or public services.

Less than significant impact would occur to geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and utilities and service systems.

Potential impacts to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, noise, recreation, transportation and traffic, and mandatory findings of significance will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

### **Alternatives**

Two alternatives were considered that would have made the main entrance road one-way for entering vehicles and circuited exiting vehicles to another road. One alternative exit would have forced exiting traffic through the campground onto the existing staff and maintenance road. This would have negative impacts on Park visitor experiences with excessive traffic and increased noise through the campground. A second alternative exit would have created a new road parallel to the entrance route but would have significant impacts to natural resources. Due to the inability to avoid significant impacts with both of the alternatives, there was no need to invest any further effort into developing the alternatives. The final project locations will avoid impacts wherever possible and may include small amounts of mitigation for impacts to natural resources that may be impacted where design cannot feasibly avoid them.

### **Outreach**

CDPR conducted outreach to government agencies, organizations, Native Americans, and the general public to determine where changes could be made to the project to address public input and concerns as well as ensure that environmental impacts are considered, evaluated and mitigated. Outreach to this point has assisted in avoiding impacts to cultural and natural resources while meeting the needs of the Park.

### **Comments Regarding the Initial Study**

A synopsis of comments received during the comment period shall be provided here following the public comment period. The comments in full shall additionally be provided within the **Appendices**. These shall be considered and any changes needed to ensure that any further significant impacts are reduced to a less than significant level shall be incorporated.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

Mitigation for the Proposed Project includes compensation for the loss of oaks tress, Best Management Practices and numerous other measures. All mitigation measures for the Proposed Project have been documented in a **Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Plan (MMRP) (Chapter 4)** and shall be implemented in order to comply with CEQA and mitigate impacts to the environment to a less than significant level.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the analysis within this Initial Study, CDPR has concluded that the Proposed Project would not result in significant impact to the environment as long as the proposed mitigation measures are implemented. The Proposed Project would improve public safety and visitation of the Park. The Proposed Project will also ensure the continued maintenance of the Park and its facilities, while minimizing the intrusion of these facilities on park visitors.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) shall comply with the CEQA Guidelines and Statutes. CDPR shall act as the Lead Agency. The IS/MND shall evaluate and mitigate the impacts associated with the Proposed Project. The evaluation of impacts has concluded that impacts shall be less-than-significant. A public review period will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Proposed Project. Following the consideration of public comment, CDPR shall approve the MND in order to carry forward with construction and operation of the Proposed Project.

### 1.1 CEQA REGULATORY OVERVIEW

This IS/MND has been prepared by CDPR to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Entrance Improvements Project (the Proposed Project) at El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

An IS is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts including mitigation, an MND may be prepared rather than an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

### 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is CDPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Danita Rodriguez, Channel Coast District Superintendent  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
911 San Pedro Street  
Ventura, CA 93001  
Office: (805) 585-1850  
Fax: (805) 585-1857  
Danita.Rodriguez@parks.ca.gov

All inquiries regarding environmental compliance for this project, including comments on this environmental document should be addressed to:

Bethany Weisberg, Park & Recreation Specialist  
California Department of Parks & Recreation  
Southern Service Center  
2797 Truxtun Road  
San Diego, CA 92106  
Office: (619) 221-7060  
Fax: (619) 221-7082  
enviro@parks.ca.gov

### **1.3 DOCUMENT PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of this document is to detail the Proposed Project to make improvements to the Park's entrance facilities and evaluate the Proposed Project's potential environmental effects. Through a combination of design to minimize impacts and the incorporation of mitigation measures to avoid, minimize or and/or compensate for the loss of resources, impacts should be reduced to a less than significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

#### **Chapter 1 - Introduction.**

This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

#### **Chapter 2 - Project Description.**

This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, project objectives and identifies standard or specific project requirements applied to the project design to reduce potential impacts to the environment.

#### **Chapter 3 - Environmental Evaluation.**

This chapter describes the environmental setting for each environmental factor, evaluates potential impacts based on the CEQA Environmental Checklist and identifies the significance of environmental impacts, then establishes mitigation measures where necessary to ensure impacts remain less than significant.

#### **Chapter 4 – Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting Program**

This chapter includes all of the measures necessary to ensure impacts associated with the Proposed Project remain less than significant.

## **Chapter 5 - References.**

This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND. It also provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

## **APPENDICES**

The appendices include comments received during the IS/MND public review period and any other documentation utilized in preparation of the environmental document.

### **1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the Proposed Project. Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation for the following issues: aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, land use and planning, noise, recreation, transportation and traffic, and mandatory finding of significance.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared if the Proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of sufficient mitigation measures to reduce environmental impact to a less than significant level. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of the project specific requirements, the Proposed Project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

### **1.5 AGENCY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

A Notice of Availability indicating the completion of a Draft IS/MND has been distributed to property owners and occupants within a 1000-foot radius of the Park limits.

As defined by PRC§21091(a), the IS/MND has been made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days.

#### **Native American Outreach**

In August 2017, Native American outreach occurred through contact with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a contact list of individuals or groups with interest in or knowledge of the Proposed Project area. A search of the sacred lands file as well as any additional information associated with Native American concerns for the Project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) was also requested. The NAHC responded that the sacred lands file search indicated that no Native American resources were found within the immediate project area. On August 23, 2017 a letter was mailed to each person or organization that was listed on the contact list provided by the NAHC. The contents of

the letter described the proposed project and invited them to contact the project or district archaeologists regarding comments or concerns that they may have. Four additional individuals interested in the Proposed Project asked the project archaeologist to be included in future correspondences. Follow-up telephone calls were made to the contacts that provided phone numbers while an email was sent to the others who had not responded to the initial letter.

In total, 10 individuals were contacted about the Proposed Project. Of those who responded to the calls and emails, there were three requests for a local Native American monitor to be present during all ground-disturbing activities and two requests for archaeological testing to occur before the project begins. They were advised that a Native American monitor would be required to be on-site during work that included ground disturbance and that archaeological testing will occur prior to the start of the project.

One person requested an on-site visit and consultation meeting. In late September 2017, eight listed contacts were invited, by emails or telephone calls, to a meeting held on October 4, 2017 at El Capitán State Park.

The onsite consultation meeting was attended by the project and district archaeologists and four Native Chumash people. The archaeologists described the project plans and explained that archaeological testing was planned prior to the start of construction work. The project area location was visited and examined by all present. No major concerns were expressed during the visit.

### **Santa Barbara County**

CDPR conducted consultation with the County of Santa Barbara to share how CDPR would carry out both the archaeological and geotechnical testing needed prior to further development of design for the Proposed Project. As a result, it was determined that the testing would be exempt from any further review and could proceed as was detailed as long as temporary holes or trenches for geological, geotechnical, and archaeological exploration do not exceed one hundred yards of cubic material and are protected by a safety fence meeting Occupational Safety and Health Agency Standards (see Santa Barbara County – Grading Code Section 14-6.b.5) In addition, archaeological and historical investigations must follow the County of Santa Barbara’s Cultural Resource Guidelines and its Archaeological Element and Historic Resources Element technical documents.

The County of Santa Barbara is the local agency with discretionary authority for providing a Development Plan (DVP) and Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and ensuring consistency with their Local Coastal Plan. The County has been provided the IS/MND for review and comment. Conditions provided by the County within the DVP and CDP shall be implemented as part of the Proposed Project’s Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program.



## **Comments and Responses**

*Pending following public review*

### **1.6 DOCUMENT APPROVAL**

The Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be approved by the Channel Coast District Superintendent managing El Capitán State Beach as well as the Southern Service Center Environmental Coordinator.

According to the California State Parks Department Operations Manual (DOM Chapter 0600), the Director, the Deputy Director of Operations, or Deputy Director of the Acquisition and Development Division shall approve the Notice of Determination.

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## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

El Capitán State Beach (El Capitán SB) is located on the central portion of the Santa Barbara County coastline and adjoins Refugio State Beach to the west. The park contains both camping and day-use facilities and is heavily used especially during the summer months. The day-use and camping facilities are filled to capacity approximately 175 days of the year, and in July and August there are an average of 2,000 campers turned away per month.

Up to 1,000 bicyclists and pedestrians access the Park from a privately owned resort located just inland of the park. The primary route of travel for these visitors is the park entrance road as it is the most direct route to the beach. Although there is a path adjacent to the road, most visitors do not use it because it is not appealing, not suitable for bicyclists, and appears to be a more indirect path to the beach. Unfortunately this increases the number of conflicts between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles on the narrow entrance road, decreasing safety for all. As RVs have gotten larger, the narrow entrance road has become less acceptable in general, and the pedestrian/bicycle conflicts exacerbate the situation.

The entrance road crosses El Capitán Creek approximately mid-way of its quarter mile length. El Capitán Creek has been designated critical habitat for the southern California steelhead. The road crosses the creek over a large culvert which has introduced erosion to the creek and created a barrier to endangered steelhead fish passage. The crossing location is also a “choke point” along the road where all vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists must come together to cross the creek over the narrow culvert. Throughout the region, culverts and other barriers to fish passage are being replaced with crossings such as bridges which allow for more effective movement of fish and other species. A wider bridge crossing at this location would allow for wildlife movement and improve public safety.

The entrance kiosk for this park has reached the end of its useful life. It is small, not ADA compliant, and is located such that it is often damaged by large RVs with tight turning radii moving through the entrance area. The repeated repairs to the kiosk are costly, use valuable maintenance time, and are causing long-term damage to the kiosk.

This project will enhance public safety by providing an alternate park entrance route for pedestrians and bicyclists, improve circulation for larger RVs by improving the park entrance road and entrance kiosk area, provide for wildlife passage by replacing the culvert crossing with a bridge, and improve service to the public by replacing the entrance kiosk.

### 2.1 PARK BACKGROUND INFORMATION

El Capitán State Beach was classified in June 1962 as a state beach by the State Park Commission. A state beach is a category of state recreation unit and is further defined within Public Resources Code Section 5019.56.

The General Plan for El Capitán State Beach, 1979, establishes the Park unit's Declaration of Purpose.

*El Capitán State Beach was established to make available the sandy ocean beach and related uplands in the vicinity of El Capitán Creek for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment. All public outdoor recreational activities which relate well to the ocean beach or natural integrity of the site may be provided. The natural values which exist along El Capitán Creek will be preserved as a part of the natural setting for beach recreation activities. All Native American resources occurring in the state beach will be preserved intact and interpreted.*

A range of recreation activities at the Park include: swimming, sunbathing, surfing, fishing, camping, hiking, jogging, bicycling, picnicking, viewing interpretive exhibits, attending interpretive programs, and sightseeing. Average annual visitation to El Capitán SB from 2010-2014 was 200,587.

### 2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

El Capitán State Beach is located along the central portion of the Santa Barbara County coastline and adjoins Refugio State Beach to the west. The Park is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean to the south, the Santa Ynez Mountains to the north as well as numerous private landowners to the west and east. The Park extends from the coastline inland approximately 3.75 miles and includes approximately 1.75 miles of beach frontage. The park is approximately 2,600 acres in size. Primary access is via US Route 101 and El Capitán State Beach Road. See **Figure 2-1 (Location Map)** and **Figure 2-2 (Project Site Map)**.

### 2.3 PROJECT PURPOSE

The Project will support numerous recreational opportunities and facilities including a sand beach coastline, coastal and inland hiking trails, overnight camping, picnic areas, restrooms and parking. The Park contains both camping and day-use facilities and is heavily used especially during the summer months. The day-use and camping facilities are filled to capacity approximately 175 days of the year, and in July and August there are an average of 2,000 camper turn-aways per month. Due to the high visitation and extensive amount of ocean recreation that is present at El Capitán SB, an improved entrance road and entrance facilities are required to support the operation of El Capitán SB.



# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Location Map (Figure 2-1)



## Legend

 Park Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 11/30/2017

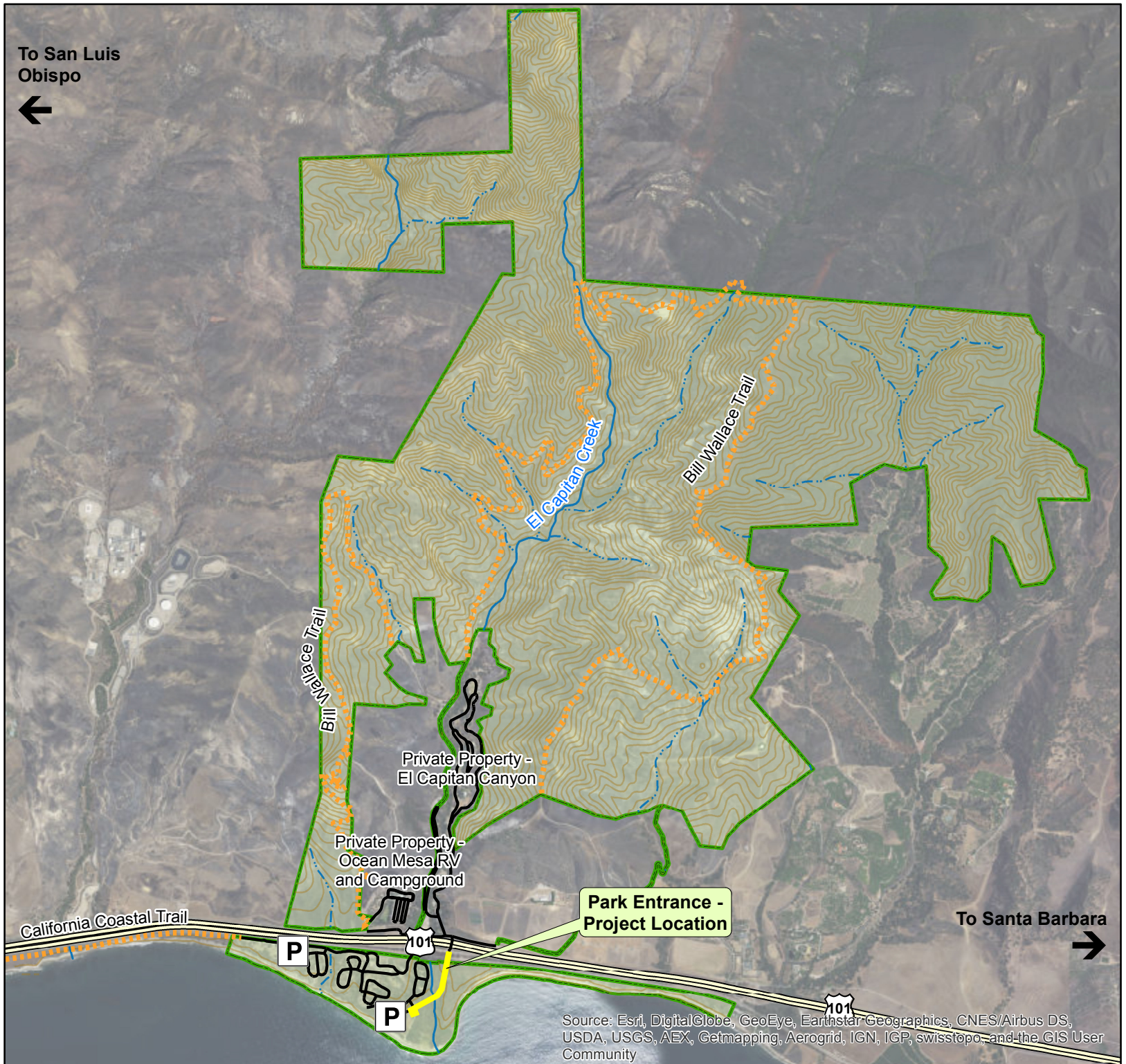


0 2 4 Miles





# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Site Map (Figure 2-2)



## Legend

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| --- Stream/River, Intermittent | --- Trail                        |
| --- Stream/River, Perennial    | --- 40ft Contours                |
| == Highway                     | ■ Project Location               |
| == Paved Road                  | ■ El Capitan State Park Boundary |

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 11/30/2017



0 0.5 1 Miles





## 2.5 PROJECT NEED

The project is needed due to several deficiencies that currently exist.

- Both day-use and camping visitors with vehicles enter the park on the same two-lane road. In busy summer months, the queue to enter the park can leave day-use visitors in long wait times behind campers.
- Up to 1000 bicyclists and pedestrians a day pass through the park to the beach from a privately owned resort located just inland of the park. The primary route of travel for these visitors is the park entrance road as it is the most direct route to the beach (Figure 2-3). Although there is a path adjacent to the road, most visitors do not use it due to its insufficient directional trailhead signage, its uneven walking surface, and because it appears to be a less direct path to the beach. Unfortunately this increases the number of conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles on the narrow entrance road, decreasing safety for all. As RVs have gotten larger, the narrow entrance road has become less acceptable in general, and the pedestrian-bicycle conflicts exacerbate the situation.



**Figure 2-3. Pedestrians using entrance road.**

- The existing entrance kiosk has reached the end of its useful life. It is small, not ADA compliant, and is located such that it is often damaged by the larger RVs entering the park due to tight turning radiuses around the entrance area. The repeated repairs to the kiosk are costly, use valuable maintenance time and are causing long term damage to the kiosk. See Figure 2-4 for overview of the current entrance kiosk and office.



**Figure 2-4. Current entrance kiosk and office.**

- The entrance road crosses El Capitán Creek approximately mid-way of its quarter mile length. El Capitán Creek has been designated critical habitat for the southern California steelhead. The road crosses the creek over a large culvert which has introduced erosion to the creek and alters the flow of water thereby creating a barrier to endangered steelhead fish passage. The crossing location is also a choke-point along the road where all vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists must come together to cross the creek over the narrow culvert. Throughout the region, culverts and other barriers to fish passage are being replaced with fish-friendly crossings, such as bridges. A wider bridge crossing at this location would allow for fish passage and improve public safety. See Figures 2-5 and 2-6 of the entrance road culvert.



**Figure 2-5. Entrance road culvert at El Capitán Creek crossing. Image courtesy of © Google. Photo date March 2015.**





**Figure 2-6. Close up of culvert at El Capitán Creek crossing.**

## **2.6 PROPOSED PROJECT**

The Proposed Project would make improvements to the entrance facilities at El Capitán State Beach, which would meet the operational needs of the park and Channel Coast District while maintaining a proper level of safety for visitors entering the Park. The improvements would also conform to County of Santa Barbara design and development standards including the County's Local Coastal Plan.

This project would widen the existing two-lane entrance road at the junction of the Union Pacific railroad line to the entrance kiosk which would improve the flow of traffic of bicyclists, automobiles, and RVs. An additional lane will be added near the entrance kiosk to allow day-use visitors to bypass if there is a queue of campers entering the park. In addition, the current entrance kiosk and office will be replaced with one new ADA-compliant kiosk. At the entrance road crossing of El Capitán Creek, the existing culvert will be replaced with a fish-friendly bridge. Finally, the existing entrance pedestrian beach path would be improved to attract visitors on foot and deter them from using the entrance road.

The Proposed Project would enhance public safety by improving the park entrance route for pedestrians, improving circulation for RVs by improving the park entrance road and entrance kiosk area, providing fish passage by replacing the culvert crossing with a bridge, and improving service to the public by replacing the entrance kiosk.

The Proposed Project does not involve work that extends beyond Park property.

### 2.6.1 Siting of Project Facilities

The Proposed Project area would encompass an area of approximately 21,800 square feet. The new kiosk will be approximately 3,845 square feet. In addition, the entrance road widening and pedestrian trail will be approximately 11,280 square feet and 6,675 square feet, respectively. Refer to **Figure 2-7 (Conceptual Site Plan)** for a conceptual siting of the proposed facility improvements within the Park. Most of the project includes improvements made to existing entrance facilities, however, a new bridge at El Capitán Creek crossing will replace the existing culvert at the same location, and one new kiosk would be constructed to replace the existing kiosk. Refer to **Figure 2-8 (Conceptual Elevation)** for the conceptual exterior design.

### 2.6.2 Facility Features and Uses

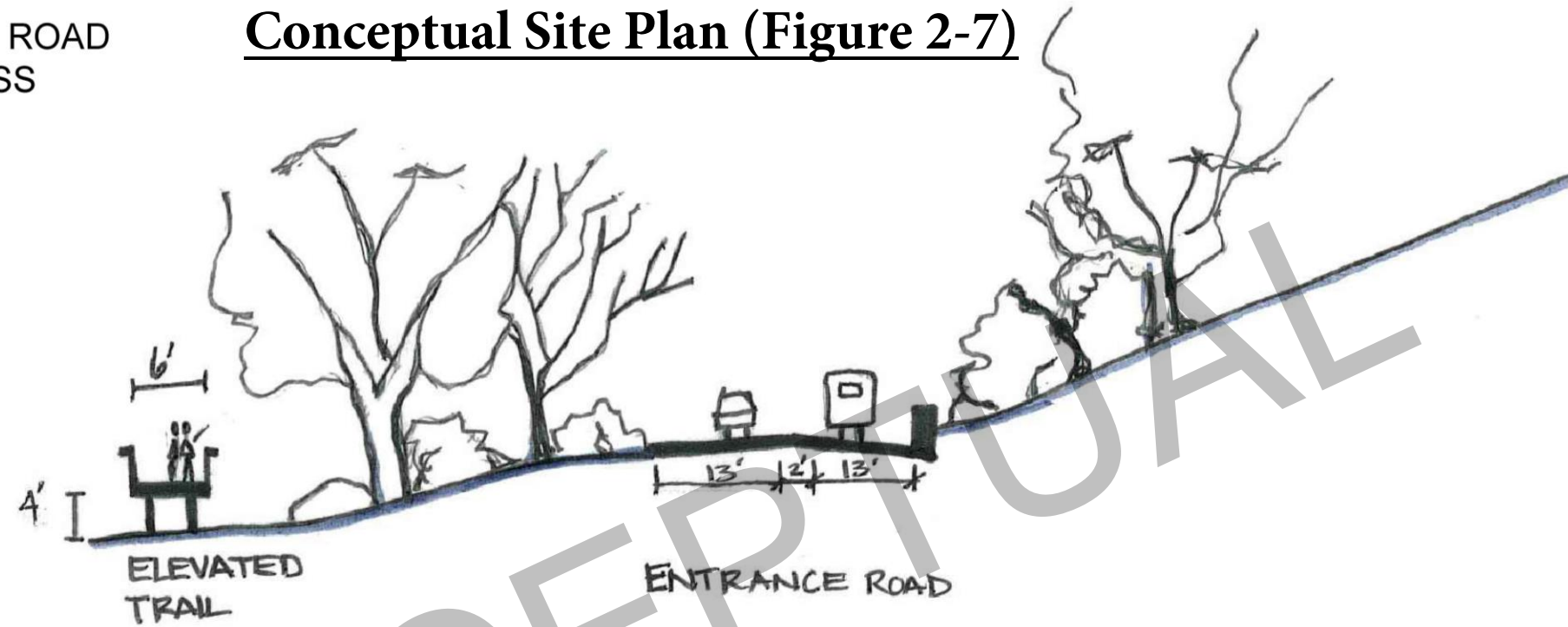
The Proposed Project would improve the entrance facilities and infrastructure to increase the safety and enjoyment of visitors to the Park and allow for better efficiency in providing services to the public. Services provided by the facility include a park entrance fee station, visitor information, and first aid supplies. Site improvements surrounding the kiosk include landscaping, signage, utilities and lighting. Pathways shall be constructed to access the entrance kiosk that are ADA compliant.

The facility would meet all current building standards. The proximity of the facility to the ocean would require attention to materials and construction methods that resist the corrosion and moisture penetration common in a coastal setting. The new facility would incorporate sustainable design features consistent with Executive Order B-18-12 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Appropriate equipment would need to be installed in the new facility for capabilities including, but not limited to, communications, telephone, and data.

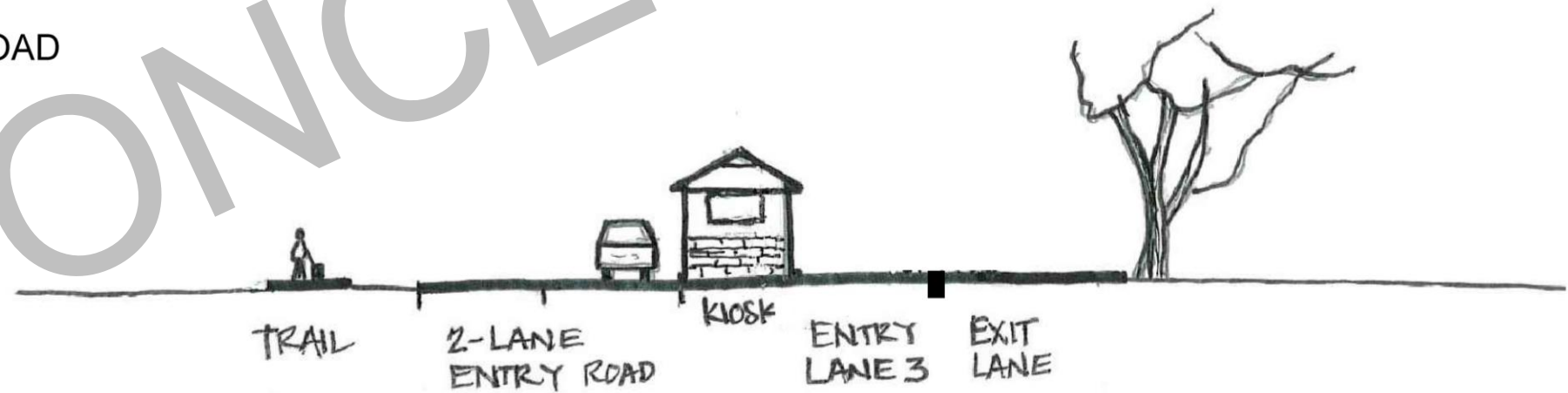
Utilities to the building would include the installation of a new sewer lateral to the Park's existing primary sewer line. The new connection will not increase the loading to the Park's on-site disposal system. Electric service would be provided from an existing feeder circuit serving the current visitor center. Water service would be provided by a new water supply line connected to the Park's current visitor center water supply. Trenching for dry and wet utilities should not exceed five (5') in depth.

TOP OF ENTRANCE ROAD  
NEAR OVERPASS

## Conceptual Site Plan (Figure 2-7)

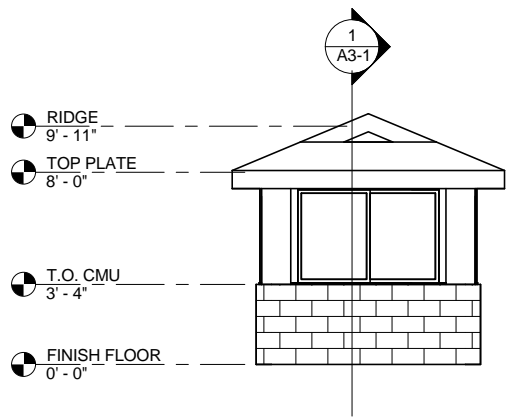


END OF ENTRANCE ROAD  
AT KIOSK AREA

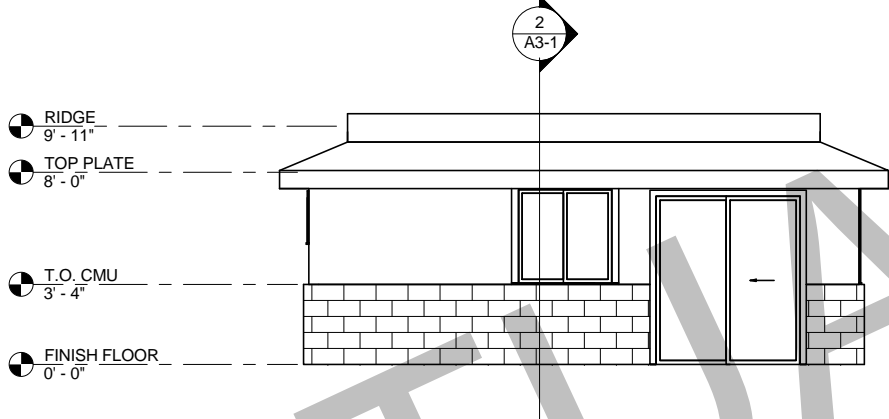


ROAD AND TRAIL  
CROSS SECTIONS

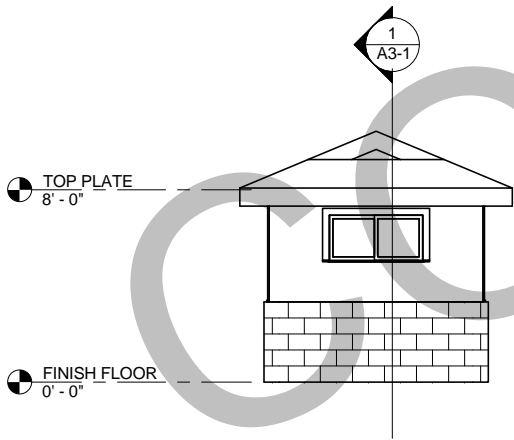
Conceptual Elevation (Figure 2-8)



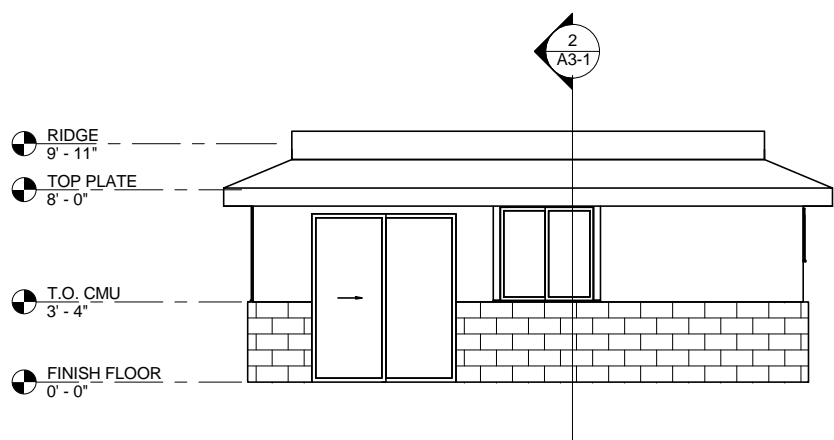
1 NORTH ELEVATION - KIOSK 1  
1/4" = 1'-0"



2 EAST ELEVATION - KIOSK 1  
1/4" = 1'-0"



3 SOUTH ELEVATION - KIOSK 1  
1/4" = 1'-0"



4 WEST ELEVATION - KIOSK 1  
1/4" = 1'-0"



ACQUISITION &  
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION  
ONE CAPITOL MALL  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-3229

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
APPROVAL

Approval for this plan does not authorize or  
approve any omission of deviation from  
applicable regulations. Final approval is  
subject to field inspection. One set of  
approved plans shall be available on the  
project site at all times.

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

DPR ACCESS COMPLIANCE REVIEW  
ACCESSIBILITY SECTION

CERTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE AND STATE  
FIRE MARSHAL SIGNED ORIGINALS ARE  
ON FILE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
AND RECREATION, NORTHERN SERVICE  
CENTER

DESIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ Designer \_\_\_\_\_

DRAWN \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ Checker \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 05-05-2016

REVISIONS

No.	Description	Date

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH  
ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS  
BUILDING ELEVATIONS - KIOSK 1

23456.004

SHEET NO.

A2-1

004 OF TBD

SCHEMATIC DESIGN



## **2.7 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

This section describes several components of the construction process; however, all mitigation measures found within the **Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program (Chapter 4)** apply as well.

### **Timeframe**

Construction timeframe windows will be placed on the Proposed Project to minimize disturbance to day-use and overnight visitors within the Park. The low density land use surrounding the Park limits the impact that noise generation may have on sensitive receptors.

Work hours shall be between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with no work on Saturdays, Sundays, or state holidays.

Work may be scheduled during lighter visitor use seasons including winter months to lessen the number of visitors impacted by construction.

### **Staging/Access**

Given the general sensitivity of the area, staging areas will be designated on existing paved surfaces, which, may include portions of parking areas (including the maintenance yard) and possibly a limited number of general campsites.

### **Construction BMPs**

Construction BMP's shall be required per the public works construction contract specifications and the contractor will be required to submit a soil loss prevention plan which, includes staging area controls, for the State's review and approval.

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### **3 ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION**

The following chapter provides a description of the setting, including resources within the Proposed Project footprint as well as the surrounding area. The resources and issues described are those established within CEQA Guidelines. This is followed by an evaluation of impacts to issue areas that would occur from construction and operation of the Proposed Project. Lastly, mitigation measures are provided to maintain impacts to a less-than-significant level.

#### **3.1 AESTHETICS**

##### **3.1.1 Environmental Setting**

The following is summarized from the 1979 General Plan. El Capitán SB includes primarily beneficial aesthetic values, but also includes some values which detract from the visitor experience.

The entrance road into El Capitán State Beach winds through the riparian woodland along El Capitán Creek. The large trees and lush undergrowth along this route provide a pleasant contrast to the open scenery along the highway. A number of different types of visual experiences are available to the visitor inside the state beach. A trail which extends eastward from the entrance road to the top of the bluff provides several vantage points from which the cove and coastline east of the unit can be viewed. Trails and overlooks atop the bluff along the southern border of the unit provide views of the shoreline, sandy beach, surf zone, and the distant islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz.

**3.1.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) The removal and replacement of the current entrance kiosk and office, construction of a bridge to replace the current culvert, and upgrades to the existing pedestrian beach access path would result in no adverse effect on scenic vistas. This would result in no impact.
- b) Scenic resources that may be impacted include trees that would be removed to allow for development of the Proposed Project facilities and infrastructure improvements. The loss of coast live oaks and other trees would be mitigated through container plantings of native trees/oaks on-site, as outlined in the Proposed Project's landscape plan. This would result in less than significant impact with mitigation.
- c) There will be minimal degradation of visual character of the entrance facilities and infrastructure at El Capitán SB by the Proposed Project due to a minor loss of vegetation and minor changes in landscape. The new kiosk facility would be constructed to not overwhelm the site and would act as a visitor contact location for entrance into and information about the Park. This would result in impacts that are less than significant.
- d) The Proposed Project would include lighting for the purposes of way finding and public safety during nighttime hours and would not result in any substantial amount of light or glare that could affect visitors' ability to enjoy the Park with the incorporation of mitigation measure **Visual-3**. This would result in impacts that are less than significant with mitigation.

### 3.1.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

**Visual-1:** CDPR project designers and natural resource specialists shall design the Proposed Project to avoid impacts to valuable aesthetic resources including coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) as well as mitigate for their loss if facility siting cannot be found that will avoid tree removal.

**Visual-2:** The Proposed Project will be designed to incorporate appropriate park scenic & aesthetic values including the choices for:

- building and other facility siting such as parking areas
- facility scale with the surrounding landscape;
- facility materials and colors;
- aesthetic treatments on pathways, retaining walls or other ancillary structures;
- landscaping with primarily native species unless historic records indicate differently.

**Visual-3:** Equip any permanent structure with outdoor light shields that concentrate the illumination downward to reduce direct and reflected light pollution. The lighting will be installed as low as possible on poles and/or structures to minimize light pollution of the night sky. The candle power of the illumination at ground level will not exceed what is required by any safety or security regulations of any government agency with regulatory oversight. The shielding of lighting will also be implemented in a manner that minimizes disturbance to wildlife.

**3.2 AGRICULTURE RESOURCES****3.2.1 Environmental Setting**

No agricultural land use is found within El Capitán State Beach.

**3.2.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- a) El Capitán SB does not contain any farmland. This would result in no impact.
- b) The Proposed Project will not have any impact on any land uses near the Proposed Project that are zoned for agricultural use. This would result in in no impact.
- c) The Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. This would result in no impact.

**3.2.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

None necessary

### 3.3 AIR QUALITY

#### 3.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project site is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). The SBCAPCD has a network of 18 air monitoring stations that monitor air quality in the County. The closest monitoring station is the El Capitán Station. This station continuously measures concentrations of ozone.

In 2014, Santa Barbara County met the federal standards for all measured pollutants except for the 8-hour ozone standard and the 1-hour sulfur dioxide standard. The 8-hour ozone standard of 0.075 ppm (75 ppb) was exceeded on 4 days and the 1-hour sulfur dioxide standard was exceeded on 1 day.

Santa Barbara County also met the California state standards for all pollutants except for the 8-hour ozone standard, the 24-hour particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>), and the annual arithmetic mean for particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>).

The state 8-hour ozone standard of 0.070 ppm (70 ppb) was exceeded on 10 days. The California state PM<sub>10</sub> standard of 50 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) was exceeded on 23 days.

The California state arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard of 20 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) was exceeded at 5 of the 7 stations collecting PM<sub>10</sub> data.

#### 3.3.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- a) The Proposed Project would not obstruct implementation of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's 2013 Clean Air Plan. Minor emissions due to construction equipment use as well as natural gas for water heating would occur. This would result in no impact.
- b) The Proposed Project would not violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to any existing or projected air quality violations. The Proposed Project shall consist of nominal construction emissions and a minor increase in operational emissions due to natural gas for water heating in the new kiosk. This would result in no impact.
- c) There shall be no cumulatively considerable increase in emissions of any criteria pollutants currently in non-attainment for the SBCAPCD. The sole non-attainment pollutant within Santa Barbara County is the 8-hour ozone standard. Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs, which react to create ozone, shall be none to minimal from construction and operation of the Proposed Project. This would result in no impact.
- d) Sensitive receptors shall not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. The minimal pollutants generated would not pose any concern to sensitive receptors. The minimal pollution created would not be in any concentration that would be harmful. This would result in no impact.
- e) No objectionable odors shall be created from the Proposed Project. No impact.

**3.3.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

**AQ-1:** All haul vehicles shall be covered or shall comply with vehicle freeboard requirements of Section 23114 of the California Vehicle Code for both public and private roads to prevent the loss of material while hauling soil or other materials that may be lost due to their transport.

**AQ-2:** Paved streets shall be swept at least once per day where there is evidence of dirt that has been carried onto the roadway.



- AQ-3:** Watering of exposed dirt to minimize dust and dust plumes.
- AQ-4:** Inactive disturbed areas shall be treated as soon as feasible to prevent soil erosion.
- AQ-5:** Open soil piles that will remain on-site for two or more days shall be treated or covered to prevent soil erosion.
- AQ-6:** During high wind conditions (wind speeds in excess of 25 miles per hour), all earthmoving activities shall cease or water shall be applied to soil not more than 15 minutes prior to disturbing such soil.

## 3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### 3.4.1 Environmental Setting

The area south of U.S. Highway 101, where the entrance road and kiosk are located, is mostly a coastal headland terrace, 12 to 37 m (40 to 120 ft) above mean sea level (CDPR 1979). El Capitán Creek cuts through the coastal terrace about mid-way down the length of the entrance road and empties out into the ocean. Habitat surrounding the entrance road largely consists of a riparian woodland adjacent to the creek consisting of mature oaks in association with western sycamores as well as drier coast live oak woodland between the riparian zone and the upland terraces occupied by coastal sage scrub. The potential for sensitive biological resources within the Proposed Project site is limited as it is surrounded by largely developed and landscaped lands.

#### Vegetation

Stands of coast live oak, sycamores, and willows form a riparian coastal woodland along El Capitán Creek and coastal sage scrub inhabits bluffs and terraces to the west and east. On the beaches below, coastal strand vegetation is present, while the day-use and campground areas are comprised heavily of landscaped vegetation. A few disturbed grassland areas can also be found in the unit.

Based on information from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), only one sensitive community (Southern California Steelhead Stream) is shown to exist within El Capitán SB. No other sensitive communities were found within an 8 km (5 mi) radius surrounding the Proposed Project area, or within the Tajiguas and Dos Pueblos USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles that encompass the southern portion of the unit (CDFW 2017). However, four sensitive vegetation communities (Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest, Southern Vernal Pool, and Southern Willow Scrub) have been documented in the Santa Ynez USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, which includes a small portion of El Capitán SB property found approximately 4.2 to 5.5 km (2.6 to 3.4 mi) north of the Proposed Project area (**Table 3-1**). Field reviews subsequently confirmed that one of these four sensitive vegetation communities (Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest) was present.

The seven vegetation communities found in the southern portion of the unit (**Figure 3-1**) consist of coast live oak woodland and coast live oak woodland-sycamore association, California sagebrush scrub, poison hemlock patch, coastal strand, disturbed areas, landscaped areas, and developed areas and can be described as follows:

#### Coast Live Oak Woodland & Coast Live Oak Woodland – Sycamore Association

This riparian woodland community is open to locally dense and is dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) (Holland 1986). It occurs along El Capitán Creek and represents one of the most extensive stands of coast live oak and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) on the coastal side of Highway 101 and the Union Pacific

**Table 3-1. Sensitive Vegetation Communities Identified within the Santa Ynez USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Encompassing the Northernmost Portion of El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California (Source: CDFW CNDDDB Database).**

<b>Vegetation Community</b>	<b>Description<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Habitat Present/Absent<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Southern California Steelhead Stream	Coastal streams.	P	El Capitán Creek, a designated southern California steelhead stream, lies within the project area. Database records contain no sightings of the species within the creek.
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	Open to locally dense evergreen sclerophyllous riparian woodlands dominated by <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> . This type appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrubs than other riparian communities.	P	Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest does exist at the project site along El Capitán Creek. The vegetation type has also been documented approximately 15 km (9.3 mi) northwest of the project site.
Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest	Tall, open, broadleaved winter-deciduous riparian forests dominated by <i>Populus fremontii</i> , <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> , and several tree willows. Understories are usually shrubby willows.	A	Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest does not exist at the project site. The vegetation type is present north of the park at several locations along the Santa Ynez River approximately 14.5 km (9 mi) away from the project site.
Southern Vernal Pool	Seasonal low, open, amphibious environments dominated by annual herbs and grasses adapted to germination and early growth under water. Spring desiccation triggers flowering and fruit set, resulting in colorful concentric bands around the drying pools.	A	Southern Vernal Pool does not exist at the project site or within the park. The closest occurrence can be found 17.7 km (11 mi) north of the project site.
Southern Willow Scrub	Dense, broadleaved, winter-deciduous riparian thickets dominated by several <i>Salix</i> species, with scattered emergent <i>Populus fremontii</i> and <i>Platanus racemosa</i> . Most stands are too dense to allow much understory development.	A	Southern Willow Scrub does not exist at the project site. Like the Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest, this vegetation type has been spotted at several locations along the Santa Ynez River.

<sup>1</sup>Habitat descriptions are taken from Holland's Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (1986) and CNPS Inventory, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (2001). <sup>2</sup>Habitat: Absent (A) - No habitat present and no further work needed; Present (P) - General habitat present; therefore, additional assessment/review must be conducted

railroad tracks in Santa Barbara County (CDPR 1979). The sycamores are dominant nearest the creek channel where surface water or high groundwater is readily available. Coast live oak dominates the zone between the sycamore stand and the coastal sage on the upland terraces. Other trees inhabiting the woodland include cottonwood (*Populus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.), walnut (*Juglans californica*), and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*). This type of riparian woodland appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrubs than other riparian communities (Holland 1986). Shrubs, including coyote brush (*Baccharis ssp. consanguinea*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), and blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) occur beneath more

open canopy areas. Understory vegetation is composed of a wide variety of grasses and forbs, including mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), climbing penstemon (*Keckiella cordiflora*), California nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*), periwinkle (*Vinca* sp.), hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), and canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesoides*) (CDPR 1979).

A stream assessment survey of El Capitán Creek from the Highway 101 culvert down to the mouth of the creek found the following species in the riparian habitat: cattail (*Typha* sp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), western sycamore, coast live oak, reed (unknown sp.), blackberry, tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willow (*Salix* sp.), common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), filamentous algae, and possibly papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) (Francis 2010).

#### **California Sagebrush Scrub**

The coastal sage scrub community is on the terrace both east and west of the riparian woodland. It is associated with shallower soils, and supports mixed stands of coyote brush (*Baccharis ssp. consanguinea*) and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). Dense stands from 12 to 18 dm (4 to 6 ft) high are located on the terrace just east of the entrance road and on the slopes between the entrance station and area offices. Other scrub areas are generally more open with lower individual plants. Various species of grasses and forbs also occur in this community, including *Haplopappus* sp. (genus split into many genera), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.), and foothill needle grass (*Stipa lepida*) (CDPR 1979). On the terrace east/uphill of the entrance road, dense stands of sagebrush are interspersed with purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), gooseberry (*Ribes* sp.), and California encelia (*Encelia californica*). The understory consists of various grasses, such as oats (*Avena* sp.), intermixed with species including deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), lanceleaf liveforever (*Dudlya lanceolata*), Brodiaea (*Brodiaea* sp.), bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus auranticus*), and coyote melon (*Cucurbita palmata*).

#### **Poison Hemlock Patch**

Southeast of the entrance road kiosk lies a patch of vegetation with open canopy amongst the coast live oak woodland. It is dominated by poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) followed by poison oak and coyote brush (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 2009).

#### **Coastal Strand**

The coastal strand community is not well developed along the coastline of El Capitán. Where it occurs it consists of salt-tolerant plants, such as sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), sand verbena (*Abronia* sp.), and silver beachweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*). Spring high tides along the El Capitán coastline extend to the uppermost edge of the sand zone and in many areas up to the toe of the coastal bluff, thus providing little habitat for strand-type vegetation to become established (CDPR 1979).

### Disturbed Areas

Disturbed habitat refers to lands that have undergone clearing/grading or another form of human-caused ground disturbance. As a result, they are usually barren or dominated by non-native annuals and exotic species. Such areas typically can be found along roadsides or adjacent to various types of development (Waldecker 2008). A few disturbed grassland areas composed of various species of grasses and forbs are present in the unit. They are located to the west of El Capitán Creek near the mouth, and also atop the upper portion of the high terrace east of the creek mixed in with the sage scrub (CDPR 1979). Species established on location include oats (*Avena* sp.), mustard (*Brassica* sp.), ripgut chess (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail chess (*Bromus madritensis*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and smilo grass (*Stipa miliacea*).

### Landscaped Areas

The western portion of the El Capitán headland is primarily developed with campgrounds and day-use facilities. These areas are landscaped with trees and shrubs including Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*), Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*), Carmel ceanothus (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus*), bushy yate (*Eucalyptus lehmannii*) and myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*). Most species planted are not native to this region (CDPR 1979).

### Developed Areas

Developed areas can be characterized as sites containing buildings, roads, or other human-made structures. The habitat type, which generally does not consist of native vegetation due to permanent removal or active exclusion, is not sensitive in status (Waldecker 2008). The developed areas within and around the project include the entrance road, park roads, entrance kiosk and building, paved campsite areas, parking lots, and restrooms.

Plant species observed within and near the Proposed Project site may be found in **Table 3-2**.

**Table 3-2. Plant Species Observed in the Vicinity of the Entrance Road Improvements Project, El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California.**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Deerweed	<i>Acmispon glaber</i>
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
California Mugwort	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>
Onionweed	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>

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Common Name	Scientific Name
Oats	<i>Avena</i> sp.
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Mustard	<i>Brassica</i> sp.
Brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea</i> sp.
Brome	<i>Bromus</i> sp.
Foxtail Chess	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>
European Searocket	<i>Cakile maritima</i>
Morning Glory	<i>Calystegia</i> sp.
Ice Plant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>
Thistle	<i>Cirsium</i> sp.
Chaparral Clematis	<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Jade Plant	<i>Crassula ovata</i>
Coyote Melon	<i>Cucurbita palmata</i>
Coastal Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris arguta</i>
Lanceleaf Liveforever	<i>Dudleya lanceolata</i>
Giant Wild Rye	<i>Elymus condensatus</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>
Storksbill	<i>Erodium</i> sp.
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>
Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.
Spurge	<i>Euphorbia</i> sp.
Italian Rye Grass	<i>Festuca perennis</i>
Sweet Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
California Coffeeberry	<i>Frangula californica</i>
Hardy Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>
Cutleaf Geranium	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Saw Toothed Goldenbush	<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Telegraph Weed	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>
Barley	<i>Hordeum</i> sp.
Iris	<i>Iris</i> sp.
California Walnut	<i>Juglans californica</i>
Climbing Penstemon	<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>
Bird's Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>
Laurel Sumac	<i>Malosma laurina</i>
Cheeseweed Mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>
Wild Cucumber	<i>Marah</i> sp.
White Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>
Sweetclover	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>
Bush Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>
Desert Wishbone-Bush	<i>Mirabilis laevis</i>
Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum</i> sp.
Caterpillar Phacelia	<i>Phacelia cicutaria</i>
Canary Island Date Palm	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>
Fiesta Flower	<i>Pholistoma auritum</i>
Pine	<i>Pinus</i> sp.
Plantain	<i>Plantago</i> sp.
Western Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus</i> sp.
Holly Leafed Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
California Cudweed	<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Gooseberry	<i>Ribes</i> sp.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Castor Bean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
California Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>
California Blackberry	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>
Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Willow	<i>Salix</i> sp.
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>
Hummingbird Sage	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>
Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Peruvian Pepper Tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>
Douglas' Nightshade	<i>Solanum douglasii</i>
Chaparral Nightshade	<i>Solanum xanti</i>
Common Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
California Hedge Nettle	<i>Stachys bullata</i>
Smilo Grass	<i>Stipa miliacea</i>
New Zealand Spinach	<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>
Poison Oak	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>
Clover	<i>Trifolium</i> sp.
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
Canyon Sunflower	<i>Venegasia carpesioides</i>
Common Verbena	<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>
Hairy Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca</i> sp.
Rough Cocklebur	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca</i> sp.

### Listed/Sensitive Plants

A database query of an 8 km (5 mi) radius surrounding the Proposed Project area found that 10 sensitive plants have been historically recorded in the vicinity of the park (CDFW 2017, CNPS 2017) (**Table 3-3, Figure 3-2**). Field work, conducted in May and July of



**Table 3-3. Listed and Sensitive Plants Identified Within a 8 km (5 mi) Radius Surrounding the Project Area at El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California (Source: CDFW CNDDDB Database and CNPS Inventory).**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CNPS Listing <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Arctostaphylos refugioensis</i>	Refugio Manzanita			1B.2	Sandstone outcrops, chaparral. 275-820 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the Refugio manzanita does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Project area elevation is too low. Three populations documented approximately 8 km (5 mi) to the northwest, north, and northeast of project area respectively.
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	Late-flowered Mariposa-lily			1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland. Dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine. 270-1435 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the late-flowered mariposa lily does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Project area elevation is too low. Several populations documented approximately 8 km (5 mi) north of the project area.
<i>Centromadia parryi ssp. australis</i>	Southern Tarplant			1B.3	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Often in disturbed sites near the coast at marsh edges; also in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. Sometimes on vernal pool margins. 0-975 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the southern tarplant does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The species has been recorded 7.7 km (4.8 mi) southeast of the project area.

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<i>Cordylanthus rigidus ssp. littoralis</i>	Seaside Bird's-beak		SE	1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, coastal dunes. Sandy, often disturbed sites, usually within chaparral or coastal scrub. 30-520 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the seaside bird's-beak does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. One occurrence documented approximately 7.64 km (4.75 mi) northwest of the project area.
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i>subspicata</i>	Santa Barbara Honeysuckle			1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. 5-825 m.	P	Potential habitat (oak woodland) for the Santa Barbara honeysuckle exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The nearest sighting of the plant was recorded 4.5 km (2.8 mi) northwest of the project area in Los Flores Canyon.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca</i>	White-veined Monardella			1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry slopes. 50-1525 m.	P	Potential habitat (oak woodland) for the white-veined monardella exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The closest occurrences lie approximately 2.4 km (1.5 mi) west (exact location unknown) of the project area and 3.1 km (1.9 mi) east of the project area on Edwards ranch in the vicinity of Gato Canyon.
<i>Scrophularia atrata</i>	Black-flowered Figwort			1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub. Sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes. 10-245 m.	P	Potential habitat (riparian) for the black-flowered figwort exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. CNDDDB presumed extant population recorded along coast east of project area 1 to 5.6 km (.06 to 3.5 mi) away.

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<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	Chaparral Ragwort			2B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Alkaline flats, dry open rocky areas. 20-855 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the chaparral ragwort does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The closest occurrence lies outside the unit (to the northwest) at a distance of about 7.7 km (4.8 mi).
<i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i>sonorensis</i>	Sonoran Maiden Fern			2B.2	Meadows and seeps. Along streams, seepage areas. 50-610 m.	P	Potential habitat for the Sonoran maiden fern exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area along El Capitan Creek. This plant has been documented approximately 7.1 km (4.4 mi) west of the project area.
<i>Thermopsis macrophylla</i>	Santa Ynez False Lupine		SR	1B.3	Chaparral. In open areas such as fuel breaks, after burns; on sandstone. 365-1070 m.	A	Suitable habitat for the Santa Ynez false lupine does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Project area elevation is too low. One occurrence documented approximately 8 km (5 mi) northeast of the project area.

<sup>1</sup>Status: Federally Endangered (FE); Federally Threatened (FT); State Endangered (SE); State Threatened (ST); State Rare (SR); CNPS Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere (1B); CNPS Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere (2B).

<sup>2</sup>Habitat: Absent (A) - No habitat present and no further work needed; Present (P) - General habitat present and species may be present.

2017, concluded that suitable habitat for 6 of the species was not present on-site. Additionally, no sightings of these plants were noted at any of the project locations. Accordingly, a majority of the known, sensitive species would not be affected by the entrance road improvements and shall not be further discussed. However, potential habitat for black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*), Santa Barbara Honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*), Sonoran maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*), and white-veined monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*) was observed in areas surrounding the entrance road. As such, an expanded account of the biology and status of these species is provided.

#### **Black-flowered Figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*)**

**Listing:** CNPS List 1B.2, G2?/S2?

Black-flowered figwort is a perennial herb of the Scrophulariaceae family typically occurring in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub, and around swales and in sand dunes. It prefers sand, diatomaceous shales, or soils derived from other parent material at elevations of 10-245 m (33-804 ft) (CDFW 2017, CNPS 2017). The species can vary in height from 100-150 cm (3.3-4.9 ft) and has dentate, lanceolate to triangular-ovate shaped pairs of opposite leaves positioned at right angles to each other. It has a dark red to black corolla that appears much inflated at the base and much constricted at the mouth. This species can generally be observed flowering from April to August (Jepson 2017). Records indicate that black-flowered figwort is limited to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County, where 62 sightings have been confirmed (CDFW 2017).

Within El Capitán State Beach, no evidence of the figwort has been documented. The closest occurrence was documented in 1958 along the Union Pacific railroad line on the ocean side between El Capitán SB and Dos Pueblos Canyon anywhere from 1 to 5.6 km (.06 to 3.5 miles) east of the Proposed Project area (CDFW 2017). Riparian scrub, the only habitat this species occurs in that has the potential to occur in or near the Proposed Project area, consists of streamside thickets dominated by one or more willows as well as fast-growing shrubs and vines. While willows are present, oaks dominate the riparian woodland, and similarly, though shrubs are present, most of the understory is dominated by forbs and grasses rather than shrubs. A field review determined that the site was not likely habitat for the black-flowered figwort. Additionally, the survey did not uncover any sign of the species within or adjacent to the entrance road or El Capitán Creek. Consequently, impacts to the figwort would not be expected with the proposed modifications.

#### **Santa Barbara Honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*)**

**Listing:** CNPS List 1B.2, G5T2?/S2?

Santa Barbara honeysuckle is a generally twining, evergreen shrub (Family Caprifoliaceae) generally associated with chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub at elevations of 5-825 m (16-2707ft) (CDFW 2017, CNPS 2017). The species, varying in height from 9-24 dm (3.0-7.9 ft), possesses a woody base and narrowly elliptic leaves that are oppositely arranged on reddish-tinged stems. The long, spiked

inflorescence is often (more or less) glandular-hairy, with pale yellow flowers (8-12 mm [0.3-0.5 in] long) that are strongly two-lipped and blooms between April and August (Jepson 2017, CalFlora 2017). Twenty-one observations of the plant are historically known from Los Angeles County, Santa Barbara County, and Santa Catalina Island (CDFW 2017).

No occurrences of the Santa Barbara honeysuckle have been documented within the park. One sighting of the Santa Barbara honeysuckle has been recorded in Los Flores Canyon, approximately 4.5 km (2.8 mi) northwest of the Proposed Project area (CDFW 2017). In the Proposed Project area, the riparian oak woodland was identified as potential habitat for the species as the species can be found in the partial shade of woodlands dominated by oaks. An assessment, however, found that the plant was not established on-site; therefore, no effects to the species are expected to occur within the project footprint.

#### **Sonoran Maiden Fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*)**

**Listing:** CNPS List 2B.2, G5T3/S2

Sonoran maiden fern is a large perennial herb of the Thelypteridaceae family that prefers moist soils of meadows, seeps, and streams at elevations of 50-610 m (60-2,000 ft) (CDFW 2017, CNPS 2017). Plant growth is achieved via long, creeping rhizomes (3-8 mm [0.01-0.3 in] wide) that produce aboveground shoots bearing regularly spaced leaves. The light green, pinnate leaves are 50-120 cm (19-47 in) long and have moderate to dense hairs on the axes, veins, and between the veins. The sori (sporangia cluster) tend to be circular in shape, while the indusia (outgrowth covering a sporangia cluster) are tan to brown and densely hairy (Jepson 2017). Records indicate that the Sonoran maiden fern is found in Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and San Bernardino counties, as well as Arizona, Baja California, and Sonora Mexico (CNPS 2017).

No observations of the Sonoran maiden fern are known from inside the unit. An occurrence of the species was documented in Tajiguas Canyon, approximately 7.1 km (4.4 mi) west of Proposed Project area (CDFW 2017). The plant was not found during surveys of the site, thus impacts to the sensitive species would not be anticipated.

#### **White-veined Monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*)**

**Listing:** CNPS List 1B.3, G4T2T3/S2S3

White-veined monardella is a perennial herb (Family Lamiaceae) found in chaparral and cismontane woodlands on dry slopes at elevations of 50-1525 m (164-5003 ft) (CDFW 2017, CNPS 2017). The fragrant plant has a matted to tufted, weakly rhizomed growth form. The stem, which is glabrous to sparsely hairy, can reach a height of 25-50 cm (0.8-1.64 ft) and supports narrowly ovate leaves (3-5 cm [1.2-2 in] long) that are densely white-tomentose underneath and have prominent veins. There are one to several flowers clusters per main stem with narrowly ovate bracts. The flowers have pale lavender to lavender corollas (calyx 6-8 mm [.2-.3 in] long) that bloom between May and October (Jepson 2017). Known only from the Santa Monica, Santa Ynez, and Sierra Madre Mountains, there have been 29 historical observations of the plant documented in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura County (CNPS 2017).

The closest occurrences of the plant lie approximately 2.4 km (1.5 mi) west (exact location unknown) of the Proposed Project area and 3.1 km (1.9 mi) east of the Proposed Project area on Edwards ranch in the vicinity of Gato Canyon (CDFW 2017). The plant was not recorded within the Proposed Project area during surveys, thus, no effects to the species would result from work associated with the entrance improvements.

### Wildlife

All wildlife species observed within and near the Proposed Project site may be found in **Table 3-4**. It should be noted that during a survey in May of 2017, bats were documented roosting in the Union Pacific Railroad line structure by a support pillar that stands in the entrance road. They are thought to be a *Myotis* species or Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), of which none (based on habitat and location) are listed species. Union Pacific operates freight trains through the area and Amtrak operates passenger trains on a regular basis, so the roost regularly experiences noise and vibration generated by trains. However, appropriate measures shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts from construction to roosting bats, such as avoiding construction activities near the roost when maternity colonies and pups could be present (See **Bio-4**).

A review of the CNDDDB (CDFW 2017) and previous surveys efforts (CDPR 2010, CDPR 2015b) resulted in a list of 37 special-status wildlife, that are known to exist within/near El Capitán SB (**Table 3-5, Figure 3-2**). Of that total, 11 species have the potential to occur on-site due to the presence of suitable habitat. The remaining 26 species are unlikely to be found and, therefore, shall not be further assessed, since no harm/harassment to individuals or populations would be expected. The wildlife of concern, as shown in **Table 3-5**, include Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), monarch (*Danaus plexippus* pop. 1), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), steelhead – Southern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Specific accounts, outlining the biology and status of these species, are presented below.

**Table 3-4. Wildlife Species Observed in the Vicinity of the Entrance Road Improvements Project, El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California.**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<i>Birds</i>	
California Scrub-Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>
Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
Wrentit	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Loon sp.	<i>Gavia</i> sp.
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>
California Towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Cormorant sp.	<i>Phalacrocorax</i> sp.
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>
Downy Woodpecker *with nest in cavity of willow*	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
<b>Mammals</b>	
Myotis Bat or Mexican Free-tailed Bat	<i>Myotis</i> sp. or <i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>
California Ground Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>
Chipmunk sp.	<i>Tamias merriami</i>
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
<b>Reptiles</b>	
Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>

### **Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)**

**Listing:** CDFW Species of Special Concern

The Cooper's hawk is a medium-sized accipiter (42 cm length, 79 cm wingspan [16.5 in, 31 in]) typically associated with woodlands that are of open, interrupted, or marginal type (Sibley 2005, CDFW 2017). The species possesses short, rounded wings, and a long, barred, rounded tail. The plumage is generally steely blue-gray above, with underparts that are barred reddish and white. The legs are distinctly yellow and the eyes of adults can be orange or red. The Cooper's hawk breeds across southern Canada and into the United States and central Mexico. During the winter, birds can be observed throughout the United States and Mexico (Rosenfield and Bielefeldt 1993).

There are no CNDDDB records of the Cooper's hawk within an 8 km (5 mi) radius of the Proposed Project area; however, an individual was observed within the park unit (eBird record Dec 2016). The field review detected no sign of the raptor in the Proposed Project area; however, the coast live oaks and riparian woodland habitat along El Capitán Creek, could serve as suitable habitat. In general, impacts to the Cooper's hawk should be minimal as work would largely be occurring within developed areas (i.e. along the road) or the forest/woodland understory. Potential disturbance from construction noise could result, should the species be nesting near the project limits. Accordingly, avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented to ensure that the Cooper's hawk is not adversely affected by any work.

### **Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*)**

**Listing:** No Federal or State Status, but placed on CDFW's Special Animals List



The oak titmouse is a small songbird (15 cm length, 23 cm wingspan [5.75 in, 9 in]) strongly tied to oak trees and thus found in oak and oak/riparian/conifer woodlands (Sibley 2005, CDFW 2017). Living mostly in warm, open, dry oak or oak-pine woodlands, this cavity nester will often use scrub oaks or other brush as long as woodlands are nearby (CDFW 2017). The species is generally plain gray-brown with a short, stubby bill, short crest on the head, black eyes, and a medium-long tail (Cicero et al. 2017). It has a restricted range, being almost entirely restricted to dry slopes of California, though it ranges from southwest Oregon to northwest Baja California as well (Cicero et al. 2017).

Potential nesting habitat for the oak titmouse exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements Proposed Project area as the species is primarily associated with oaks and oak woodland habitat is present along El Capitán Creek. There are no CNDDDB records within an 8 km (5 mi) radius of the Proposed Project site; however, two individuals were recently recorded as observed within the park unit (eBird record Nov 2016). Impacts to the Oak Titmouse should be minimal as work would largely be occurring within developed areas (i.e. along the road). Potential disturbance could result from construction noise and vegetation removal, should the species be roosting/nesting within or near the project limits. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures for vegetation removal and nesting birds (e.g. conducting vegetation removal outside of the breeding season, conducting preconstruction nesting bird surveys) shall ensure that the oak titmouse is not impacted adversely by any work.

#### **Monarch (*Danaus plexippus* pop. 1)**

**Listing:** No Federal or State Status, but placed on CDFW's Special Animals List

The monarch butterfly, belonging to the Family of brush-footed butterflies, is a relatively large-sized species (8.6-12.4 cm [3.39-4.88 in]), whose populations seasonally migrate/overwinter along the Pacific coast from northern Mendocino to Baja, California (CDFW 2017). The species can be distinguished by a bright orange hue, bordered with wide black bands and white spotting, and black veining on the dorsal side. Monarchs preferentially feed and nectar on milkweed plants in open habitats, such as fields, meadows, weedy areas, marshes, and roadsides. Mass migrations generally occur from August to October when the butterflies depart southern Canada for southern hibernation sites (Opler et. al 2006). Over-wintering roosts are located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby (CDFW 2017).

Although monarchs have been observed within El Capitán SB, the species is not known to winter in the park. Small autumnal aggregations (62 butterflies in 1990, 279 in 1998, and 14 in 1999) have been documented in sycamores and oaks along El Capitán Creek, where eucalyptus trees border the railroad (CDFW 2017). There are nine other recorded locations for monarchs within 8 km (5 mi) of the Proposed Project area. Eucalyptus trees bordering the railroad and oaks and sycamores along the creek could provide suitable roosting areas for the monarch. No monarchs were documented within the project boundaries during surveys in May and June of 2017, however, roosting monarchs would

not be expected until the fall. Removal of trees that could be used as monarch roosting habitat, such as eucalyptus trees, will be avoided to the extent feasible. Pruning of trees that could serve as monarch roosts should be avoided during roosting season. Potential disturbance from construction noise could result, should the species be roosting near the project limits. Therefore, construction activities should be avoided from October through February (especially from October to November) to prevent potential impacts to autumnal aggregations. If construction is planned to occur during this period, the Proposed Project area should be surveyed for monarchs by a Natural Resource Specialist. Should a monarch roost be discovered, construction within 500 feet of the roost habitat should be monitored for disturbance to monarchs. If disturbance is possible and/or documented then construction will cease until the monarch butterflies have departed the disturbance area. Avoidance and minimization measures, such as those described above, shall be implemented to ensure that the monarch butterfly is not adversely affected by any work.

#### **White-Tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)**

**Listing:** CDFG Fully Protected

The white-tailed kite is a medium-sized hawk (32-38 cm [13-15 in]) frequently observed foraging in open grasslands, meadows, or marshes, and nesting/perching in nearby woodlands (CDFW 2017). The species is generally gray on the back and wings, with a white face and underside, and black spotting on the shoulders. As the name implies, the tail of the bird is white and long, while the wings tend to be long, narrow, and pointed. The species is a resident of southern Texas and California, has populations scattered in Washington, Oregon, and Florida, and is also established throughout Mexico and South America (Dunk 1995).

The closest sighting of a white-tailed kite has been documented 7.7 km (4.8 mi) southeast of the Proposed Project area (CDFW 2017). Two individuals were also documented east of the turnoff to the park north of Highway 101 (eBird record Mar 2013). A site review found that the eastern side of the Proposed Project area where the riparian wooded habitat meets open coastal scrub to the east and annual grasslands north of the 101 could accommodate the roosting/nesting needs of the kite. Potential disturbance from construction noise could result, should the species be nesting near the project limits. Therefore, for the proposed work, techniques to minimize impacts to the Cooper's hawk (e.g., performing nest surveys during the nesting season, placing buffers around nest sites) shall be employed to protect the white-tailed kite.

#### **Western Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata*)**

**Listing:** CDFW Species of Special Concern

The western pond turtle is a freshwater species generally associated with ponds, lakes, marshes, streams, large rivers, and irrigation ditches that contain some aquatic vegetation and mud or rock basins (CDFW 2017). Along with a permanent or nearly permanent source of slow-moving water, the preferred habitat must possess basking sites (e.g., partially submerged logs, open banks, vegetation mats) that turtles can use for thermoregulation and, ultimately, for efficient foraging (Zeiner et al. 1988-1990).

Upland areas can also serve as nesting/sheltering sites for the species, with individuals documented as far as 0.3 miles from a water source (Reese and Welsh 1997). With regard to appearance, adults are notable for having a low and broad carapace that ranges in length from 3.5-8.5 inches (8.9-21.6 cm). Individuals can be olive, dark brown, or blackish in color, with many dark lines and spots on the dorsal scutes. The species is omnivorous and can feed on a variety of items, including aquatic plant material, aquatic invertebrates, fish, amphibian eggs/larvae, and carrion (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012).

A total of ten western pond turtles were previously recorded in an emergency oil containment basin, located east of Corral Canyon Road and approximately 2.9 km (1.8 mi) northwest of the entrance road (CDFW 2017). The species, though, has never been observed along El Capitán Creek or within the park's boundaries. The creek, itself, maintains an extensive stand of mature coast live oaks and western sycamores that could support the western pond turtle. A habitat assessment conducted in April 2017 found that the dense canopy, lack of an adequate supply of rocks and logs for basking, and the flow types and water depth observed, offer limited basking habitat for the species (ECORP 2017b). Given the pond turtles' preference for moderate to high vegetation cover to serve as protection and thermoregulation (Pilliod et. al 2011), vegetated areas surrounding the creek would be appropriate for the species' use and could afford sheltering/nesting. Steep banks embedded with boulders and cobbles along the channel, though, limit access to nesting and overwintering sites. In addition, the presence of day users recreating at the creek as well as dog and raccoon tracks greatly reduce the potential for western pond turtles to occupy the site. Upland habitat that could afford sheltering/nesting is extremely poor in quality, regularly maintained, and/or subject to human intrusions. Due to the Proposed Project area being situated in a canyon, the topography of the site, and a distance of more than 1 mile to the nearest occupied locality, dispersal between sites seems unlikely. No western pond turtles were documented during the habitat assessment field visit. Based on the results of the habitat assessment, it was concluded that the western pond turtle is unlikely to occur within the Proposed Project area (ECORP 2017b). Thus impacts to the species are not expected.

#### **Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)**

**Listing:** Federally Endangered, CDFW Species of Special Concern

The tidewater goby, a fish species endemic to California, is an annual species found primarily in waters of coastal lagoons, estuaries, and marshes. This small, elongate, grey-brown fish rarely exceeds 50 mm (2 in) standard length. It is characterized by large pectoral fins and pelvic or ventral fins that are joined below the chest and belly from below the gill cover back to just ahead of the anus, forming an abdominal disc. Males are nearly transparent, with a mottled brownish upper surface while females develop darker colors, often black, on the body and dorsal and anal fins. The best field mark for identifying the species is the transparent, whitish or yellowish triangular area on the upper 1/4 to 1/3 of the first, spinous dorsal fin. Living only in California, they historically ranged from Tillas Slough (mouth of the Smith River, Del Norte County) to Agua Hedionda Lagoon (northern San Diego County). They currently are found throughout their known, historic range, but reside at fewer locations than historically occurred,

having been extirpated from some sites as a result of drainage, water quality changes, introduced predators, and drought. The tidewater goby is thought to have occurred in as many as 124 different locations during recent decades, but currently can be found in only about 96 of those historic locations (USFWS 2014). On February 4, 1994, the tidewater goby was listed as a federally endangered species (59 FR 5494) (USFWS 1994b). Nineteen years later (February 6, 2013), critical habitat for the species was finalized (78 FR 8745) (USFWS 2013).

The closest recorded occurrence for the tidewater goby was at the lagoon at the mouth of Canada del Refugio, Refugio State Beach, approximately 4.3 km (2.7 mi) west of the Proposed Project area. Favoring brackish water, suitable habitat for the tidewater goby does not exist upstream within the El Capitán entrance improvements Proposed Project area. Potential habitat, however, may exist at the mouth/lower end of El Capitán Creek, where it meets the ocean. Moreover, it is possible that during the storm events of early 2017 that tidewater goby could have dispersed into El Capitán Creek. A survey conducted in August of 2017, however, did not find any tidewater goby in El Capitán Creek. It should be noted, though, that the river mouth was closed and water levels were low at the time of the survey. While tidewater goby are unlikely to occur in the creek, BMPs preventing sedimentation and/or erosion would be implemented in the Proposed Project area to avoid downstream impacts.

#### **Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)**

##### **Listing:** CDFW Species of Special Concern

The yellow-breasted chat is the largest of North American warblers and inhabits riparian thickets of willow & other brushy tangles near watercourses (CDFW 2017). The species is olive-green above with a bright yellow breast, white lower belly, long tail, large head, and relatively thick, heavy bill. The face is gray and has a white eyering that connects to the bill giving it a spectacled look. It also has a white line bordering its cheek between its yellow throat and olive-gray head. The yellow-breasted chat typically stays well hidden, skulking in dense thickets (Eckerle 2001). It typically forages and nests within 10 ft of the ground with nests being in low, dense riparian vegetation consisting of willow, blackberry, and wild grape (CDFW 2017). The species breeds in shrubby habitats across North America and then ventures to Central America for the winter (Eckerle 2001). Loss and degradation of riparian habitat as well as parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds have contributed to a marked decline in the breeding population in California (Zeiner 1988).

While there are no CNDDDB records of the yellow-breasted chat within an 8 km (5 mi) radius of the Proposed Project area, a sighting of one individual was documented in the park unit in 2013 (eBird record Sept 2013). The riparian woodland present along El Capitán Creek serves as potential habitat for the yellow-breasted chat, though it appears to lack the density of low, brushy thickets that the species prefers. The yellow-breasted chat was not observed during surveys of the Proposed Project area in May and June, nevertheless, measures regarding vegetation removal and nesting birds will be implemented to prevent impacts to the species should it be present.

#### **Steelhead – Southern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)**

**Listing:** Federally Endangered

Steelhead are the anadromous form of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). They are born in fresh water streams, where they spend their first one to three years of life, and then emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs. After spending between one to four growing seasons in the ocean, steelhead return to their native fresh water stream to spawn (USFWS 2017c). The species is generally silver in color with pinkish cheeks, green backs, and sides and belly that are silver, white, or yellowish. There are black spots on the tail, adipose fin, dorsal fin, and back. As these fish remain in freshwater, their silvery coloration darkens and they begin to more closely resemble freshwater resident rainbow trout in appearance (CalFish 2017). Southern steelhead, a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead, likely has greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions than other steelhead DPS units (CDFW 2017). On September 2, 2005, critical habitat was designated for the Southern California DPS of steelhead (70 FR 52488) (USFWS 2005b). Several months later (January 05, 2006), the listing of the Southern California DPS of steelhead was finalized as federally endangered (71 FR 834) (USFWS 2006).

El Capitán Creek has been designated critical habitat for the southern California steelhead (CDFW 2017). A prior Stream Inventory Report for El Capitán Creek stated that the quality of the watershed habitat appeared suitable for supporting a small *O. mykiss* population. Although historic accounts and documentation do indicate that steelhead and resident *O. mykiss* previously populated the watershed, it is assumed that steelhead have been extirpated from the watershed as a result of numerous detrimental factors including barrier construction, water diversion, fires, and droughts (Francis 2010). The entrance road crosses the creek over a large culvert, which has introduced erosion to the creek and created a barrier to steelhead fish passage. Throughout the region, culverts and other barriers to fish passage are being replaced with fish-friendly crossings, such as bridges. A wider bridge crossing at this location would remove the barrier and restore steelhead passage to 5.1 miles of upstream habitat. To avoid impacts to the creek that could influence recolonization and use by steelhead, BMPs would be implemented in the Proposed Project area to prevent sedimentation and/or erosion into the creek.

#### **California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)**

**Listing:** Federally Threatened, CDFW Species of Special Concern

The California red-legged frog is a large (4.4-13.3 cm [1.7-5.2 in]), native species of True Frogs (Family Ranidae) that inhabits lowlands and foothills near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation (CDFW 2017, Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). Adults are visibly distinguishable by red shading on the lower abdomen and underside of the hind legs. On the back, small black flecks and larger dark blotches can be found, along with well-developed dorsolateral folds. A dark mask, bordered by a whitish jaw stripe, marks the side of the face and dark banding is apparent on the legs (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). Historically, the species was distributed throughout the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills. However, due to

habitat loss and competition/predation from non-native species, it has been extirpated from 70 percent of its former range and now is found primarily in coastal drainages of central California (USFWS 2017a). On May 23, 1996, the California red-legged frog was listed as a federally threatened species (61 FR 25813) (USFWS 1996). Thirteen years later (March 17, 2010), critical habitat for the species was finalized (78 FR 8745) (USFWS 2010).

CNDDDB maintains no records of the California red-legged frog within El Capitán SB; however, eight presumed extant populations have been recorded within 8 km (5 mi) of the Proposed Project area, three of which have been recorded within the last 3 years and are approximately 3.2 km (2 mi) northwest of Proposed Project area (CNDDDB 2017). In addition, surveys completed for the El Capitán Creek Bridge Project (Land Trust of Santa Barbara County), located north of U.S. Highway 101, found occupied pools both upstream of the bridge and south of the terminus to the highway culvert (USFWS 2005a). In addition, an adult was observed in a pool beneath the Highway 101 culvert in February of 2010 during a stream inventory of El Capitán Creek conducted by CDFW (Francis 2010). District staff also observed adult red-legged frogs in the deep culvert pool, which lies adjacent to Loop “A” Campground and approximately 600 feet from the Maintenance Yard. A habitat assessment conducted in April 2017 found that slow moving pools with streamside and in-water refugia such as overhanging vegetation, instream vegetation, boulder undercuts, and root masses were sparse within the survey area (ECORP 2017a). While shallow pools are present downstream of the Highway 1 culvert weir structure that could facilitate egg-laying and tadpole rearing, the documentation of raccoons and dogs along the creek likely impacts survivorship. In addition, the Proposed Project area is heavily trafficked by the public and upland habitat to the west consists of roadway, parking, and campsites, reducing the potential for the species to occupy the site. The habitat assessment concluded that individuals may use the Proposed Project area for dispersal, but it is more likely that source populations and more suitable breeding habitat exists upstream. To avoid impacts to California red-legged frogs the project will implement avoidance and minimization measures recommended by the USFWS. These may include limiting culvert/stream work to outside of the wet season and having a qualified biologist present to survey the Proposed Project area, relocate California red-legged frogs out of harm’s way, conduct a training session for workers, and monitor habitat disturbing activities.

#### **Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)**

##### **Listing:** CDFW Species of Special Concern

The yellow warbler is a small, bright yellow songbird that is associated with riparian plants in close proximity to water. It is frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders (CDFW 2017). Yellow warblers have unmarked faces, a greenish tinge to their upperparts, yellow undertail coverts, and prominent black eyes. Males are distinguished from females by having reddish streaks on the underparts and being brighter yellow. Foraging near the tops of tall shrubs and small trees, they forage restlessly with quick hops along small branches and twigs and use their straight, thin bill to glean caterpillars

and other insects (Lowther 1999). A long distance migrant, the yellow warbler breeds across central and northern North America and then winters in mangrove forests of Central and South America (Lowther 1999). Brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds is heavy and is attributed to the decline in numbers in lowland areas in recent decades (Zeiner 1988).

While there are no CNDDDB records for the yellow warbler within an 8 km (5 mi) radius of the Proposed Project area, one individual was recently observed within the park unit (eBird record Oct 2016). Potential nesting habitat for the yellow warbler exists within the Proposed Project area in the riparian woodland along El Capitán Creek. There, riparian species that the yellow warbler is known to inhabit during the spring/summer, such as sycamore, cottonwood, willow, and alder, can be found. However, the riparian woodland present is denser and lacks the heavy brush understory that the species is known to frequent during the breeding season (Zeiner 1988). To minimize potential impacts to the species, measures utilized for sensitive bird species (e.g. conducting preconstruction surveys for nesting birds) shall also be employed for the yellow warbler.

#### **Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)**

**Listing:** Federally Endangered, State Endangered

The Least Bell's vireo is a small, migratory song bird, and summer resident of southern California, that prefers low riparian habitat in the vicinity of water or along dry river bottoms (<610 m [ $<2,000$  ft] in elevation) (CDFW 2017). In general, the species has grayish upperparts and pale underparts, a faint eye ring, and two thin, whitish wing bars. The wings are also short and rounded, while the beak tends to be thick, straight, and have a hooked, upper mandible (Dunn and Alderfer 2011). The least Bell's vireo, almost exclusively insectivorous, once ranged from Red Bluff, California to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Extensive losses of riparian woodlands (90%) and heavy parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) have contributed to the species' population decline (USFWS 2017b). In 1986, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the least Bell's vireo as a federally endangered species (51 FR 16474), with critical habitat subsequently being designated on February 2, 1994 (59 FR 4845) (USFWS 1986, USFWS 1994a).

No historical sightings of the least Bell's vireo exist for the area surrounding El Capitán SB. A park volunteer, however, previously documented the species (2005) within riparian habitat to the north of U.S. Highway 101, in a central portion of the El Capitán Ranch Camp Site. On the south side of the highway, an extensive stand of coast live oaks and western sycamores, representing potential vireo habitat, borders the creek and extends, fairly uninterrupted to the Pacific Ocean. The riparian corridor in the Proposed Project area could have potential for suitable breeding and/or nesting areas for the vireo, however, the habitat quality during field visits was determined to be marginal. No least Bell's vireos were documented on site during plant/wildlife surveys conducted in May and June 2017 nor during biomonitoring of water well installation at the park on the north side of Highway 101 (Petersen 2017). Due to the possibility of the species to occur and nest on site, avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented to avoid impacts. These measures include, but are not limited to, avoiding vegetation pruning/trimming

during the breeding season, having a qualified biologist with least Bell's vireo survey experience conduct surveys for any construction activity occurring during the breeding season, and having a qualified biologist present on site to monitor and record activities that could impact nesting birds within the Proposed Project area.



### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

**Table 3-5. Listed and Sensitive Wildlife Identified Within a 8 km (5 mi) Radius Surrounding the Project Area at El Capitán State Beach, Santa Barbara County, California (Source: CDFW CNDDDB Database).**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk			WL (nesting)	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type. Nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees, as in canyon bottoms on river flood-plains; also, live oaks.	P	Potential nesting habitat for the cooper's hawk exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Individual observed within park unit (eBird Dec 2016).
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk			WL (nesting)	Ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer & Jeffrey pine habitats. Prefers riparian areas. North-facing slopes, with plucking perches are critical requirements. Nests usually within 275 ft of water.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the sharp-shinned hawk does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area as they breed farther north. However, it may be found in the park during the non-breeding season. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Individual observed within park unit (eBird Mar 2016).
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret			SA (nesting colony)	Colonial nester in large trees. Rookery sites located near marshes, tide-flats, irrigated pastures, and margins of rivers and lakes.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the great egret does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed within park unit (eBird Dec 2016).
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron			SA (nesting colony)	Colonial nester in tall trees, cliffsides, and sequestered spots on marshes. Rookery sites in close proximity to foraging areas: marshes, lake margins, tide-flats, rivers and streams, wet meadows.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the great blue heron does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed within park unit (eBird Oct 2012).
<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Oak Titmouse			SA (nesting)	Oak and oak/riparian/conifer woodlands. Live mostly in warm, open, dry oak or oak-pine woodlands. Many will use scrub oaks or other brush as long as woodlands are nearby. Cavity nester.	P	Potential nesting habitat for the oak titmouse exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Oak woodland habitat is present along El Capitán Creek. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Two individuals observed within park unit (eBird Nov 2016).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brant			SSC (wintering & staging)	Requires well-protected, shallow marine waters with intertidal eel-grass beds, primarily within bays and estuaries. At high tide they need sheltered open water or protected beaches for loafing. Brant often feed close to mudflats, sandbars or spits.	A	Suitable wintering and staging habitat for the brant does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed at the park unit, most likely off-shore (eBird Apr 2015).
<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Rhinoceros Auklet			WL (nesting colony)	Off-shore islands and rocks along the California coast. Nests in a burrow on undisturbed, forested and unforested islands, and probably in cliff caves on the mainland.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the rhinoceros auklet does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed at the park unit, most likely off-shore (eBird Feb 2015).
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western Snowy Plover	FT (nesting)		SSC (nesting)	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the western snowy plover does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Three individuals were observed at the park unit during the non-breeding season (eBird Nov 2016)
<i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i>	Sandy Beach Tiger Beetle			SA	Inhabits areas adjacent to non-brackish water along the coast. Clean, dry, light-colored sand in the upper zone. Subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action.	A	Suitable habitat for the California sandy beach tiger beetle does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The closest documented occurrence is listed as extirpated and was on the coast approximately 6.4 km (4 mi) southeast of the project area.
<i>Contopus cooper</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher			SSC (nesting)	Nesting habitats are mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir & lodgepole pine. Most numerous in montane conifer forests where tall trees overlook canyons, meadows, lakes or other open terrain.	A	Suitable habitat for the California olive-sided flycatcher does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. However, an individual was listed as observed within the park unit (eBird May 2016).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat			SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls & ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	A	Suitable habitat for the California Townsend's big-eared bat does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. The kiosk and entrance station structures that occur along the entrance road are too small and have high human disturbance from the road that makes roosting there highly unlikely. Night foraging is possible.
<i>Danaus plexippus pop. 1</i>	Monarch - California overwintering population			SA	Closed-cone coniferous forest. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	P	Potential habitat for the monarch exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. There are 9 presumed extant populations within 8 km (5 mi) of project area. One population is documented within El Capitán SB along El Capitán Creek just south of the SPRR railroad tracks.
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret			SA (nesting colony)	Colonial nester, with nest sites situated in protected beds of dense tules. Rookery sites situated close to foraging areas: marshes, tidal-flats, streams, wet meadows, and borders of lakes.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the snowy egret does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area as dense marshes are required for nesting. No CNDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Two individuals were observed in the park unit (eBird Nov 2015).
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-tailed Kite			FP (nesting)	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	P	Potential habitat for the white-tailed kite exists along the eastern side of the entrance improvements project area where the riparian wooded habitat meets open coastal scrub to the east and annual grasslands north of the 101. A CNDDB record documents the species 7.7 km (4.8 mi) southeast of the project area. Two individuals were observed east of the turnoff to the park north of Highway 101 (eBird Mar 2013).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher		SE (nesting)		Inhabits extensive thickets of low, dense willows on edge of wet meadows, ponds, or backwaters; 2000-8000 ft elevation. Requires dense willow thickets for nesting/roosting. Low, exposed branches are used for singing posts/hunting perches.	A	Suitable habitat for the willow flycatcher does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. While willows are present along El Capitán Creek, they do not occur in dense thickets. However, two individuals were observed within the park unit (eBird Jun 2011).
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western Pond Turtle			SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	P	Potential habitat for the western pond turtle exists in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area along El Capitán Creek. Ten individuals were found in 2014 in an emergency oil containment basin, to the east of Corral Canyon Road and roughly 2.9 km (1.8 mi) northwest of the project boundaries.
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	Tidewater Goby	FE		SSC	Brackish water habitats along the CA coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches. Needs fairly still but not stagnant water & high oxygen levels.	P	Suitable habitat for the tidewater goby does not exist within the El Capitán entrance improvements project area; however, potential habitat may exist at the mouth/lower end of El Capitán Creek. This species has been documented at the lagoon at the mouth of Canada del Refugio, Refugio State Beach, approximately 4.3 km (2.7 mi) west of the project area.
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin			WL (wintering)	Seacoast, tidal estuaries, open woodlands, savannahs, edges of grasslands & deserts, farms & ranches. Clumps of trees or windbreaks are required for roosting in open country.	A	Suitable wintering habitat for the merlin does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Merlin are seldom found in heavily wooded areas. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual observed within park unit (eBird Mar 2006).
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine falcon			FP (nesting)	Near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water; on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds; also, human-made structures. Nest consists of a scrape	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the American peregrine falcon does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi)

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
					or a depression or ledge in an open site.		radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Nov 2015).
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Common Loon			SSC (nesting)	Nesting locations at certain large lakes & reservoirs in interior of state, primarily in northeastern plateau region. Bodies of water regularly frequented are extensive, fairly deep, and produce quantities of large fish.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the common loon does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Two individuals were observed in the park unit, most likely off-shore (eBird Feb 2017).
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Caspian Tern			SA (nesting colony)	Nests on sandy or gravelly beaches and shell banks in small colonies inland and along the coast. Inland fresh-water lakes and marshes; also, brackish or salt waters of estuaries and bays.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the Caspian tern does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Jan 2017).
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-breasted Chat			SSC (nesting)	Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow & other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, wild grape; forages and nests within 10 ft of ground.	P	Potential habitat for the yellow-breasted chat exists near the entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Sept 2013).
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California Gull			WL (nesting colony)	Littoral waters, sandy beaches, waters & shorelines of bays, tidal mud-flats, marshes, lakes, etc. Colonial nester on islets in large interior lakes, either fresh or strongly alkaline.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the California gull does not exist in the entrance improvements project area. Nests farther inland; however, ten individuals were observed in the park unit during the non-breeding season (eBird Feb 2017).
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew			WL (nesting)	Breeds in upland shortgrass prairies & wet meadows in northeastern California. Habitats on gravelly soils and gently rolling terrain are favored over others.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the long-billed curlew does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Dec 2016).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	Steelhead – Southern California DPS	FE			Born in fresh water streams, emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to fresh water to spawn. Populations found from Santa Maria River south to San Mateo Creek in San Diego County.	P	Although historic accounts and documentation do indicate that steelhead previously populated the watershed, it is assumed that steelhead have been extirpated from the watershed as a result of numerous detrimental factors. No CNDDDB records within the creek within 8 km (5 mi) radius.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey			WL (nesting)	Ocean shore, bays, fresh-water lakes, and larger streams. Large nests built in tree-tops within 15 miles of a good fish-producing body of water.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the osprey does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Ospreys require nest sites in open surroundings for easy approach. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individuals was observed in the park unit (eBird Jan 2017).
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	California Brown Pelican			FP (nesting colony & communal roosts)	Colonial nester on coastal islands just outside the surf line. Nests on coastal islands of small to moderate size which afford immunity from attack by ground-dwelling predators. Roosts communally.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the California brown pelican does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Four individuals were observed in the park unit (eBird Feb 2017).
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Double-crested Cormorant			WL (nesting colony)	Colonial nester on coastal cliffs, offshore islands, & along lake margins in the interior of the state. Nests along coast on sequestered islets, usually on ground with sloping surface, or in tall trees along lake margins.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the double-crested cormorant does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. Three individuals were observed in the park unit (eBird Feb 2017).
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Vermillion Flycatcher			SSC (nesting)	During nesting, inhabits desert riparian adjacent to irrigated fields, irrigation ditches, pastures, & other open, mesic areas. Nest in cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and other large desert riparian trees.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the vermillion flycatcher does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Sep 2003).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill Yellow-legged Frog			SSC	Partly-shaded, shallow streams & riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying.	A	The species is extirpated from all of southern California south of San Luis Obispo County (CBD 2016). Only one individual was documented in 1974 approximately 4.3 km (2.7 mi) west of the project area in Refugio Creek.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California Red-legged Frog	FT		SSC	Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	P	Potential habitat for the California red-legged frog exists near the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. According to District staff, the species was recorded in a deep scour pool along El Capitán Creek that is located approximately 600 feet east of the water storage tank. In addition, eight presumed extant populations have been recorded within 8 km (5 mi) of the project area, three of which have been recorded within the last 3 years and are approximately 3.2 km (2 mi) northwest of project area.
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	rufous hummingbird			SA (nesting)	Breeds in transition life zone of northwest coastal area from Oregon border to southern Sonoma County. Nests in berry tangles, shrubs, and conifers. Favors habitats rich in nectar-producing flowers.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the rufous hummingbird does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Mar 2006).
<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	yellow warbler			SSC (nesting)	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	P	Potential nesting habitat for the yellow warbler exists near the El Capitán entrance improvements project area within the riparian woodland along El Capitán Creek. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Oct 2016).

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status <sup>1</sup>	State Status <sup>1</sup>	CDFW Status <sup>1</sup>	General Habitat	Habitat Present/Absent <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	red-breasted sapsucker			SA (nesting)	Breeds in mixed coniferous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests and woodlands. Requires stading snags or hollow trees for nesting cavity.	A	Suitable nesting habitat for the red-breasted sapsucker does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Jan 2017).
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger			SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	A	Suitable habitat for the American badger does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. Friable soils and ground squirrels (prey) are present in the park; however, the project area lacks the open habitat required. One occurrence of the species was documented approximately 4.8 km (3 mi) west of the project area during the 1920s.
<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	Elegant Tern			WL (nesting colony)	Only 3 known breeding colonies: San Diego Bay, Los Angeles Harbor and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Nests on open, sandy, undisturbed beaches & on salt-evaporating pond dikes (San Diego) in association with Caspian tern.	A	Suitable nesting colony habitat for the elegant tern does not exist in the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No CNDDDB records within 8 km (5 mi) radius. One individual was observed in the park unit (eBird Oct 2016).
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's Vireo	FE (nesting)	SE (nesting)		Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	P	Potential habitat for the least bell's vireo exists near the El Capitán entrance improvements project area. No official record documents the presence of this species in or near the park; however, a park volunteer documented the species (2005) within riparian habitat in a central portion of the El Capitán Ranch Camp Site. There also two eBird records, one as recent as 2016 (with photographs) and one from 2007 about 16 km (10 mi) east of the project in Santa Barbara.

<sup>1</sup>Status: Federally Endangered (FE); Federally Threatened (FT); State Endangered (SE); CDFW Fully Protected (FP); CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC); CDFW Watch List (WL); Placed on CDFW's Special Animals List (SA). <sup>2</sup>Habitat: Absent (A) - No habitat present and no further work needed; Present (P) - General habitat present and species may be present



# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Vegetation Map (Figure 3-1)



## Legend

### Vegetation Types\*

- Beach & Coastal Strand
- California Sagebrush Scrub
- Developed Area
- Landscaped Area
- Disturbed Habitat
- Coast Live Oak Woodland - California Sycamore/Poison Oak Association
- Coast Live Oak Woodland
- Poison Hemlock Patch

- Park Boundary
- Project Location
- Stream/River, Perennial

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/27/2017

\* Vegetation types defined in Section 3.4.1

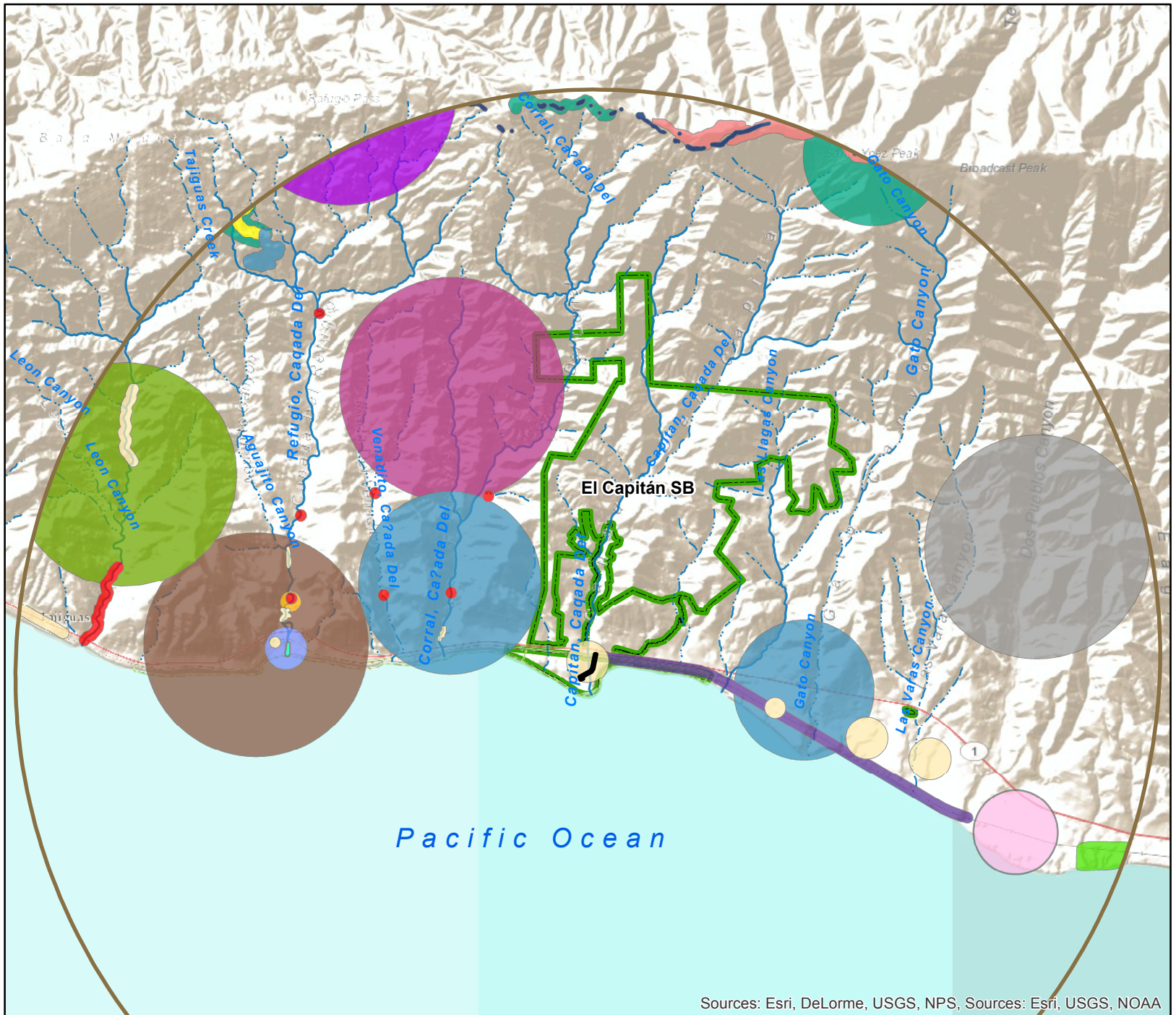


0 350 700 Feet





# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Sensitive Species Map (Figure 3-2)



## Legend

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Project Area                                  | Townsend's big-eared bat                      |
| 5 Mile Buffer                                 | Black-flowered figwort                        |
| El Capitan SB Boundary                        | Chaparral ragwort                             |
| <b>Stream Reaches</b>                         | Foothill yellow-legged frog                   |
| Stream/River, Intermittent                    | Late-flowered mariposa-lily                   |
| Stream/River, Perennial                       | Monarch - California overwintering population |
| <b>Species Within 5 Miles of Project Area</b> | Sandy beach tiger beetle                      |
| American badger                               | Seaside bird's-beak                           |
| California red-legged frog                    | Southern tarplant                             |
| Refugio manzanita                             | Tidewater goby                                |
| Santa Barbara honeysuckle                     | Western pond turtle                           |
| Santa Ynez false lupine                       | White-tailed kite                             |
| Sonoran maiden fern                           | White-veined monardella                       |

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/7/2017



0 1 2 Miles



**3.4.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Discussion

- a) The Proposed Project has been determined to not result in potential for significant impact to sensitive, candidate, or special status species with the inclusion of **Biological Resource** avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. Given that the majority of the site to be impacted is within or adjacent to developed areas, there is little habitat to support sensitive plant and wildlife species that have been historically documented within the vicinity of the Proposed Project area. Oaks are regarded as special by the County of Santa Barbara. Some coast live oaks will be disturbed and some removed as part of the widening of the entrance road, but shall be mitigated for at the ratio required by the County of Santa Barbara. The inclusion of the proposed mitigation would result in less than significant impact.
- b) The Proposed Project area is located adjacent to riparian oak-sycamore woodland and El Capitán Creek. All development shall be sited, designed, and constructed to minimize impacts of grading, paving, construction of roads and structures, runoff, and erosion on native vegetation. Impacts to vegetation shall be consistent with the County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Land Use Plan and Gaviota Coastal Plan. Coastal sage scrub is present to the east of the entrance road, but will be largely or entirely avoided by restricting construction adjacent to and west of the entrance road. Existing oak trees and other native trees shall be protected in place to the maximum extent practicable. Non-native trees that are within a designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat zone, within 50 feet of a stream, or used as habitat by monarch butterflies shall also be protected in place to the maximum extent practicable. Protection of trees shall include minimizing impact within a radius of 5x the diameter of the tree's trunk at breast height to prevent adversely affecting root zone aeration and stability of trees to remain. The minimum number of trees, especially oak trees, shall be removed that are necessary to provide the facilities necessary to continue effective operation of the state beach. Appropriate mitigation shall be provided for their loss. Similarly, impacts to riparian vegetation as well as land within 100 feet of the creek will be limited to the extent feasible and appropriate mitigation shall be provided for any loss. Revegetation shall use local native species. Further discussion may be found in **Section 3.10 (Land Use and Planning)**. The implementation of the above measures and mitigation would result in less than significant impact.
- c) Work associated with replacement of the culvert that crosses the entrance road for the Proposed Project would take place within the bed of El Capitán Creek, which supports features that qualify as wetlands/waters regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Any temporary or permanent impacts to wetlands/waters would be avoided to the maximum extent feasible and mitigated for as instructed by the aforementioned agencies. However, removing the culvert and replacing it with a bridge will restore the creek to a more natural hydrology and allow for increased fish passage, which in turn may benefit the federally endangered Southern California DPS of steelhead. This would result in positive impacts to El Capitán Creek. Appropriate BMPs shall be implemented and

run-off from the Proposed Project shall be minimized in accordance with appropriate stormwater requirements before entering El Capitán Creek to minimize impacts to the creek or associated habitat from the Proposed Project. In addition, limiting culvert/bridge work outside of the wet season to the extent practicable will minimize impacts to the creek as well as to species, such as fish and amphibians, using the aquatic corridor.

- d) Migratory species with the potential to occur within or near the Proposed Project area include multiple bird species, steelhead, tidewater goby, California red-legged frog, and monarch butterfly. Standard measures such as conducting vegetation removal outside of the breeding season and conducting preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory birds within the vicinity of the Proposed Project area. Utilization of appropriate BMPs and minimization of run-off in the Proposed Project area to prevent sedimentation and/or erosion into El Capitán Creek will avoid impacts to the migration/movement of steelhead and tidewater goby. These measures will also help to minimize degradation of stream habitat quality for the California red-legged frog. Additional measures, such as limiting work within El Capitán Creek and its banks to outside of the wet season, will help to prevent interference with the frog's breeding, movement, and dispersal. Lastly, to prevent disturbance to autumnal aggregations of monarchs migrating south, removal of trees that could be used as roosting habitat should be avoided and pruning of such trees and construction activities near them should be avoided during the roosting season.
- e) The Proposed Project shall be compliant with all applicable policies established within the County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Land Use Plan and Gaviota Coast Plan. The Coastal Land Use Plan calls for oak trees to be protected, for there to be a minimum buffer strip of 100 feet around major streams, and for riparian vegetation to be protected and included in the buffer. The Gaviota Coast Plan calls for areas mapped as riparian Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) to have a development area setback buffer of 100 feet from the edge of either side of the top-of-bank of creeks or the existing edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is further. Appropriate public recreational trails, such as the trail parallel to the entrance road proposed to be modified, may be allowed within these setbacks or buffer areas. El Capitán Creek and the area alongside it is considered an ESH. While damage to all oaks within the Proposed Project area cannot be avoided, damage and removal will be limited to the maximum extent feasible and will be mitigated for at the ratio required by the County of Santa Barbara. Though the Coastal Plan states that no structures shall be located within the stream corridor, it makes exceptions for uses relevant to the Proposed Project including: public recreational trails, where such protection is necessary for public safety, and other development where the primary function is for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. All development, including dredging, filling, and grading within stream corridors, shall be limited to activities necessary for the construction of uses described above. Culverts and bridges may be permitted when no alternative route/location is feasible. All development in these areas shall incorporate

the best mitigation measures feasible. Riparian vegetation shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible and shall not be removed/cleared except for conditions such as the following that are applicable to the Proposed Project: maintenance of existing roads (e.g., entrance road) and/or free flowing channel conditions (e.g., replacing culvert with bridge), stream/creek restoration (e.g., improved hydrology by replacing culvert with bridge), or the provision of essential public services (e.g., improving public safety). When project activities require removal of riparian plant species, revegetation with local native plants shall be required. Any unavoidable riparian vegetation removal shall be conducted in compliance with the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat and resource protection policies and provisions of the Gaviota Coast Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Local Coastal Program. The local coastal plans also state to include a minimum development area setback buffer of 50 feet from the edge of trees used by monarch butterflies, to not remove the trees, and to not prune the trees during roosting season. It is possible that work along the west side of the northern portion of the entrance road could occur within a 50 foot buffer of trees used by monarch butterflies and possibly even affect some trees. However, development shall be designed to maximize avoidance of impacts to these trees. Policies found to be applicable to the Proposed Project as well as how they will be complied with may be found in **Section 3.10 (Land Use and Planning)**. Compliance with these policies shall result in a less than significant impact.

- f) No conservation plans were found to be approved for the Proposed Project site. This would result in no impact.

### 3.4.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

#### Biological Resources

- Bio-1:** All construction should be conducted between April 1 to November 15 to avoid impacts to the California red-legged frog as this timing coincides with the non-breeding season. Consultation with the USFWS should be conducted to address any concerns related to the California red-legged frog. Any recommendations provided by the agency shall be incorporated into the project to avoid potential species impacts. Other measures, such as seasonal restrictions and fencing, along with limiting activities to upland areas, could further serve to minimize harm/harassment to wildlife on-site.
- Bio-2:** Since the California red-legged frog non-breeding season window overlaps with the bird breeding season (March 15 to September 15), a survey for avian species will be performed within/near the project area no more than 1 week prior to the onset of activities scheduled during the bird breeding season and prior to demolition of any building. Should the Natural Resource Specialist discover any nesting birds then appropriate measures, as determined by the Natural Resource Specialist, will be implemented by the Contractor to minimize potential harm/harassment. These measures may include, but are not limited to, designation of the site as an ESA, temporary delay of construction, installation of temporary fencing, noise abatement, and/or establishment of a buffer around the nest. The Natural Resource Specialist shall, at his/her discretion, continue to survey activities throughout construction and determine measures, as needed, to prevent impacts to any breeding/nesting birds.
- Bio-3:** Construction activities should be avoided from October through February (especially from October to November) to prevent potential impacts to autumnal aggregations of monarch butterflies. If construction is planned to occur during this period, the Project area should be surveyed for monarchs by a Natural Resource Specialist. Should a monarch roost be discovered, construction within 500 feet of the roost habitat should be monitored for disturbance to monarchs. If disturbance is possible and/or documented then construction will cease until the monarch butterflies have departed the disturbance area. In addition, Project design must consider the following from Section 35-97.12 of the Santa Barbara County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance's Development Standards for Butterfly Tree Habitats:
- a. Butterfly trees shall not be removed except where they pose a serious threat to life or property, and shall not be pruned during roosting and nesting season.
  - b. Adjacent development shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from the trees.

- Bio-4:** Actions will be taken to not disturb any bat roosts on-site (e.g., roost in Union Pacific Railroad structure over entrance road). To the extent feasible, no work shall be allowed within 50 feet of an active roost, especially from March 1 to September 1 when maternity colonies with pups could be present. Additionally, clearing or grubbing should be avoided adjacent to any roost structure and combustion equipment (e.g., generators, pumps, vehicles) should not be parked or operated under or adjacent to such sites.
- Bio-5:** Should the California red-legged frog be observed, then the State's Representative shall be immediately notified. The State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist, shall suspend activities and promptly contact the USFWS. Work will not resume until coordination/consultation with the USFWS has been completed, and any recommended conservation measures have been implemented by the CDPR and its Contractors.
- Bio-6:** Project design and construction must be in accordance with Department Tree Protection measures, as outlined in the Natural Resources Handbook. Operations shall be conducted in a manner that avoids damage and minimizes disturbance to existing oaks and other trees. Tree pruning procedures shall comply with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300, "Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance - Standard Practices". The Contractor shall retain the services of an arborist, certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, to inspect all trees in and adjacent to the construction area, to recommend care, maintenance and protection of trees affected by construction during and after completion of the work, and to provide guidance on the repair of any tree damaged during the course of construction.
- Bio-7:** All excavations shall be kept outside the drip line of the canopies of existing trees and there will be no construction activities within 3 times Diameter Breast Height (DBH) of a tree, unless otherwise noted on the Project plans or approved by the Natural Resource Specialist. A biological monitor may be present during any activity within 5 times DBH of any tree.
- Bio-8:** Operations shall be conducted in a manner that avoids damage and minimizes disturbance to existing landscaping/trees. If any vegetation, not designated for trimming/removal, is damaged or destroyed, the Contractor shall repair the damage at no additional cost to the State. Damage is defined, without limitation, as any cutting, breaking, tearing, bruising, or skinning of the trunk, roots, or significant limbs. Should the Natural Resource Specialist determine that the damage is irreparable or that a tree has been destroyed, the Contractor shall compensate for the loss, as determined by the State's Representative and Natural Resource Specialist, at the Contractor's expense.
- Bio-9:** Temporary fencing (e.g., orange plastic fencing, silt fencing) shall be installed around the dripline of individual or groups of trees that will remain to prevent



potential damage. Where excavation is necessary within a tree's dripline, a Natural Resource Specialist shall flag or mark the area to protect the tree from injury. Protective measures (e.g., plates, plywood sheets) shall also be placed on the ground to further reduce the likelihood of disturbance. Contractor shall be prohibited from working in flagged/protected locations and shall limit the use of heavy machinery near trees that are temporarily fenced.

**Bio-10:** During trenching/digging, no roots 2 inches in diameter or larger shall be disturbed without the supervision/direction of a licensed Arborist or Natural Resource Specialist. All roots 2 inches in diameter or greater that need to be removed shall be carefully excavated and cleanly cut to minimize damage to the tree's root system. Such activities shall be supervised/directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist.

**Bio-11:** No parking of equipment or storage of vehicles, materials, or debris shall be allowed underneath a tree's canopy or within 5 times DBH of any tree, whichever is greater, unless on existing asphalt or concrete.

**Bio-12:** El Capitán Creek and other sensitive habitat (e.g., coastal sage scrub, riparian) near the Proposed Project boundaries shall be designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESAs) and strictly avoided, unless otherwise noted on the Proposed Project plans or directed by the State's Representative in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist. All ESAs shall be depicted on the Proposed Project plans and no encroachment (i.e., workers, equipment, materials) will be allowed in these locations at any time. Sensitive vegetation or resources will be marked and protected by temporary fencing or other acceptable method. Work limits will be clearly marked in the field and confirmed by the Natural Resource Specialist prior to the start of operations. All staked/fenced boundaries will be maintained throughout the construction period.

**Bio-13:** Access routes, staging areas, and the total footprint of disturbance shall be limited to the minimum number/size necessary to complete the Proposed Project. Routes of travel and work boundaries will be configured to avoid unnecessary intrusions into the surrounding habitat.

**Bio-14:** A Natural Resource Specialist will be made available for both the pre-construction and construction phases to review plans, address resource issues, and periodically monitor ongoing work. The biologist shall maintain communications with the State's Representative to ensure that concerns related to sensitive species/habitats are appropriately and lawfully managed.

**Bio-15:** Construction dust impacts will be offset by implementing measures that will appropriately reduce/control emissions generated by the Proposed Project (e.g., water truck). The Natural Resource Specialist will periodically inspect the work

area to ensure that construction-related activities do not generate excessive amounts of dust or cause other disturbances.

**Bio-16:** Should any areas require hydroseeding for temporary erosion control, then only local, native plant species, approved by the Natural Resource Specialist, shall be used. No invasive exotics shall be included in any proposed seed palette. Similarly, mitigation/restoration plantings shall consist only of native trees and plants. Species with a High or Moderate Rating (Table 1) on the California Invasive Plant Council's California Invasive Plant Inventory (2006) are prohibited.

**Bio-17:** For reasons of safety, areas of excavation (e.g., pits, trenches, holes) shall be covered overnight or during periods of inactivity. Routes of escape from excavated pits and trenches shall also be installed for wildlife that could potentially become entrapped. These locations will be regularly inspected by the Contractor and immediately inspected prior to filling. Should any wildlife be discovered, then the Contractor shall contact the State's Representative or Natural Resource Specialist to obtain instructions on how to safely remove the wildlife from the trench/hole or suspend work at the excavation site until the entrapped animal can be relocated by the Natural Resource Specialist.

**Bio-18:** The Proposed Project area will be kept clear of trash to avoid attracting predators. All food and garbage will be placed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site. Following construction, any trash, debris, or rubbish remaining within the work limits shall be collected and hauled off to an appropriate facility.

**Bio-19:** A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan shall be prepared for CDPR's approval that identifies the BMPs to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, sand, and surface water runoff; the management of stockpiles; spill prevention from equipment; and dust control during all excavation, grading, and trenching.

**Bio-20:** All earth or other material that has been transported onto park roads by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity shall be promptly removed.

**Bio-21:** All equipment engines shall be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and Federal requirements.

**Bio-22:** The changing of oil, refueling, and other actions (e.g., washing of concrete, paint, or equipment) that could result in the release of a hazardous substance shall be restricted to approved/designated areas that are a minimum of 100 feet from any sensitive habitat (e.g., coastal sage scrub, riparian) or waterway. Such sites shall be surrounded with berms, sandbags, or other barriers to further prevent the accidental spill of fuel, oil, or chemicals. Any discharges shall be

immediately contained, cleaned up, and properly disposed, in accordance with the toxic material control and spill-response plan.

- Bio-23:** Storage and staging areas will be placed a minimum of 100 feet from any drainage or other water body. Such sites shall occur in existing developed or disturbed locations (e.g., paved or previously hardened surfaces) that have been reviewed and approved by the State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist and Cultural Resource Specialist. All areas used for stockpiling shall be kept free from trash and other waste. No project-related items shall be stored outside approved staging areas at any time.
- Bio-24:** All active construction areas shall be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions.
- Bio-25:** Water shall be applied using water trucks or sprinkler systems at sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency shall be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Watering shall be conducted in a manner that prevents any runoff into ESAs. Reclaimed (non-potable) water shall be used, whenever possible.
- Bio-26:** All construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any paved or unpaved surfaces within the Proposed Project area.
- Bio-27:** Spark arrestors or turbo charging and fire extinguishers shall be required for all motorized equipment and heavy equipment.
- Bio-28:** Heavy equipment shall be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce chance of fire.
- Bio-29:** Construction crews shall park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush.
- Bio-30:** All internal combustion engines used for any purpose on the Proposed Project site shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. All equipment and trucks shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.
- Bio-31:** Areas temporarily disturbed by work-related activities shall be hydro seeded/landscaped with locally-derived native seeds/plants in accordance with a CDPR-approved landscaping plan. The re-vegetation will serve to visually enhance the site, and offset the loss of trees and shrubs from construction.
- Bio-32:** Pets belonging to project personnel shall not be permitted within the construction boundaries at any time.

- Bio-33:** All work related to the Proposed Project shall be performed from Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. No construction shall be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, or State holidays, unless approved in advance by the State's Representative/District Staff. Additionally, no nighttime operations (including lighting) shall be authorized to complete the Proposed Project.
- Bio-34:** Conditions set forth in the CDP, which will be issued by the County of Santa Barbara, shall be observed and implemented as part of the Proposed Project.
- Bio-35:** Any recommendations received from the USFWS during consultation on the California red-legged frog shall be incorporated into construction activities to avoid/minimize impacts to the species.

## 3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

### 3.5.1 Environmental Setting

#### Prehistoric Setting

Scientific evidence has documented human presence on the Channel Islands as early as 13,000 years ago (Johnson et al. 2002) while the earliest evidence of human presence on the mainland has been dated to 10,000 to 11,000 years ago.

The time period between 13,000 and 9,000 years ago is referred to by archaeologists as the Paleo-Indian, Paleo-Coastal or Pre-Millingstone Period. At this time, the inhabitants of the Santa Barbara region lived in small groups and used watercraft to travel from the mainland to the current day Channel Islands.

Archaeological evidence in the region dating to this period include sites at Arlington Springs on Santa Rosa Island (ca. 13,000 years ago), at Daisy Cave on San Miguel Island (ca. 11,000 years ago), at Vandenberg Air Force Base (ca. 9,000 years ago), and near Nipomo (ca. 10,000 years ago).

Archaeological data from coastal areas of Santa Barbara County that date from 7,500 to 3,200 years ago, indicate that people at this time were hunting a broad range of marine and terrestrial animals and gathering a diverse range of plants for food and other uses. This period was known as the Millingstone Horizon or Oak Grove Culture due to the abundance of stone grinding implements and core tools. Climatic data show that human populations fluctuated as temperatures and precipitation changed. As sea water temperature rose and fell, affecting the availability of marine food sources, so did populations along the Santa Barbara Channel coast.

During the Middle Period, 3,200 to 800 years ago, deep sea fishing and mammal hunting became more important. New tools including shellfish hooks and plank canoes (tomols) were utilized in the coastal regions to catch a wider variety and a larger number of fish. Locally available asphaltum was used to seal and caulk canoe planks.

Between 1,100 and 700 years ago, two long droughts affected the region, which resulted in increased warfare and competition over scarce resources.

During the Late Period, from 800 years ago until the establishment of the Spanish missions, two-thirds of the population lived near the coast, although settlements were also found in oak woodland communities. The size of settlements increased and more complex social and political organizations were formed in these larger settlements.

El Capitán SB is located in the ethnographic Chumash culture area of coastal Santa Barbara County. The Park is within the region designated as the Barbareño linguistic area. The Barbareño Chumash people occupied the coastal strip from Point Conception to Punta Gorda in Ventura County.

One ethnographic village, *Ajuahuilashmu*, was identified by Rogers (1929) at El Capitán State Beach. According to Rogers the name of this village came from J. P. Harrington (Rogers 1929). Another variation on the name is *Ajuilashmu* (El Capitán Canyon 2007). The native name for El Capitán is '*Ahwawilashmu*, which is tentatively translated as 'dancing place' (John Johnson, personal communication, 2011). The General Plan for El Capitán State Beach mistakenly calls the village *Ahwin* (State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation 1979), however, that is actually the Chumash name for Las Llagas Canyon just downcoast from El Capitán (John Johnson, personal communication, 2011).

#### **Historic Setting**

A land expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá passed through this area in 1769-1770 on his way to locate Monterey Bay. Father Junipero Serra travelled with the expedition to select locations to establish Franciscan missions. Missions founded near El Capitán were the Santa Barbara mission founded in 1786 and Santa Inés founded in 1804. During the Mission Period timeframe of 1769-1833, many Chumash people succumbed to diseases introduced by the Spanish, while others were quickly integrated into the mission system resulting in the loss of much of the native culture.

In 1834, secularization of the church resulted in large tracts of mission lands being granted to individuals as a reward for their services. El Capitán SB was part of the Cañada del Corral Mexican land grant given to José Dolores Ortega in 1841. It has been suggested but not confirmed that the name El Capitán came from José's grandfather, Captain Don Jose Francisco de Ortega. The elder Ortega was the chief scout during the Portolá expedition and later became the first commander at the Santa Barbara Presidio. He received the Nuestra Señora del Refugio land grant in 1795 for his services to Spain. José Dolores Ortega added the Cañada del Corral grant to the family's holding.

Bruno Francisco Orella first leased the Rancho Cañada del Corral in the 1860s and ultimately purchased the land in 1866. In 1901 after Orella's death, his holdings were split among his 11 children. Eventually a portion of the property came to be owned by the Gila Land Company, which in 1951 offered the property already being referred to as El Capitan Beach for sale as a public park. The president of the company at the time was a Mr. Joe G. Bracker (LAT 28 October 1951).

In 1953 the State of California purchased 143 acres of the former Rancho Cañada del Corral from the Gila Land Co. and the Rhode Island Estates Corporation for \$250,000 to create El Capitán State Beach. The money for the acquisition came via matching funds from the California State Park Commission and the County of Santa Barbara under County planning director Richard Whitehead (LAT 13 October 1953). When the property was surveyed by state Division of Beaches and Parks staff in 1954, it contained a number of standing structures including five cabins; two frame cottages; a residence with sheet metal siding and roofing and a concrete floor; a grocery/office, a restroom/shower building, three restroom buildings; two garages; a store room; a utility building; a timber bridge; and a dance floor. A number of the structures were noted as being in poor condition at the time (CDBP 1954).

Although these structures were demolished prior to the development of the state beach campground five years following acquisition, historic non-native landscape plantings identified during a recent archaeological survey may date to the period of the property's use as a private campground (Mealey 2018).

The existing California State Parks-constructed buildings date to 1958 and later, have been previously surveyed and recommended as Not Eligible for listing in either the California or National Registers (Cotterman and Allen 2001). Of these buildings, the Entry Kiosk and Office (CDPR Facility #s 519-A-1-01-0-001 and 519-A-1-10-0-001) are within the proposed project's APE (see Figure 2-4).

Most of the buildings are of concrete block construction. They date to 1958 - five years after the park was acquired - along with the campground layout and circulation. Buildings following standard Parks plans were built in these areas: the entrance (kiosk, office); campgrounds (combination buildings, comfort stations, campfire center, campsite layout, and campground furnishings); maintenance area (utility building and garage); and residential area (two identical houses).

In 1967 the Legislature approved purchase of an additional 21 acres including the area of the current Group Campground. Growing threats of development to the lands across the highway from the park led to a public/private fund-raising effort in 2002 that raised \$500,000 to purchase 2,500 acres of land known as El Capitán Ranch.

#### **Archaeological Work**

Numerous archaeological survey and testing projects, site recordation work and monitoring of development projects have taken place over the years at El Capitán State Beach. The earliest documented collections were made by Lorenzo Yates, who collected over two thousand projectile points from sites at El Capitán State Beach between the late 1800s and early 1900s. It is unclear which specific sites these were collected from. The collection is housed at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

David Banks Rogers was the first to excavate a site at El Capitán State Beach in the 1920s. At that time, Rogers identified the site as the Canaliño (probable ancestors of the Barbareño Chumash people) village of Ajuahuilashmu. He noted the depth of the site as reaching 5 feet in its richest area. The village is now identified as two archaeological sites (CA-SBA-84 and CA-SBA-117).

There are no recorded archaeological resources within the project area. However, a 1954 map (California Division of Beaches and Parks 1954) shows the location of several cabins and related structures within the project APE (see Historic Setting, above, for additional information). During the consultation site visit, possible remnants of these cabins were noted, including structure pads, bricks, and landscaping vegetation (nasturtiums, other ornamental flowers, etc.).

There are three recorded archaeological sites near to the project area:

CA-SBA-84 is recorded on the terrace to the east and above the entrance road. The original site record is from Harrison (1957). At its closest point the site boundary is only 40 feet (12 meters) away from the project area with a difference in elevation of 20-30 feet. It has been documented as a habitation site. This site was extensively collected by L. Yates in the late 1800s-early 1900s, excavated by D.B. Rogers in the 1920s, and excavated by M. Glassow in the early 1970s (Glassow 1990; Rogers 1929). Yates collected over 2,000 projectile points from five sites at El Capitán SB including CA-SBA-84. Rogers removed at least five burials from this site. Pothunting has occurred here over the years and other disturbances have been noted by previous recorders. The site was most recently tested by Glassow in 1989/1990. A wide variety of artifacts were recovered during that testing including shell beads, manos, metates, pestles, projectile points, etc. Two fragments of Pismo Clam were radiocarbon dated, resulting in dates of 5090 $\pm$ 180 years before present (BP) and 4600 $\pm$ 90 years BP (uncorrected). Based on the temporally diagnostic artifacts and radiocarbon dates, Glassow determined that CA-SBA-84 had at least three periods of occupation: one from ca. 5000 years BP, one from between 2500 and 1250 years BP, and the last after 1500 years BP (Glassow 1990:48).

CA-SBA-126 is located in and around the Day-Use parking lot and area of El Capitán State Beach, over 150 feet (50 meters) from the southern end of the project area. This site is a habitation site with at least five burials (four were removed prior to 1957 and an additional eroding burial was removed by T. Hudson in 1973). Auger testing conducted in the 1970s on the eastern edge of this site was negative (Stillinger 1975). Additional auger testing in the 1980s was also negative (Hines et al 1989). Auger testing of an exercise area on the northeast end of the day use parking lot was negative for cultural deposits (Sampson 1997). In 2000 and 2001 archaeological investigations were undertaken by R. Pettus and M. Sampson (Pettus and Sampson 2001) for a restroom rehabilitation project throughout El Capitán State Beach. Each location was surveyed in 2001 for the presence of cultural resources. In the Summer of 2000 and in March 2001 at location number 1, State Archaeologist Roy Pettus conducted an intensive pedestrian survey followed by both subsurface auger tests and underground test trenches to the depth of 1 meter, where in situ sandstone layers were encountered. Both the survey and subsurface testing proved negative for the presence of cultural resources. Archaeological monitoring was recommended at location number 1 because of its proximity to CA-SBA-126. Auger testing in 2009 on the south side of the site resulted in the recovery of a few pieces of chert debitage (McFarland 2009). Archaeological inspection of the areas in and around the Restroom #1 Replacement Project in the Day Use parking lot occurred in 2008 (Mealey 2008). Scattered shell fragments were observed on the slope to the north of the bike path (along a vague foot path) and just behind the existing camp store. Geotechnical testing was carried out for the Restroom Replacement Project within the Day Use Parking lot at El Capitán State Beach. Archaeological and Native American monitoring of the geotechnical auger drilling was undertaken at all four auger locations (Greenaway 2008). No cultural materials were observed. The auger holes were between 20 and 30 feet deep. Monitoring of the actual project work was also negative for cultural materials. Additional field inspections were carried out in 2011 (Mealey 2011), at that time several possible flakes and debitage were observed, however there was some concern that the “flakes” were the result of gravel crushing operations due to the presence of chert mixed in with



the road and pathway gravel in this area. Additional monitoring in 2012 resulted in the recovery of a “donut stone” (digging stick weight) on the eastern edge of the day-use parking lot (Collier 2013; Wills et al. 2013).

CA-SBA-131 is recorded as being on a terrace that was mostly removed during construction of Highway 101, with a remnant still existing on the northeast corner of the frontage road and the entrance road into the private campground on the north side of Highway 101 (Schwartz 1959). This portion of the site is located over 300 feet (95 meters) from the project area. However, it is not known how extensive this site may have been prior to highway construction, and to our knowledge, no archaeological testing has been conducted on the south side of Highway 101. This site is documented as a food-processing site. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were excavated by de Barros in 1989 and Sheets in 1991. Both found evidence of subsurface components on the north side of Highway 101.

Due to the proximity of archaeological sites to the proposed project area, it is recommended that a qualified archaeological monitor and a Native Chumash monitor be present during ground-disturbing construction work, in the event of accidental discovery of buried cultural materials. To ensure the protection of a new discovery, project work will be stopped at the location of the find and be redirected to another area of the project.

### 3.5.1 Environmental Impact Evaluation

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) The two architectural resources located within the proposed project area (Entry Kiosk and Office; CDPR Facility #s 519-A-1-01-0-001 and 519-A-1-10-0-001) have both been previously surveyed and recommended as Not Eligible for listing in either the California or National Registers (Cotterman and Allen 2001). The demolition of these

buildings will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. This would result in less than significant impact.

- b) Based on current and past archaeological work history, the Proposed Project would not result in an adverse change to any archaeological resource due to no known significant resources existing within the Proposed Project area. Due to the close proximity of known archaeological sites, measures shall be in place, including monitoring of ground disturbance, to ensure that any unforeseen resources can be protected in place and documented sufficiently. This would result in less than significant impact.
- c) No unique paleontological resources or sites have been identified within the Proposed Project site, nor are there any unique geologic features present. This should result in no impact with the inclusion of measure **Paleo-1**.
- d) There are no known human remains within the Proposed Project area and none are expected. Mitigation measure **Arch-3** ensures that should any be discovered, that the discovery is handled appropriately in order to remain compliant with all applicable state and federal laws. This would result in no impact.

#### 3.5.2 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

##### Archaeological Resources (Arch)

**Arch-1:** All ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor. Monitors shall observe all new earthwork and inspect back dirt piles for artifacts and/or other cultural constituents. Monitoring logs shall be completed for each day that monitoring is undertaken, including photographs of the Proposed Project area and records of construction activities. Any discoveries (including diagnostic isolates) shall be accurately plotted in order to document their distribution and create working field maps and final report-quality maps.

**Arch-2:** If archaeological features, or potentially significant concentrations of artifacts or other cultural constituents are encountered during monitoring, all ground-disturbing activities will immediately be redirected away from the discovered resource to allow for its evaluation and appropriate treatment. This evaluation will be undertaken by the archaeological Principal Investigator at the Southern Service Center or their designee. The discovery site shall be flagged to protect it from further construction impacts. Once the feature or deposit has been exposed to the extent possible, CDPR archaeologists shall assess the eligibility of the feature or deposit and make a determination as to avoidance, protection, or implementation of mitigation measures such as data recovery.

**Arch-3:** In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains within the Proposed Project area the following steps shall be taken. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the location of the discovery or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the

Santa Barbara County Medical Examiner has been contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the Medical Examiner determines the remains to be Native American, the Medical Examiner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.

The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent/s (MLD) of the deceased Native American. As provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the MLD may make recommendation for treatment or disposition with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods. Alternatively, when the conditions listed below occur, an authorized representative of CDPR shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. The conditions are: (1) that the Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify an MLD, or (2) the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission, or (3) CDPR rejects the recommendation of the MLD, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to CDPR. California Department of Parks and Recreation's policy regarding the treatment of human remains is consistent with these guidelines.

**Arch-4:** Utilities necessary for the functioning of the Proposed Project shall be aligned to avoid impact to known archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Resources.

Also see Tribal Cultural Resources (section 3.17) below.

#### **Paleontological Resources (Paleo)**

**Paleo-1:** A qualified vertebrate paleontologist shall be contacted in the rare instance that such resources are found during ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Project.

## 3.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

### 3.6.1 Environmental Setting

#### Geotechnical Evaluation

A geotechnical soils investigation will be performed to ensure that the site is suitable for the improvements being proposed. The construction of the proposed improvements will incorporate conclusions and recommendations from the geotechnical report when it is prepared for the Proposed Project.

#### Geology

Geologic units in El Capitán State Beach include the Monterey Formation, terrace deposits, and alluvium.

The Monterey Formation (Miocene marine) is characteristically a series of hard, laminated platy shales, softer shales, phosphatic shales, limestones, and diatomite. It is notable for its unusually large amount of organic debris, composed largely of remains of microscopic plant and animal life.

Upper Monterey shale occurs on the hillside north of the unit, above the 60 meter (200 foot) contour. This subunit is strongly resistant to erosion. Since the shales are hard, but closely fractured, they form high but rounded hills and narrow, steep-sided canyons.

The bluffs along the shoreline of El Capitán are lower Monterey shale. This subunit is weakly resistant to erosion and tends to form landslides. It weathers to a deep, heavy adobe soil which supports only grasses and annual herbs under natural conditions.

Most of the unit's uplands are terrace deposits (Quaternary in age). These terraces generally slope seaward and lie 12 to 30 meters (40 to 100 feet) above sea level. Some fossils have been reported near the base of these deposits.

The youngest deposit in the unit is alluvium (Holocene in age), located in the lowlands bordering El Capitán Creek. This alluvium is derived from the soils and rock present in the drainage basin.

#### Soils

The lowlands along El Capitán Creek are overlain with Ballard variant stony fine sandy loam. This gently sloping to moderately sloping soil occupies alluvial fans. Typically the surface layer is dark grayish brown. Runoff in this area is medium and erosion hazard is slight.

The Diablo soil series overlays the terrace land in the western portion of the unit. These clay soils are well drained and are formed in soft shales and mudstones. Shrink-swell potential is very high for all Diablo clay soils.

Coastal bluffs consist of extremely steep breaks extending from upland terraces to the coastal beaches below. Most of these areas are subjected to wave action during stormy periods, and some areas are subjected to wave action at normal high tides. During storms or high tides, large portions of the terraces may slough away. Construction of impervious surfaces, such as roads and parking areas, on terrace land will concentrate water runoff and may cause deep gullies to form if drainage systems are improperly designed.

The area office and service yard, and the campground to the south of these facilities are on Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loam. This complex consists of 45 percent Milpitas fine sandy loam and 40 percent Positas fine sandy loam. These are strongly sloping soils occupying unpredictable patterns. They typically have a rapid runoff rate and are highly erodible. All soils in the unit have severe limitations as septic tank absorption fields, except for the Ballard series which is rated as moderate.

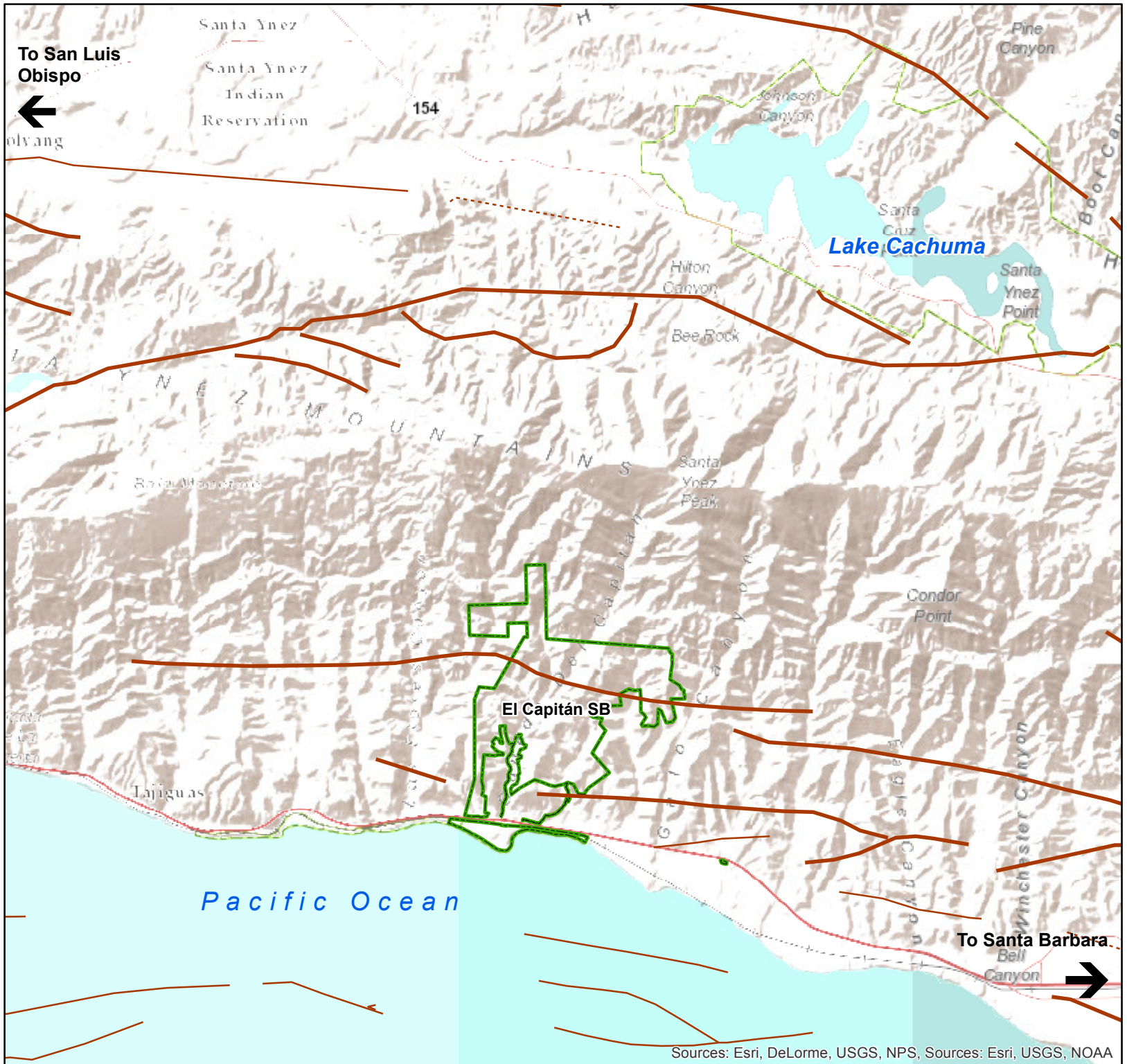
#### **Seismicity**

El Capitán State Beach lies between two major Quaternary faults which have had no known displacement during the last 200 years, but have been active in the past 500,000 years. These faults are the South Branch of the Santa Ynez and the Arroyo Parida. The South Branch of the Santa Ynez fault joins the Santa Ynez fault north of Gaviota. The Santa Ynez extends from the coastline at Jalama eastward along the northern edge of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the upper Ojai Valley where it may "join" the San Cayetano fault. At its nearest point, it is about 11 kilometers (7 miles) north of the state beach. The Arroyo Parida fault is shorter, extending from about Coal Oil Point eastward along the southern edge of the Santa Ynez Mountains. At its nearest point, it is about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from El Capitán State Beach.

Several active and potentially active faults lie immediately offshore; thus the chances for the occurrence of a tsunami (seismic seawave) are fairly high.

Studies have been completed which estimate the size of the 100-year and 500-year tsunamis for several other areas along the southern California coast. Waves generated by tsunamis create a sloshing or run-up effect near shore. The extent of run-up is dependent on several factors, including the topography of the offshore seafloor. The largest 500-year run-up calculated for the Ventura area was about 7 meters (22 feet). The calculated run-up for the area around the City of Santa Barbara was about 3 meters (11 feet). Until a more detailed analysis is completed, it is prudent to allow for tsunamis with a run-up of 8 meters (25 feet).

# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Faults Map (Figure 3-3)



## Legend

### Faults

- Certain
- - - Inferred
- . . . Concealed

El Capitan SB Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/7/2017



0 1.5 3 Miles



**3.6.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



#### Discussion

- a) The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death:
  - i. Review of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map found that there are no “Zones of Required Investigation” that could result in a threat to public health and safety.
  - ii. The lack of fault lines in the vicinity of the Proposed Project shall minimize the potential for strong seismic shaking. No active faults are known to cross the Proposed Project site; therefore the potential for damage from their rupture is low.
  - iii. The potential for seismic-related ground failure including that from liquefaction shall be minimal due to the relatively dense nature of the subsurface soil and deep groundwater level.
  - iv. Landslide potential shall also be minimal. The site is located in gently sloping terrain and there are no significant slopes in the area of proposed construction.

Low likelihood of these events would result in less than significant impact.

- b) Temporary soil instability may occur during construction. Grading shall take place to prepare surfaces for development of paving, landscaping, and structures. Appropriate soil stability BMPs, including development and implementation of a SWPPP shall ensure impacts remain less than significant.
- c) The results of geotechnical investigations shall be used to determine the type of foundation needed to support the facilities being constructed. The site location should not be prone to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse with proper foundation design. With the appropriate design utilized, impacts shall be less than significant.
- d) The results of geotechnical investigations shall be used to determine the type of foundation needed to support the facilities being constructed. The site location should not be subject to expansive soils. Appropriate design change or site location change would take place if expansive soils were encountered. This should result in no impact.
- e) The results of geotechnical investigations and further soils analysis shall take place to determine how to effectively handle the wastewater load created by the new facilities. Those facilities must be in place before operation of the Proposed Project may begin. With recommendations in place based on the geotechnical report to support the needed septic facilities, impact should be less than significant with mitigation.



### **3.6.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

#### **Geology and Soils (Geo)**

**Geo-1:** After a large earthquake event (i.e., magnitude 5.0 or greater within 50 miles of the Proposed Project site), the Construction Manager will arrange for appropriate inspection of all project structures and features for damage as soon as possible after the event. If any structures or features have been damaged, they will be closed to park visitors, volunteers, residents, contractors, and staff until repairs have been made.

Also see Air Quality (section 3.3) and Hydrology and Water Quality (section 3.9).

### 3.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

#### 3.7.1 Environmental Setting

Greenhouse gas emissions shall occur from the operation of demolition, grading and construction equipment within the Proposed Project's footprint. These emissions would be temporary and amounts would be based on the equipment used and duration of use. Emissions from the operation of the Proposed Project's facilities would include power equipment for the maintenance of landscaping and the use of natural gas in water heating and other park operations. These emissions would be minimal.

#### 3.7.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Discussion

- a) Construction equipment would create a short-term release of additional GHGs during the construction phase of the Proposed Project. The expansion of facilities beyond the existing level will result in additional modest increases in operational GHGs for activities such as lighting, and water and wastewater pumping. These additional emissions shall be minimal and result in less than significant impacts.
- b) CDPR is aware of the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. However, no specific CDPR policy currently exists for the reduction of emissions. The Proposed Project would comply with the California Building Code, which would reduce energy needs. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impact.

#### 3.7.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

##### Greenhouse Gases

None necessary, however, numerous building standards required under the California Building Code would result in fewer emissions associated with the operation of facilities including the office and entrance kiosk.

### 3.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

#### 3.8.1 Environmental Setting

Hazardous materials have the potential to exist within the existing kiosk and office. The existing entrance kiosk, office, and culvert will be tested for hazardous materials. If any facilities to be demolished test positive for hazardous materials, they will be disclosed in succeeding hazmat reports.

#### Regulatory Hazardous Waste Databases

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database and the California State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database were evaluated to determine whether hazardous materials are or have been present on the Proposed Project site. The EnviroStor database includes the following site types: those listed on the National Priorities List (Federal Superfund sites); State Superfund and Military Facilities; Voluntary Cleanup; and School sites. The GeoTracker database includes geographic information and data on underground fuel tanks, fuel pipelines, and public drinking water supplies, and contains information regarding leaking underground fuel tanks. This database also includes information and data on non-leaking underground fuel tank cleanup programs, including “Spills-Leaks-Investigations-Cleanups Sites,” U.S. Department of Defense Sites, and Land Disposal programs.

#### 3.8.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

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d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Discussion:

- a) No significant hazard shall result to the public or environment due to the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Lead or asbestos has the potential to be present within the existing kiosk and office that will be demolished. Appropriate testing and disposal methods shall be implemented to reduce impact to a less-than-significant level.
- b) There is no reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions anticipated that would result in the release of hazardous materials, substances or waste into the environment. Appropriate measures will contain any materials if they are found in the demolition of the existing kiosk and office and shall be handled safely. This should result in no impact.
- c) There is no potential for the release of hazardous emissions, materials, substances or waste by the Proposed Project. There are no known existing or proposed schools found within a quarter mile of the Proposed Project site. This should result in no impact.

- d) Review of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, also referred to as the Cortese List, determined that no sites exist within the Proposed Project's footprint. There is a single well site, named Covarrubias Well, which was remediated and closed in 1995 within the backcountry area of the Park, north of US Highway 101. No sites were found that include any type of land use restriction that would limit the ability to construct and operate the Proposed Project. This should result in no impact.
- e) The Proposed Project is not known to be within an airport land use plan. Review of maps showing the airport influence area for both Santa Barbara Municipal Airport and Santa Ynez Airport do not include El Capitán SB. These two airports are approximately equidistant from the Park. There is no potential for safety hazard to people residing or working in the Proposed Project area. This should result in no impact.
- f) The Proposed Project is not located in the vicinity of a private airstrip. There is no potential for safety hazard to people residing or working in the Proposed Project area. This should result in no impact.
- g) The completed Proposed Project would not impair the implementation or physically interfere with the implementation of an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, construction of a new bridge to replace the culvert could temporarily impact access to the Park through the main entrance road. The maintenance and Park residents' road at El Capitán could be used as an alternative evacuation or emergency access route. Applicable to the Park would be the State of California's Emergency Plan (2017), which would not be impacted by the completed Proposed Project. Use of the alternative access route for emergency and evacuation use during the construction of the new bridge would reduce impact to a less-than-significant level.
- h) The Proposed Project is located in an area of the Park designated "Very High" for risk of wildfire according to the State of California's Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The Proposed Project will comply with the 2013 California Fire Code and State Fire Marshal regulations. This would reduce impact to a less-than-significant level.

#### **3.8.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

##### **Hazardous Materials/Waste**

- Haz Mat-1:** The Proposed Project shall comply with all abatement and/or demolition specifications necessary to ensure that hazardous waste that may exist within the existing entrance kiosk, office, and/or culvert are handled and disposed of safely and in accordance with applicable laws.

## 3.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

### 3.9.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project site exists within the El Capitán Creek watershed, which is part of the greater Santa Barbara Coastal Watershed. El Capitán Creek is an ephemeral stream that is approximately 5.79 miles in length and drains a watershed of approximately 6.42 square miles. El Capitán Creek intersects the entrance road at the culvert which is the start of the Proposed Project location. The creek is classified by the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a Riverine System. It supports features that qualify as wetlands/waters regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Elevation within the watershed ranges from sea level at the mouth of the creek to 4,295 feet at the headwaters located within the Los Padres National Forest.

#### Flooding

As shown in **Figure 3-4**, the 100-year floodplain does inundate near the Proposed Project site due to proximity of El Capitán Creek, however, the Proposed Project site does not encroach into the 100-year floodplain.

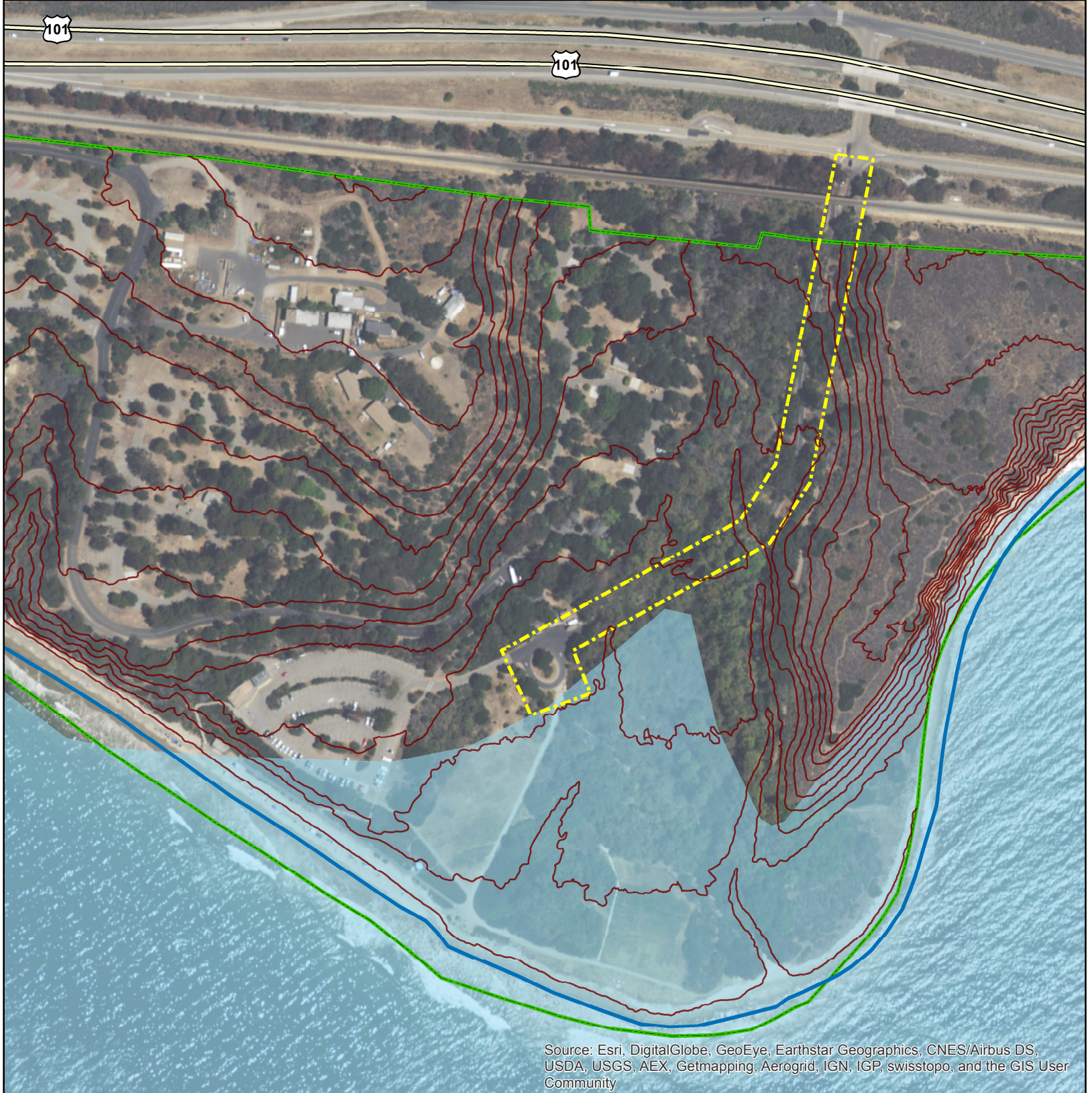
#### Sea Level Rise

As a coastal unit, the impact that sea level rise will have on El Capitán should be continually assessed. The change in mean high tide based on sea level rise of five (5) feet can be seen in **Figure 3-5**. The coastal bluff will act as a natural barrier to protect Park resources, but will be continually at risk of erosion due to sea level rise, wave run-up and storm surge. The location of the Proposed Project improvements to the entrance facilities are inland enough such that there will be less than significant impact from a higher sea level.



# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project

## 100-Year Flood Zone (Figure 3-4)



### Legend

- 10ft Contours
- Current Mean High Tide
- Project Limit of Work
- Park Boundary
- 100 Year FloodZone

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/11/2017



0 250 500 Feet





# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project

## Sea Level Rise (Figure 3-5)



### Legend

- +— Union Pacific Rail Line
- Current Mean High Tide
- California\_Sea\_Level\_Rise5ft\_NOAA
- - - Project Limit of Work
- Park Boundary

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/11/2017



0 440 880 Feet





**3.9.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) Implementation of the Proposed Project would be conducted in accordance with all applicable local, State, and/or Federal water quality control standards and waste discharge requirements. BMPs would also be incorporated into operations to ensure that off-site sedimentation and excess erosion is controlled.

Prior to the start of construction, the Proposed Project would require a General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The General Permit requires that a Notice of Intent be filed with the RWQCB. By filing a Notice of Intent, CDPH agrees to the conditions outlined in the General Permit. One of the conditions of the General Permit is the development and the implementation of a SWPPP. With implementation of the applicable permit requirements and BMPs, the Proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Therefore, no impacts would be anticipated (**Section 3.9.3**).

- b) All water requirements for the Proposed Project would be met by existing groundwater supplies within El Capitán SB. Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in a substantial depletion of groundwater supply within the Park. Park operations will continue to be supplied by groundwater within the Park. These include visitor use within campgrounds and day-use areas as well as Park operation facilities. Irrigation shall be minimized to any landscape plantings and mitigation plantings that are planted. Mitigation plantings would only need water for a set period of time. Impact to groundwater supplies shall be less than significant.
- c) The Proposed Project would result in insignificant change in the drainage patterns of the site from an increase in impermeable surface from the widening of the entrance road. Removing the culvert under the entrance road and replacing it with a bridge will alter the creek in a beneficial way by allowing it to have a more natural hydrology. With the use of appropriate BMPs there should be less-than-significant impact due to erosion or siltation.
- d) The Proposed Project would result in insignificant change in the drainage patterns of the site. With the appropriate design of the site, including proper stormwater facilities

to convey drainage during heavy precipitation events, there should be less-than-significant potential for further on- or off-site flooding.

- e) The Proposed Project would not contribute runoff that would exceed existing stormwater drainage systems nor would it add substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. As mentioned above, there may be minimal additional run-off, but with appropriate design, this additional run-off would result in less-than-significant impact.
- f) Minimal additional sediment may enter the nearby El Capitán Creek adjacent to the Proposed Project site during construction while the construction area is uncovered or un-vegetated. Implementing measures such as managing irrigation to prevent runoff and using appropriate water quality BMPs will help prevent sedimentation and/or erosion into El Capitán Creek and will ensure that water quality impact is less than significant.
- g) The Proposed Project does not include the placement of housing resulting in no impact.
- h) Though the 100-year floodplain does inundate near the Proposed Project site, the Proposed Project's structures (i.e., kiosk and elevated boardwalk) would not be within a 100-year flood hazard area and thus would result in no impact.
- i) No people or structures would be exposed to significant risk or loss, injury or death from flooding, due to the siting of facilities out of the 100-year floodplain as well as no presence of levees or dams near the Proposed Project site. This would result in no impact.
- j) The Proposed Project site is located in the coastal zone where there is potential for a tsunami to occur. There is no history of significant tsunami impacting the area of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project's structures would not be impacted based on the forecasted tsunami size conditions that could occur based on the County of Santa Barbara's Tajiguas Quadrangle Tsunami Inundation Map for Emergency Planning. Conditions for mudflow are not present within the Proposed Project site. No bodies of water are present to create the potential for seiche. Less than significant impact is anticipated from these hazards.

#### **3.9.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

- WQ 1:** Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, the Project Contractor will prepare and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval that identifies temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent BMPs (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water

runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP), as appropriate.

- WQ 2:** A toxic material control and spill-response plan will be prepared and submitted to the State's Representative for approval prior to the onset of construction. The plan shall include measures to protect on-site workers, the public, and environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants, and contain guidelines for the proper use, storage and disposal of any flammable materials used during construction. Techniques for promptly and effectively responding to any accidental spill shall also be outlined. All workers involved in construction shall receive instruction regarding spill prevention and methods of containment.
- WQ 3:** An erosion control plan shall be prepared that addresses both the stabilization of soils throughout construction (e.g., soils exposed for greater than 24 hours) and provides contingencies during rainfall events. Approval of the plan must be obtained from the State's Representative prior to implementation. Excavation or grading that could result in substantial soil disturbance will be limited to the dry season of the year (approximately April 15 – November 1), unless a State-approved erosion control plan is in place and all measures therein are in effect.
- WQ 4:** BMPs to address erosion and excess sedimentation shall be incorporated into the plans. Materials that could be used during construction include silt fences, fiber rolls, organic erosion control blankets, gravel bags, and any other items deemed appropriate by the State's Representative. Where applicable, weed-free products shall be used to minimize the spread of exotics. At all times, sufficient amounts of erosion control materials shall be available on-site to respond to potential emergencies and any rains forecasted within 24 hours.
- WQ 5:** All equipment and vehicles will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly thereafter until the equipment and/or vehicles are removed from park premises. Any leaks shall be properly contained or the equipment/vehicle(s) repaired, and if failing repair, removed off-site.
- WQ 6:** All heavy equipment parking, refueling, and service will be conducted within designated areas outside of the 100-year floodplain to avoid water course contamination.
- WQ 7:** All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.

- WQ 8:** Erosion control measures shall be inspected daily during rainfall events and at least weekly throughout construction by the Contractor. Prior to the onset of any precipitation, both active (disturbed) soil areas and stockpiled soils shall be stabilized to prevent sediments from escaping off-site or into El Capitán Creek. Should inspection determine that any BMPs are in disrepair or ineffectual, the Contractor shall take immediate action to fix the deficiency.
- WQ 9:** Debris or runoff generated as a result of the project activities shall be minimized, whenever possible. If capture is not possible, then it shall be directed away from any drainages and/or culverts to prevent deposition into waterways. The disposal of materials must be performed in a manner that will minimize effects to the environment.
- WQ 10:** Following project completion, any erosion control measures that are no longer needed, as deemed by the State's Representative, shall be removed and properly disposed off-site. BMPs may remain if the measures are necessary to provide continued stabilization or minimize pollution.

#### 3.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

##### 3.10.1 Environmental Setting

El Capitán State Beach is a recreational park unit that strives to maintain the diversity of biological resources as well as preserve its archaeological and historic resources. Overnight camping facilities comprise a major portion of the developed area of the Park. A bicycle trail runs through the park and connects to Refugio State Beach. El Capitán Creek contains riparian habitat that empties into the Pacific Ocean. The Park has 1.75 miles of beach frontage.

A range of recreation activities at the Park include: swimming, sunbathing, surfing, fishing, camping, hiking, jogging, bicycling, picnicking, viewing interpretive exhibits, attending interpretive programs and sightseeing.

The area surrounding the Proposed Project site consists of a number of land uses including low density single family residential, public park space, and agricultural lands. Public land uses surrounding the Park may be found in **Figure 3-6**.

The existing General Plan for El Capitán State Beach (1979) guides the future development of the Park unit. Major development of the unit has been complete. Further development of the Park unit should be minimal and primarily consist of the maintenance of existing facilities.

##### **California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines**

The proposed trail improvements segments collectively constitute a length of approximately 1,333 feet of trail alignment. Although, the alignment has been exempted from ADA design requirements and all but 434 feet will meet ADA requirements for trails. That trail portion, which, is non-compliant due to grade constraints, will be built on an elevated structure which must clear an overhead rail line is located within State right of way. Also, grade compliance would result in impacts to native tree canopies.

##### **County of Santa Barbara Coastal Land Use Plan (2014)**

Review of the Coastal Land Use Plan has recognized several policies which are applicable to the Proposed Project.

***Policy 7-13:*** *In order to protect natural and visual resources of the coastal zone between Ellwood and Gaviota, development of recreational facilities shall not impede views between U.S. 101 and the ocean, shall minimize grading, removal of vegetation, and paving, and be compatible with the rural character of the area. Existing natural features shall remain undisturbed to the maximum extent possible, and landscaping shall consist of drought-tolerant species.*

The proposed entrance improvements shall minimize impact to coastal views due to the entrance kiosk being limited to one-story in height as well as being set back significantly

from coastal bluffs. Grading shall be minimized to provide for the construction of the facility as well as minimize the removal of vegetation and introduction of new paving. A laydown area would provide for the storage of materials and as a worksite in the maintenance of the Park. Any new introduced landscaping shall be drought-tolerant native species.

***Policy 7-14:*** Campgrounds and ancillary facilities sited south of U.S. 101 between Ellwood and Gaviota shall be set back as far as feasible from the beach in order to reserve near-shore areas for day use. Where feasible, new recreational facility development, particularly campgrounds and parking lots, shall be located north of U.S. 101.

As stated above, the entrance kiosk facility shall be sited back from the coastal bluffs at the Park in order to reserve area near the coastline for recreational use.

***Policy 9-1:*** Prior to the issuance of a development permit, all projects on parcels shown on the land use plan and/or resource maps with a Habitat Area overlay designation or within 250 feet of such designation or projects affecting an environmentally sensitive habitat area shall be found to be in conformity with the applicable habitat protection policies of the land use plan. All development plans, grading plans, etc., shall show the precise location of the habitat(s) potentially affected by the proposed project. Projects which could adversely impact an environmentally sensitive habitat area may be subject to a site inspection by a qualified biologist to be selected jointly by the County and the applicant.

The Proposed Project shall be compliant with all applicable policies established within the County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Land Use Plan and Gaviota Coast Plan. The Coastal Land Use Plan calls for oak trees to be protected, for there to be a minimum buffer strip of 100 feet around major streams, and for riparian vegetation to be protected and included in the buffer. El Capitán Creek and the area alongside it is considered an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH). Further discussion may be found in Section 3.4 (Biological Resources).

- While damage to all oaks within the Proposed Project area cannot be avoided, damage and removal will be limited to the maximum extent feasible and will be mitigated for at the ratio required by the County of Santa Barbara.
- Though the Coastal Plan states that no structures shall be located within the stream corridor, it makes exceptions for uses relevant to the Proposed Project including: public recreational trails, where such protection is necessary for public safety, and other development where the primary function is for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. All development in these areas shall incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible.
- Riparian vegetation shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible and shall not be removed/cleared except for conditions that are applicable to the Proposed Project. When project activities require removal of riparian plant species,

revegetation with local native plants shall be required. Any unavoidable riparian vegetation removal shall be conducted in compliance with the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat and resource protection policies and provisions of the Gaviota Coast Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Local Coastal Program.

***Policy 9-35:*** *Oak trees, because they are particularly sensitive to environmental conditions, shall be protected. All land use activities, including cultivated agriculture and grazing, should be carried out in such a manner as to avoid damage to native oak trees. Regeneration of oak trees on grazing lands should be encouraged.*

Existing oak trees shall be protected in place to the maximum extent practicable. This includes minimizing impact within a radius of 5x the diameter of the tree's trunk at breast height. Avoidance of this area shall protect the root zone and minimize compaction of soil surrounding trees. The minimum number of oak trees shall be removed that are necessary to provide the facilities necessary to continue effective operation of the Park.

***Policy 10-2:*** *When developments are proposed for parcels where archaeological or other cultural sites are located, project design shall be required which avoids impacts to such cultural sites if possible.*

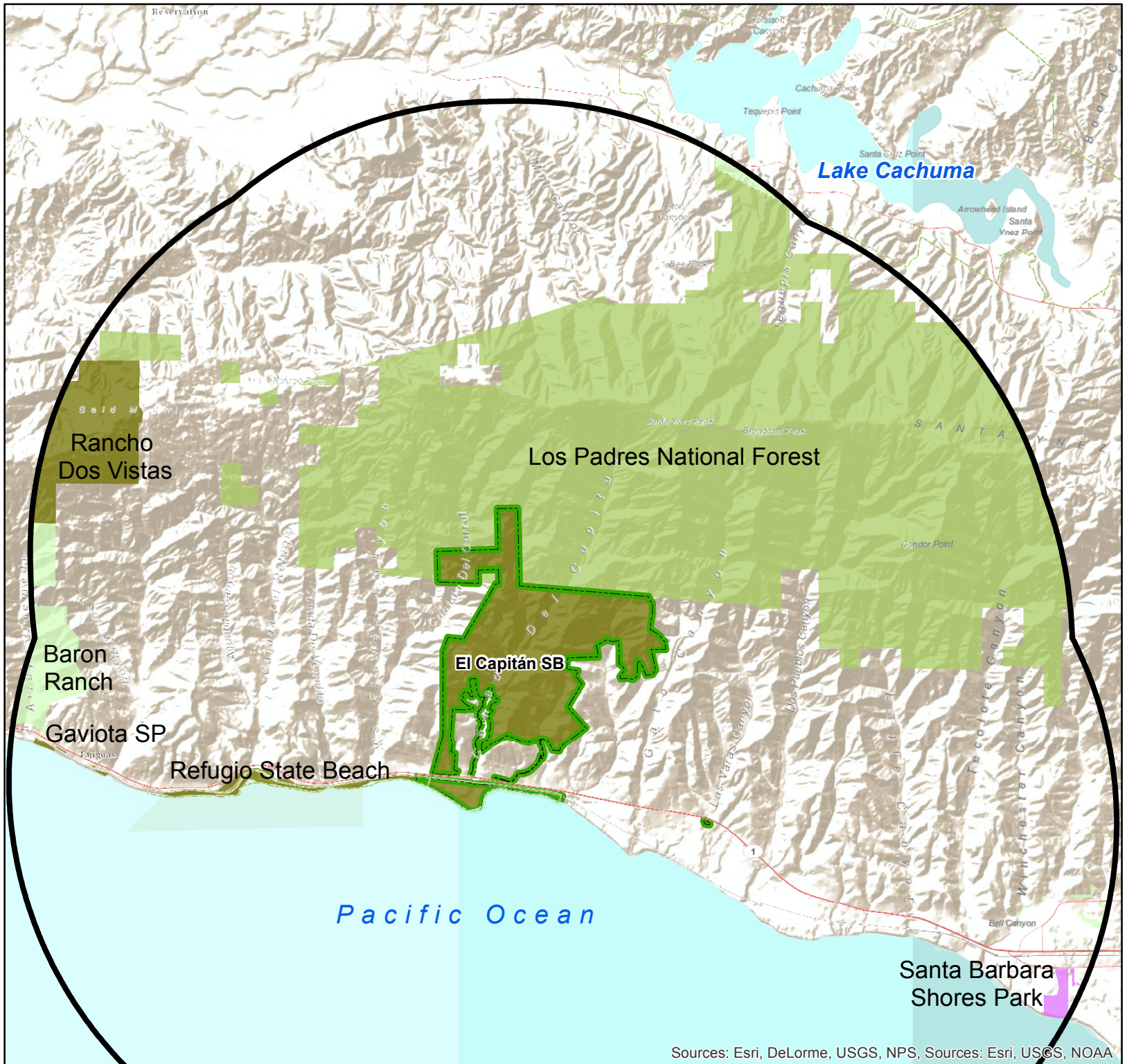
There are no recorded cultural resources within the project area, however, adjacent sites may extend into project area and remnants of historic cabins may be present within project area. Archaeological survey and testing prior to the start of construction will help determine presence and extent of any subsurface cultural resources within the project area of potential effect (APE). The project is being designed to avoid significant impacts to cultural resources. If significant cultural resources are identified during archaeological testing, project modifications may be needed to avoid impacts. In addition, archaeological and Native American monitoring of ground-disturbing project construction work will ensure avoidance of significant impacts to unknown and/or buried cultural sites.

***Policy 10-5:*** *Native Americans shall be consulted when development proposals are submitted which impact significant archaeological or cultural sites.*

Native American outreach occurred by contacting the NAHC to obtain a list of individuals or groups with interest in or knowledge of the Proposed Project site, a search of the sacred lands file as well as any additional information associated with the Project's APE. Contact occurred through mail and phone correspondence and resulted in the requirement to have a Native American monitor on site during work that includes ground disturbance. An onsite meeting occurred on October 4, 2017 to provide an overview of the Proposed Project as well as past archaeological surveys that have taken place.



# El Capitan Entrance Improvements Project Public Land Use Map (Figure 3-6)



## Legend

### Public Land

- City
- County
- Federal
- State

- El Capitan SB Boundary
- 5\_mile\_buffer

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only. 12/7/2017



0 1 2 Miles



**3.10.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

- a) No communities have the potential to be divided by the Proposed Project. El Capitán State Beach is a recreational land use. There are no residential communities present. This would result in no impact.
- b) The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable planning documents developed for the purpose of avoiding, minimizing or mitigating an environmental effect. Planning documents applicable to the Proposed Project and the relevant policies that apply are analyzed within **Section 3.10.1 (Environmental Setting)**. This includes consistency with the County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Land Use Plan. The County shall be provided with this document to review and comment on. A CDP shall be obtained prior to the beginning of construction. All conditions provided within the CDP shall be complied with. With adherence to applicable policies and permit conditions, impacts shall be less than significant.
- c) No habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan exists within the Proposed Project site after consulting the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Summary of Natural Community Conservation Plans (October 2017). This would result in no impact.

**3.10.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

Refer to measures found within the Mitigation, Monitoring, Reporting Program (**Chapter 4**), many of which apply to the protection of coastal resources.

### 3.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

#### 3.11.1 Environmental Setting

According to the County of Santa Barbara's Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan, there are three major classes of mineral resources available in Santa Barbara County: fossil fuels (oil and natural gas), metallic minerals (mercury) and non-metallic minerals (diatomite, limestone, phosphate, rock, sand and gravel). Although not classified as a mineral, fossil fuels both onshore and offshore are the primary resources in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Petroleum and natural gas account for approximately half of the total value of "mineral production" in Santa Barbara County. No oil or natural gas production in the form of wells is found within El Capitán State Beach.

Public Resources Code §5001.65 does not permit resource extraction within CDPR units.

#### 3.11.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### DISCUSSION

- a) Although there may be some potential for resources to be present within El Capitán SB, Public Resources Code §5001.65 does not permit resource extraction within CDPR units.
- b) Refer to the response to question a.

#### 3.11.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

No measures necessary

## 3.12 NOISE

### 3.12.1 Environmental Setting

Although there are not specific CDPR regulations to control noise, an environment with minimal noise intrusion is a highly important condition for visitors to El Capitán State Beach. It is difficult to generate specific limits of noise generation due to the variety of settings within which park units exist. They can vary from an urban park setting where a higher level of noise may be tolerable to a remote/rural park setting where solitude and minimal noise intrusion are important for an enjoyable visitor experience. Due to the significant amount of tent camping that takes place at El Capitán State Beach, an environment with a low noise level is critical to having an enjoyable experience during both daylight and nighttime hours.

A permanent major noise producer found adjacent to El Capitán SB is the Union Pacific Railroad, which runs immediately south of US Highway 101. The nearest campground is approximately 160 feet from the rail line. Maximum noise level at this distance can reach 90 dB(A). Noise and vibration generated by trains on the Union Pacific Railroad line bordering the northern limits of the unit are significant negative factors in the visitor experience, particularly to those people camping nearest the tracks. Union Pacific operates freight trains through the area and Amtrak operates passenger trains on a regular basis.

Temporary construction noise could result in impacts to visitors using the Park.

Construction noise from a range of equipment that could be used during project construction is found in **Table 4-1**:

**Table 3-6**  
**TYPICAL MAXIMUM CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT NOISE LEVELS**

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Noise Level at 50 feet (dBA L<sub>max</sub>)</b>	<b>Acoustic Usage Factor<sup>a</sup> (%)</b>
Auger Drill Rig	85	20
Backhoe	80	40
Blasting	94	1
Chain Saw	85	20
Clam Shovel	93	20
Compactor (ground)	80	20
Compressor (air)	80	40
Concrete Mixer Truck	85	40
Concrete Pump	82	20
Concrete Saw	90	20
Crane (mobile or stationary)	85	20
Dozer	85	40
Dump Truck	84	40
Excavator	85	40
Front End Loader	80	40
Generator (25 KVA or less)	70	50
Generator (more than 25 KVA)	82	50
Grader	85	40
Hydra Break Ram	90	10
Impact Pile Driver (diesel or drop)	95	20
Insitu Soil Sampling Rig	84	20
Jackhammer	85	20
Mounted Impact Hammer (hoe ram)	90	20
Paver	85	50
Pneumatic Tools	85	50
Pumps	77	50
Rock Drill	85	20
Roller	74	40
Scraper	85	40
Tractor	84	40
Vacuum Excavator (vac-truck)	85	40
Vibratory Concrete Mixer	80	20
Vibratory Pile Driver	95	20

<sup>a</sup> Acoustic Usage Factor represents the percent of time that the equipment is assumed to be running at full power.

Note: KVA = kilovolt amps

Source: Federal Transit Administration, 2006; Thalheimer, 2000. These values are also used in the Roadway Construction Noise Model, 2006.

**3.12.3 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### DISCUSSION

- a) The Proposed Project would result in limited short-term increase in noise levels. This short-term increase would not result in exceedance of any ordinances due to their not being ordinances in place for State Park units. Impact would be less than significant.
- b) None of the construction equipment to be used during construction or operation would generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels. This would result in no impact.
- c) The Proposed Project would not introduce any new substantial permanent ambient noise. Noise within the Park unit would remain very similar to what is currently present. This would result in no impact.
- d) There will be limited introduction of temporary noise due to construction. The use of **Noise** mitigation measures (**Section 3.12.4**) shall minimize impact to visitors. This would result in less than significant impact with mitigation.
- e) The Park is not known to be within an airport land use plan. Review of maps showing the airport influence area for both Santa Barbara Municipal Airport and Santa Ynez Airport do not include El Capitán SB. These two airports are approximately equidistant from the Park. This would result in no impact.
- f) The Park is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The Proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. This would result in no impact.

#### 3.12.4 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

**Noise-1:** Work hours shall be between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with no work on Saturdays, Sundays, or state holidays.



**3.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING****3.13.1 Environmental Setting**

The Proposed Project site is located within unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Planning for existing and future housing within the County is guided by the Comprehensive Plan's Housing Element. Limited housing exists for Park staff within the Park. The Proposed Project will not affect any of the existing housing within the Park.

The population of the County of Santa Barbara is estimated at 446,000. The estimate of housing units in the County of Santa Barbara is 156,000. Occupancy of this housing is approximately 93%.

The Proposed Project would not result in population growth from its implementation. The Proposed Project does not include the construction of housing or indirectly result in an increase in growth due to the construction of public infrastructure such as roads or utilities.

**3.13.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**DISCUSSION**

- a) The Proposed Project would not induce population growth, either directly or indirectly, due to the scope of the Proposed Project being the maintenance of existing levels of public safety and operation of El Capitán SB. No further homes or businesses are being built nor would there be any additional roads or other infrastructure built other than that needed to effectively serve the facilities to be constructed. This would result in no impact.



- b) The Proposed Project would not displace housing due to no housing being impacted by the Proposed Project. This would result in no impact.
- c) The Proposed Project would not displace people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No housing shall be affected. This would result in no impact.

**3.13.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

None necessary.

#### **3.14 PUBLIC SERVICES**

##### **3.14.1 Environmental Setting**

###### **Park Services**

El Capitán SB provides numerous activities for visitors. To support these activities requires a range of staff. Staff and services provided include: State Park Peace Officers providing public safety; maintenance staff maintaining facilities; and interpreters providing education programs. Volunteers additionally play a significant role in providing a range of services throughout the Park.

###### **Fire Protection**

Protection of the facilities within the Park unit will continue to be provided by the County of Santa Barbara Fire Department. The nearest station is Station 11 found at 6901 Frey Way Goleta, CA, 10 miles from the Park. In addition, because the total square footage of the new kiosk building will be less than 1,000 square feet, additional fire suppression appurtenances will not be required by the California State fire Marshal.

###### **Public Safety**

Public safety is provided by CDPR State Park Peace Officers (Rangers) that patrol El Capitán SB. In the case that conditions require further support, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department can be utilized.

###### **Schools**

There are no schools within the immediate vicinity of El Capitán SB. The Proposed Project will not have any association with education facilities.

**3.14.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) No significant impact would result from the construction of new or physically altered government facilities including the proposed entrance improvements. As stated above, the Proposed Project will not have any impact on the ability of local fire protection to serve El Capitán SB and the Proposed Project's facilities. Public safety shall not be impacted by the Proposed Project. No education facilities will be affected by the Proposed Project. The construction of the new facilities would not result in a loss of public park space as the new facilities are being proposed are to replace existing facilities.

**3.14.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

None necessary

### 3.15 RECREATION

#### 3.15.1 Existing Environment

Recreation opportunities are widely available in the region of El Capitán SB and include other State Park units as well as other parks and recreation areas managed by the County of Santa Barbara and United States Forest Service.

El Capitán SB provides a range of activities including: swimming, sunbathing, surfing, fishing, camping, hiking, jogging, bicycling, picnicking, viewing interpretive exhibits, attending interpretive programs, and sightseeing. Nearby parks include Refugio SB, located west of the Park. It provides many of the same opportunities as El Capitán SB due to its similar placement along the coastline. Further west of Refugio SB is Gaviota SP, also a coastal park unit providing similar opportunities.

Refugio State Beach is approximately 3.5 miles from El Capitán SB. It provides beach access for a variety of activities including fishing, swimming and boating. Facilities include family and group campsites, biking and hiking trails, picnic areas, and interpretive exhibits and programs.

#### 3.15.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Discussion

- a) The facilities being proposed would not increase the use of any nearby recreational facilities. The Proposed Project will expand park operation facilities, which will improve the management of El Capitán SB. This would result in no impact.
- b) The facilities constructed by the Proposed Project would not result in an adverse physical effect on the environment nor would they require the construction or expansion of further facilities that would have an adverse physical effect on the

environment. Through the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed within the MMRP, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

#### **3.15.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

There are no specific measures related to recreation, however, other measures provided within the **MMRP (Chapter 4)** shall ensure impact to the environment from the construction of new recreation facilities is less than significant.

**3.16 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC****3.16.1 Environmental Setting**

CDPR maintains the roads running throughout El Capitán SB. These roads fill a variety of functions including accessing the beach, campgrounds, day-use areas, and maintenance facilities. They are the responsibility of CDPR to maintain. Access to the Park comes from US Highway 101 which runs both east and west of the Park. El Capitán State Beach Road provides access from US 101 to the Park entrance. Responsibility for maintenance of US 101 as well as on-ramps and off-ramps to El Capitán State Beach Road rests with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Amtrak runs the Pacific Surfliner passenger line along a rail line adjacent to the Park. The rail line adjacent to the Park is owned by Union Pacific. The nearest station is in the City of Goleta to the east, approximately 12 miles east of the Park.

**3.16.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) The Proposed Project would not have any impact on regional transportation facilities and would improve the Park entrance facilities and infrastructure (e.g. entrance road and pedestrian path). However, during construction for the project, the main entrance road and pedestrian path would be temporarily inaccessible. The alternative maintenance and staff route into the Park would be accessible to vehicles during construction to mitigate the closure of the entrance road. This would result in less than significant impact.
- b) No level of service standards would be affected due to the Proposed Project having no impact on local streets or highways. This would result in no impact.
- c) The Proposed Project would result in no change in air traffic patterns. The Proposed Project has no impact on air traffic. This would result in no impact.
- d) The Proposed Project contains no features that would result in dangerous design features. This would result in no impact.
- e) Emergency access would improve upon completion of the Proposed Project due to the improvement in entrance facilities and infrastructure, including the entrance road. However, during construction of the road widening and replacement of the culvert with a bridge the main entrance road would be temporarily inaccessible. The alternative maintenance and staff route into the Park would be accessible during construction to provide emergency and visitor access. This would result in less than significant impact.
- f) The Proposed Project would not result in inadequate parking capacity. This would result in no impact.
- g) The Proposed Project would not conflict with any policy related to alternative transportation. The Park's pedestrian beach access path shall be improved from the

Proposed Project which will continue to encourage alternative means of transportation to the Park. This would result in no impact.

**3.16.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

None necessary



**3.17 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES****3.17.1 Environmental Setting**

Tribal Consultation including a search of the Native American Heritage Commission's (NAHC's) Sacred Lands files was instigated in August, 2017. The NAHC responded that the search of the Sacred Lands file was negative for Tribal Cultural Resources and provided a list of six Chumash representatives from three different groups.

Letters were sent and follow-up phone calls were made to all Chumash representatives on the NAHC list. An on-site meeting was requested. Several Chumash representatives attended the on-site meeting including two who were not part of the original list, but who were invited by one of the other representatives. The Chumash representatives recommended Native American monitoring during any archaeological testing and during ground-disturbing project work. They also expressed interest in retaining as many of the native trees as possible, but understood that some may need to be removed.

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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### Discussion

- a) There are no known Tribal Cultural Resources within the project area that have been listed or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources.
- b) There are no known Tribal Cultural Resources within the project area that are significant pursuant to the National Register of Historic Places Criteria listed in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code 5024.1.

### 3.17.2 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation

#### Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR)

**TCR-1:** All ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources. Monitoring logs shall be completed for each day that monitoring is undertaken, including photographs of the Proposed Project area and records of construction activities. Any discoveries shall be accurately plotted in order to document their distribution and create working field maps and final report-quality maps.

**TCR-2:** If potentially significant Tribal Cultural Resources are encountered during monitoring, all ground-disturbing activities will immediately be redirected away from the discovered resource to allow for its evaluation and appropriate treatment. This evaluation will be undertaken by the archaeological Principal Investigator at the Southern Service Center or their designee. The discovery site shall be flagged to protect it from further construction impacts. Once the feature or deposit has been exposed to the extent possible, CDPR archaeologists shall assess the eligibility of the feature or deposit and make a determination as to avoidance, protection, or implementation of mitigation measures such as data recovery.

**TCR-3:** In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains within the Proposed Project area the following steps shall be taken. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the location of the discovery or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the Santa Barbara County Medical Examiner has been contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the Medical Examiner determines the remains to be Native American, the Medical Examiner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.

The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent/s (MLD) of the deceased Native American. As provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the MLD may make recommendation for treatment or disposition with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods. Alternatively, where the conditions listed below occur, an authorized representative of CDPR shall reburial the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. The conditions are: (1) that the Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify an MLD, or (2) the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission, or (3) CDPR rejects the recommendation of the MLD, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to CDPR. California Department of Parks and Recreation's policy regarding the treatment of human remains is consistent with these guidelines.

**TCR-4:** Utilities necessary for the functioning of the Proposed Project shall be aligned to avoid impact to known Traditional Cultural Resources.

Also see Cultural Resources (section 3.5) above.

**3.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS****3.18.1 Environmental Setting****Utilities**

Water service is provided to the Park via a single well within the Park. Due to the water supply fluctuating with the drought conditions, the water supply for the park needed to be modified/improved, which was done recently by the drilling of a new well.

Wastewater service is provided by septic systems found within the Park. The amount of discharge is currently at its maximum allowable amount per the Regional Water Quality Control Board's general discharge order. An addition of further discharge will likely require that further capacity be added to the Park's wastewater system.

A local solid waste collector, Marborg, provides service to the Park, which includes waste that is deposited at the Tajiguas landfill as well as diverting recyclable materials from landfills.

Electricity is provided by Southern California Edison and natural gas is provided by SoCalGas, both of which will require coordination before new service is provided..

**3.18.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

e) Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) Wastewater produced within the Proposed Project site will not cause the Park to exceed the threshold of 20,000 gallons/day, currently allowable by the RWQCB, as the replacement of one toilet and one sink will result in the same if not lower quantity of wastewater produced. The new toilet and sink will be just as efficient if not more efficient with water usage than the existing ones. As a result, this would be less than significant impact with mitigation.
- b) The Proposed Project would not require the construction of new wastewater facilities and therefore will not result in impacts.
- c) Stormwater drainage facilities may need to be improved due to the addition of impervious surface from expansion of the entrance road. However, landscaping planned for the kiosk area shall provide a permeable surface to lessen stormwater runoff. In addition, converting part of the trail adjacent to the entrance road into an elevated boardwalk will lessen soil compaction, which may lead to increased permeable surface that could also lessen runoff. BMPs, including temporary and possibly permanent, will be necessary due to the proximity of El Capitán Creek and the Pacific Ocean. This development would result in less than significant impact through the use of appropriate BMPs such as those found in **Section 3.9.3 (Water Quality)**.
- d) There would no increase in the demand for water by the Proposed Project due to the availability of water at the existing visitor center. This would result in no impact.
- e) Wastewater treatment is provided within the Park by a series of septic systems. These systems currently provide adequate capacity for the wastewater produced during peak periods. Since no additional wastewater will be generated by the Proposed Project, additional capacity to treat wastewater will not need to be provided through new or

existing facilities. No impact would occur to wastewater treatment providers as all waste is treated within the Park.

- f) Any additional solid waste would be sufficiently accommodated by the existing landfill that is permitted to accept waste from El Capitán SB: the Tajiguas landfill. This would result in no impact.
- g) The Proposed Project would comply with all statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No elements of the Proposed Project should prevent the ability to comply with statute and regulations related to solid waste. This would result in no impact.

#### **3.18.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

**Utility-1:** Increased runoff from added impervious pavement will be managed by designated infiltration areas for wastewater discharge to conform to the existing topography. Infiltration areas will not be located within 50 feet of existing on site treatment disposal zones.

**3.19 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE****3.19.1 Environmental Setting**

Several findings that are important to evaluate are discussed below. These include impacts to plants or animals and important examples of California history or prehistory. Impacts shall be evaluated that are cumulatively considerable as well as direct and indirect impacts to humans.

**3.19.2 Environmental Impact Evaluation**

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) Degradation of the environment shall be minimal due to the siting of the Proposed Project within an area that is used heavily in the operation of the Park. No fish or wildlife species should be substantially reduced due to the proximity to developed areas and landscaped vegetation as well as the limited presence/potential presence of species listed as sensitive. Refer to Section 3.4 for further discussion of biological resources within the Proposed Project's footprint. Mitigation shall be incorporated that compensates for the loss of coast live oaks, other trees, and riparian vegetation that would be impacted. The widening alignment was configured to avoid to the greatest degree possible impacts to native botanical species. Additional measures shall ensure that sensitive species, including the California red-legged frog, are protected in the case of their occurrence during construction. The Proposed Project would not have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, due to their lack of presence within or near the Proposed Project's footprint. Impact would be less than significant with mitigation.
- b) The impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would have minimal cumulative impacts. With appropriate implementation, this project should result in less than significant impact.
- c) No human impacts, either direct or indirect are anticipated by the Proposed Project. Improving entrance facilities access for visitors and staff would have positive impacts to humans. This would result in no impact.

#### **3.19.3 Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation**

Numerous mitigation measures, particularly those within **Biological Resources (3.4.3)**, would be implemented to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.



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#### 4 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation measures have been provided in this table for efficient reference during design and construction.

**Table 4-1: Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program**

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Visual-1</b>	CDPR project designers and natural resource specialists shall design the Proposed Project to avoid impacts to valuable aesthetic resources including coast live oak trees ( <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> ) as well as mitigate for their loss if facility siting cannot be found that will avoid impact.	Project Planning and Design	CDPR Project Manager, CDPR Project Designer CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Visual-2</b>	The Proposed Project will be designed to incorporate appropriate park scenic & aesthetic values including the choices for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building and other facility siting such as parking areas, campsites, and picnic areas</li> <li>• facility scale with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• facility materials and colors;</li> <li>• aesthetic treatments on pathways, retaining walls or other ancillary structures;</li> <li>• landscaping with primarily native species unless historic records indicate differently.</li> </ul>	Project Design	CDPR Architect CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Visual-3</b>	Equip any permanent structure with outdoor light shields that concentrate the illumination downward to reduce direct and reflected light pollution. The lighting will be installed as low as possible on poles and/or structures to minimize light pollution of the night sky. The candle power of the illumination at ground level will not exceed what is required by any safety or security regulations of any government agency with regulatory oversight. The shielding of lighting will also be implemented in a manner that minimizes disturbance to wildlife.	Project Design	CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

## 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Air Quality-1 (AQ)</b>	All haul vehicles shall be covered or shall comply with vehicle freeboard requirements of Section 23114 of the California Vehicle Code for both public and private roads.	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>AQ-2</b>	Paved streets shall be swept at least once per day where there is evidence of dirt that has been carried onto the roadway	Construction	CDPR Project Manager/ CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>AQ-3</b>	Watering of exposed dirt to minimize dust and dust plumes	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>AQ-4</b>	Inactive disturbed areas shall be treated as soon as feasible to prevent soil erosion.	Construction Grading	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>AQ-5</b>	Open soil piles that will remain on-site for two or more days shall be treated or covered to prevent soil erosion	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>AQ-6</b>	During high wind conditions (wind speeds in excess of 25 miles per hour), all earthmoving activities shall cease or water shall be applied to soil not more than 15 minutes prior to disturbing such soil.	Construction Grading	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Archaeology-1 (Arch)</b>	All ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor. Monitors shall observe all new earthwork and inspect back dirt piles for artifacts and/or other cultural constituents. Monitoring logs shall be completed for each day that monitoring is undertaken, including photographs of the Proposed Project area and records of construction activities. Any discoveries (including diagnostic isolates) shall be accurately plotted in order to document their distribution and create working field maps and final report-quality maps.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing of Action</b>	<b>Monitoring Reporting Party</b>	<b>Date Completed &amp; Initials (PM or CM)</b>
<b>Arch-2</b>	If archaeological features, or potentially significant concentrations of artifacts or other cultural constituents are encountered during monitoring, all ground-disturbing activities will immediately be redirected away from the discovered resource to allow for its evaluation and appropriate treatment. This evaluation will be undertaken by the archaeological Principal Investigator at the Southern Service Center or their designee. The discovery site shall be flagged to protect it from further construction impacts. Once the feature or deposit has been exposed to the extent possible, CDPR archaeologists shall assess the eligibility of the feature or deposit and make a determination as to avoidance, protection, or implementation of mitigation measures such as data recovery.	Construction: Grading and Demolition	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	

## 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Arch-3</b>	<p>In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains within the Proposed Project area the following steps shall be taken. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the location of the discovery or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the Santa Barbara County Medical Examiner has been contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the Medical Examiner determines the remains to be Native American, the Medical Examiner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.</p> <p>The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent/s (MLD) of the deceased Native American. As provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the MLD may make recommendation for treatment or disposition with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods. Alternatively, where the conditions listed below occur, an authorized representative of CDPR shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. The conditions are: (1) that the Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify an MLD, or (2) the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission, or (3) CDPR rejects the recommendation of the MLD, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to CDPR. California Department of Parks and Recreation's policy regarding the treatment of human remains is consistent with these guidelines.</p>	Construction: Grading and Demolition	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	
<b>Arch-4</b>	Utilities necessary for the functioning of the Proposed Project shall be aligned so as to avoid impact to known archaeological sites.	Project Planning and Design	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Archaeologist	

4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Biology-1 (Bio)</b>	All construction should be conducted between April 1 to November 15 to avoid impacts to the California red-legged frog as this timing coincides with the non-breeding season. Consultation with the USFWS should be conducted to address any concerns related to the California red-legged frog. Any recommendations provided by the agency shall be incorporated into the project to avoid potential species impacts. Other measures, such as seasonal restrictions and fencing, along with limiting activities to upland areas, could further serve to minimize harm/harassment to wildlife on-site.	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-2</b>	Since the California red-legged frog non-breeding season window overlaps with the bird breeding season (March 15 to September 15), a survey for avian species will be performed within/near the project area no more than 1 week prior to the onset of activities scheduled during the bird breeding season and prior to demolition of any building. Should the Natural Resource Specialist discover any nesting birds then appropriate measures, as determined by the Natural Resource Specialist, will be implemented by the Contractor to minimize potential harm/harassment. These measures may include, but are not limited to, designation of the site as an ESA, temporary delay of construction, installation of temporary fencing, noise abatement, and/or establishment of a buffer around the nest. The Natural Resource Specialist shall, at his/her discretion, continue to survey activities throughout construction and determine measures, as needed, to prevent impacts to any breeding/nesting birds.	Pre-Construction Construction Demolition	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-3</b>	Construction activities should be avoided from October through February (especially from October to November) to prevent potential impacts to autumnal aggregations of monarch butterflies. If construction is planned to occur during this period, the Project area should be surveyed for monarchs by a Natural Resource Specialist. Should a monarch roost be discovered, construction within 500 feet of the roost habitat should be monitored for disturbance to monarchs. If disturbance is possible and/or documented then construction will cease until the monarch butterflies have departed the disturbance area. In addition, Project design must consider the following from Section 35-97.12 of the Santa Barbara County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance's Development Standards for Butterfly Tree Habitats: a. Butterfly trees shall not be removed except where they pose a serious threat to life or property, and shall not be pruned during roosting and nesting season. b. Adjacent development shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from the trees.	Project Design Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-4</b>	Actions will be taken to not disturb any bat roosts on-site (e.g., roost in Southern Pacific Railroad structure over entrance road). To the extent feasible, no work shall be allowed within 50 feet of an active roost, especially from March 1 to September 1 when maternity colonies with pups could be present. Additionally, clearing or grubbing should be avoided adjacent to any roost structure and combustion equipment (e.g., generators, pumps, vehicles) should not be parked or operated under or adjacent to such sites.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-5</b>	Should the California red-legged frog be observed, then the State's Representative shall be immediately notified. The State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist, shall suspend activities and promptly contact the USFWS. Work will not resume until coordination/consultation with the USFWS has been completed, and any recommended conservation measures have been implemented by the CDPR and its Contractors.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-6</b>	Project design and construction must be in accordance with Department Tree Protection measures, as outlined in the Natural Resources Handbook. Operations shall be conducted in a manner that avoids damage and minimizes disturbance to existing oaks and other trees. Tree pruning procedures shall comply with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300, "Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance - Standard Practices". The Contractor shall retain the services of an arborist, certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, to inspect all trees in and adjacent to the construction area, to recommend care, maintenance and protection of trees affected by construction during and after completion of the work, and to provide guidance on the repair of any tree damaged during the course of construction.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-7</b>	All excavations shall be kept outside the drip line of the canopies of existing trees and there will be no construction activities within 3 times Diameter Breast Height (DBH) of a tree, unless otherwise noted on the Project plans or approved by the Natural Resource Specialist. A biological monitor may be present during any activity within 5 times DBH of any tree.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	



## 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-8</b>	Operations shall be conducted in a manner that avoids damage and minimizes disturbance to existing landscaping/trees. If any vegetation, not designated for trimming/removal, is damaged or destroyed, the Contractor shall repair the damage at no additional cost to the State. Damage is defined, without limitation, as any cutting, breaking, tearing, bruising, or skinning of the trunk, roots, or significant limbs. Should the Natural Resource Specialist determine that the damage is irreparable or that a tree has been destroyed, the Contractor shall compensate for the loss, as determined by the State's Representative and Natural Resource Specialist, at the Contractor's expense.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-9</b>	Temporary fencing (e.g., orange plastic fencing, silt fencing) shall be installed around the dripline of individual or groups of trees that will remain to prevent potential damage. Where excavation is necessary within a tree's dripline, a Natural Resource Specialist shall flag or mark the area to protect the tree from injury. Protective measures (e.g., plates, plywood sheets) shall also be placed on the ground to further reduce the likelihood of disturbance. Contractor shall be prohibited from working in flagged/protected locations and shall limit the use of heavy machinery near trees that are temporarily fenced.	Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-10</b>	During trenching/digging, no roots 2 inches in diameter or larger shall be disturbed without the supervision/direction of a licensed Arborist or Natural Resource Specialist. All roots 2 inches in diameter or greater that need to be removed shall be carefully excavated and cleanly cut to minimize damage to the tree's root system. Such activities shall be supervised/directed by the State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing of Action</b>	<b>Monitoring Reporting Party</b>	<b>Date Completed &amp; Initials (PM or CM)</b>
<b>Bio-11</b>	No parking of equipment or storage of vehicles, materials, or debris shall be allowed underneath a tree's canopy or within 5 times DBH of any tree, whichever is greater, unless on existing asphalt or concrete.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-12</b>	El Capitán Creek and other sensitive habitat (e.g., coastal sage scrub, riparian) near the Proposed Project boundaries shall be designated Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESAs) and strictly avoided, unless otherwise noted on the Proposed Project plans or directed by the State's Representative in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist. All ESAs shall be depicted on the Proposed Project plans and no encroachment (i.e., workers, equipment, materials) will be allowed in these locations at any time. Sensitive vegetation or resources will be marked and protected by temporary fencing or other acceptable method. Work limits will be clearly marked in the field and confirmed by the Natural Resource Specialist prior to the start of operations. All staked/fenced boundaries will be maintained throughout the construction period.	Project Design Construction	CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-13</b>	Access routes, staging areas, and the total footprint of disturbance shall be limited to the minimum number/size necessary to complete the Proposed Project. Routes of travel and work boundaries will be configured to avoid unnecessary intrusions into the surrounding habitat.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-14</b>	A Natural Resource Specialist will be made available for both the pre-construction and construction phases to review plans, address resource issues, and periodically monitor ongoing work. The biologist shall maintain communications with the State's Representative to ensure that concerns related to sensitive species/habitats are appropriately and lawfully managed.	Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-15</b>	Construction dust impacts will be offset by implementing measures that will appropriately reduce/control emissions generated by the Proposed Project (e.g., water truck). The Natural Resource Specialist will periodically inspect the work area to ensure that construction-related activities do not generate excessive amounts of dust or cause other disturbances.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-16</b>	Should any areas require hydroseeding for temporary erosion control, then only local, native plant species, approved by the Natural Resource Specialist, shall be used. No invasive exotics shall be included in any proposed seed palette. Similarly, mitigation/restoration plantings shall consist only of native trees and plants. Species with a High or Moderate Rating (Table 1) on the California Invasive Plant Council's California Invasive Plant Inventory (2006) are prohibited.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-17</b>	For reasons of safety, areas of excavation (e.g., pits, trenches, holes) shall be covered overnight or during periods of inactivity. Routes of escape from excavated pits and trenches shall also be installed for wildlife that could potentially become entrapped. These locations will be regularly inspected by the Contractor and immediately inspected prior to filling. Should any wildlife be discovered, then the Contractor shall contact the State's Representative or Natural Resource Specialist to obtain instructions on how to safely remove the wildlife from the trench/hole or suspend work at the excavation site until the entrapped animal can be relocated by the Natural Resource Specialist.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-18</b>	The Proposed Project area will be kept clear of trash to avoid attracting predators. All food and garbage will be placed in sealed containers and regularly removed from the site. Following construction, any trash, debris, or rubbish remaining within the work limits shall be collected and hauled off to an appropriate facility.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-19</b>	A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan shall be prepared for CDPR's approval that identifies the BMPs to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, sand, and surface water runoff; the management of stockpiles; spill prevention from equipment; and dust control during all excavation, grading, and trenching.	Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-20</b>	All earth or other material that has been transported onto park roads by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity shall be promptly removed.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-21</b>	All equipment engines shall be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and Federal requirements.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-22</b>	The changing of oil, refueling, and other actions (e.g., washing of concrete, paint, or equipment) that could result in the release of a hazardous substance shall be restricted to approved/designated areas that are a minimum of 100 feet from any sensitive habitat (e.g., coastal sage scrub, riparian) or waterway. Such sites shall be surrounded with berms, sandbags, or other barriers to further prevent the accidental spill of fuel, oil, or chemicals. Any discharges shall be immediately contained, cleaned up, and properly disposed, in accordance with the toxic material control and spill-response plan.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-23</b>	Storage and staging areas will be placed a minimum of 100 feet from any drainage or other water body. Such sites shall occur in existing developed or disturbed locations (e.g., paved or previously hardened surfaces) that have been reviewed and approved by the State's Representative, in coordination with the Natural Resource Specialist and Cultural Resource Specialist. All areas used for stockpiling shall be kept free from trash and other waste. No project-related items shall be stored outside approved staging areas at any time.	Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist CDPR Cultural Resource Specialist	

#### 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-24</b>	All active construction areas shall be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-25</b>	Water shall be applied using water trucks or sprinkler systems at sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency shall be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Watering shall be conducted in a manner that prevents any runoff into ESAs. Reclaimed (non-potable) water shall be used, whenever possible.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-26</b>	All construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any paved or unpaved surfaces within the Proposed Project area.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-27</b>	Spark arrestors or turbo charging and fire extinguishers shall be required for all motorized equipment and heavy equipment.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-28</b>	Heavy equipment shall be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, or concrete to reduce chance of fire.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-29</b>	Construction crews shall park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Bio-30</b>	All internal combustion engines used for any purpose on the Proposed Project site shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. All equipment and trucks shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever feasible and necessary.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-31</b>	Areas temporarily disturbed by work-related activities shall be hydro seeded/landscaped with locally-derived native seeds/plants in accordance with a CDPR-approved landscaping plan. The re-vegetation will serve to visually enhance the site, and offset the loss of trees and shrubs from construction.	Construction	CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-32</b>	Pets belonging to project personnel shall not be permitted within the construction boundaries at any time.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-33</b>	All work related to the Proposed Project shall be performed from Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. No construction shall be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, or State holidays, unless approved in advance by the State's Representative/District Staff. Additionally, no nighttime operations (including lighting) shall be authorized to complete the Proposed Project.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Bio-34</b>	Conditions set forth in the CDP, which will be issued by the County of Santa Barbara, shall be observed and implemented as part of the Proposed Project.	Design Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	
<b>Bio-35</b>	Any recommendations received from the USFWS during consultation on the California red-legged frog shall be incorporated into construction activities to avoid/minimize impacts to the species.	Design Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Natural Resource Specialist	

## 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>Geology-1 (Geo)</b>	After a large earthquake event (i.e., magnitude 5.0 or greater within 50 miles of the Proposed Project site), the Construction Manager will arrange for appropriate inspection of all project structures and features for damage as soon as possible after the event. If any structures or features have been damaged, they will be closed to park visitors, volunteers, residents, contractors, and staff until repairs have been made.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Hazardous Materials/ Waste-1 (Haz Mat)</b>	The Proposed Project shall comply with all abatement and/or demolition specifications necessary to ensure that hazardous waste that may exist within the existing entrance kiosk, office, and/or culvert are handled and disposed of safely and in accordance with applicable laws.	Design Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>Water Quality-1 (WQ)</b>	Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, the Project contractor will prepare and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval that identifies temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent BMPs (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP), as appropriate.	Pre-Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing of Action</b>	<b>Monitoring Reporting Party</b>	<b>Date Completed &amp; Initials (PM or CM)</b>
<b>WQ-2</b>	A toxic material control and spill-response plan will be prepared and submitted to the State's Representative for approval prior to the onset of construction. The plan shall include measures to protect on-site workers, the public, and environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants, and contain guidelines for the proper use, storage and disposal of any flammable materials used during construction. Techniques for promptly and effectively responding to any accidental spill shall also be outlined. All workers involved in construction shall receive instruction regarding spill prevention and methods of containment.	Pre-Construction Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-3</b>	An erosion control plan shall be prepared that addresses both the stabilization of soils throughout construction (e.g., soils exposed for greater than 24 hours) and provides contingencies during rainfall events. Approval of the plan must be obtained from the State's Representative prior to implementation. Excavation or grading that could result in substantial soil disturbance will be limited to the dry season of the year (approximately April 15 – November 1), unless a State-approved erosion control plan is in place and all measures therein are in effect.	Pre-Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-4</b>	BMPs to address erosion and excess sedimentation shall be incorporated into the plans. Materials that could be used during construction include silt fences, fiber rolls, organic erosion control blankets, gravel bags, and any other items deemed appropriate by the State's Representative. Where applicable, weed-free products shall be used to minimize the spread of exotics. At all times, sufficient amounts of erosion control materials shall be available on-site to respond to potential emergencies and any rains forecasted within 24 hours.	Design Construction	CDPR Landscape Architect CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-5</b>	All equipment and vehicles will be inspected for leaks immediately prior to the start of construction, and regularly thereafter until the equipment and/or vehicles are removed from park premises. Any leaks shall be properly contained or the equipment/vehicle(s) repaired, and if failing repair, removed off-site.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	



#### 4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing of Action</b>	<b>Monitoring Reporting Party</b>	<b>Date Completed &amp; Initials (PM or CM)</b>
<b>WQ-6</b>	All heavy equipment parking, refueling, and service will be conducted within designated areas outside of the 100-year floodplain to avoid water course contamination.	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-7</b>	All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-8</b>	Erosion control measures shall be inspected daily during rainfall events and at least weekly throughout construction by the Contractor. Prior to the onset of any precipitation, both active (disturbed) soil areas and stockpiled soils shall be stabilized to prevent sediments from escaping off-site or into El Capitán Creek. Should inspection determine that any BMPs are in disrepair or ineffectual, the Contractor shall take immediate action to fix the deficiency.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-9</b>	Debris or runoff generated as a result of the project activities shall be minimized, whenever possible. If capture is not possible, then it shall be directed away from any drainages and/or culverts to prevent deposition into waterways. The disposal of materials must be performed in a manner that will minimize effects to the environment.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
<b>WQ-10</b>	Following project completion, any erosion control measures that are no longer needed, as deemed by the State's Representative, shall be removed and properly disposed off-site. BMPs may remain if the measures are necessary to provide continued stabilization or minimize pollution.	Post-Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
Noise-1	Work hours shall be between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with no work on Saturdays, Sundays, or state holidays.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	
Paleontological Resources-1 (Paleo)	A qualified vertebrate paleontologist shall be contacted in the rare instance that such resources are found during demolition and grading activities associated with the Proposed Project.	Construction	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Construction Manager	
Tribal Cultural Resources-1 (TCR)	All ground-disturbing activities shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources. Monitoring logs shall be completed for each day that monitoring is undertaken, including photographs of the Proposed Project area and records of construction activities. Any discoveries shall be accurately plotted in order to document their distribution and create working field maps and final report-quality maps.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	
TCR-2	If potentially significant Tribal Cultural Resources are encountered during monitoring, all ground-disturbing activities will immediately be redirected away from the discovered resource to allow for its evaluation and appropriate treatment. This evaluation will be undertaken by the archaeological Principal Investigator at the Southern Service Center or their designee. The discovery site shall be flagged to protect it from further construction impacts. Once the feature or deposit has been exposed to the extent possible, CDPR archaeologists shall assess the eligibility of the feature or deposit and make a determination as to avoidance, protection, or implementation of mitigation measures such as data recovery.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	

4 MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

Abbrev.	Mitigation Measure	Timing of Action	Monitoring Reporting Party	Date Completed & Initials (PM or CM)
<b>TCR-3</b>	<p>In the event of an accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains within the Proposed Project area the following steps shall be taken. There shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the location of the discovery or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the Santa Barbara County Medical Examiner has been contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required. If the Medical Examiner determines the remains to be Native American, the Medical Examiner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.</p> <p>The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendent/s (MLD) of the deceased Native American. As provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the MLD may make recommendation for treatment or disposition with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods. Alternatively, where the conditions listed below occur, an authorized representative of CDPR shall rebury the Native American human remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance. The conditions are: (1) that the Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify an MLD, or (2) the MLD fails to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission, or (3) CDPR rejects the recommendation of the MLD, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to CDPR. California Department of Parks and Recreation's policy regarding the treatment of human remains is consistent with these guidelines.</p>	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager CDPR Archaeologist	

#### 4. MITIGATION MONITORING REPORTING PROGRAM

<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Timing of Action</b>	<b>Monitoring Reporting Party</b>	<b>Date Completed &amp; Initials (PM or CM)</b>
<b>TCR-4</b>	Utilities necessary for the functioning of the Proposed Project shall be aligned to avoid impact to known Traditional Cultural Resources.	Project Planning and Design	CDPR Project Manager CDPR Archaeologist	
<b>Utility-1</b>	Increased runoff from added impervious pavement will be managed by designated infiltration areas for wastewater discharge to conform to the existing topography. Infiltration areas will not be located within 50 feet of existing on site treatment disposal zones.	Construction	CDPR Construction Manager	

## 5 REFERENCES

### 5.1 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

Michael A. Bonk, Research Analyst II (GIS), California State Parks, Southern Service Center

Jeanice Davis, Landscape Architect, California State Parks, Southern Service Center

Eric Hjelstrom, State Park Superintendent, California State Parks, Channel Coast District

Marla Mealey, Associate State Archaeologist, California State Parks, Southern Service Center

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Bethany Weisberg, Park and Recreation Specialist, California State Parks, Southern Service Center

Michael Yengling, Associate Park & Recreation Specialist and Reviewing Historian, California State Parks, Southern Service Center

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APPENDICES

Appendix A ..... **Comments Received Regarding the IS/MND**  
*(Pending completion of public review period)*



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX  
DIRECTOR

April 6, 2018

RECEIVED

APR 11 2018

NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER

Bethany Weisberg  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
2797 Truxtun Rd  
San Diego, CA 92106

Subject: El Capitan State Beach  
SCH#: 2018031015

Dear Bethany Weisberg:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on April 5, 2018, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

March 19, 2018, 4:55pm  
Daniel Blankenship  
CA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)  
(661) 259-3750

Received phone call from Daniel Blankenship from Santa Barbara region CDFW regarding El Cap. SB Entrance Improvements project IS/MND. His only comment was there was not enough mention of the steelhead-trout passage concerns, but he talked to other people familiar with project and found out that the project will address the steelhead trout passage with the bridge.

-Bethany Weisberg