

**UNIT 201**

**OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK**

**GENERAL PLAN**

**July 1988**

# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK



General Plan

May 1989

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation

George Deukmejian, Governor  
Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary  
Henry Agonia, Director

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P.O. Box 942896, SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001



Resolution 25-88  
adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Rafael on  
July 8, 1988

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park; and

WHEREAS, this reflects long-range development plans to provide for optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Olompali State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan, dated March 1988, and Recommended Changes dated June 22, 1988, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions of said plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is directed to work with Nova Albion Foundation to include within the general plan detailed reference to the Slaymaker epic and the historical artifact associated with Drake's contact with the Coast Miwok Indians on June 26, 1579.

# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## General Plan

May 1989

The Olompali People, a committee of the California State Parks Foundation, funded this plan as a gift to the people of California. This plan was prepared under contract between Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey and the California State Parks Foundation for the use of the State of California Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation. The Resource Policy Formulation section was prepared by staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

State of California  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation

George Deukmejian, Governor  
Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary  
Henry Agonia, Director



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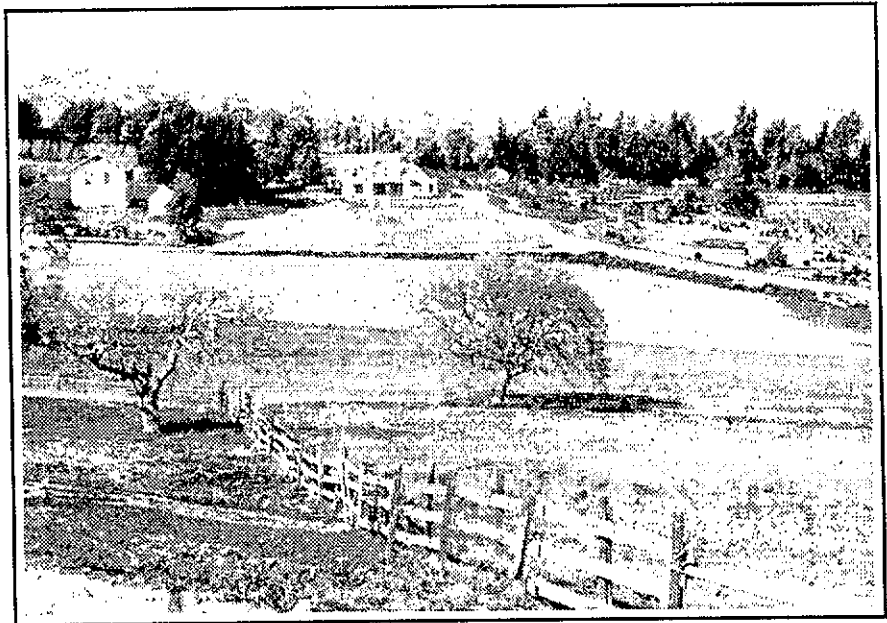
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## SUMMARY

Seven hundred acre Olompali State Historic Park, in Marin County in northern California, occupies a unique location within a bowl-shaped area formed by Burdell Mountain and its lower flanking slopes. These hills adjoin the expansive marsh and slough system of the Petaluma River, which flows south to San Pablo Bay.

This prime location on the edge of land and water encouraged ancient habitation of the coast Miwoks, and use of the site as a way-station along El Camino Nacional. In acquiring Rancho Olompali, Camilo Ynitia received the only patented grant from the U.S. government to a Northern California Indian. In 1846 a brief skirmish during the Bear Flag Rebellion became popularized as the "Battle of Olompali". In 1852, James Black acquired Olompali from Camilo Ynitia and gave the property to his daughter when she married Dr. Galen Burdell in 1865. The couple constructed their house to encase Camilo's adobe. For the Burdell Family, Rancho Olompali became a productive ranch and early in the 1900's an exclusive estate with construction of a mansion around the original Burdell wood frame house and adobe. Through subsequent ownerships, the site was used as a Jesuit retreat, a dairy ranch and a private country club. In the late 1960's, a commune enjoyed Olompali as a secluded retreat, until 1969 when a fire severely damaged the Burdell mansion.



**Historical Photo of Olompali, late 1800s**

Along with this history the site features an impressive natural landscape: open grass meadows with scattered oaks, riparian corridors with dense tree canopies, and, moving upslope, panoramic views of the region.

## Resource Element

Recognizing this historic significance and the value of the natural environment, the State of California acquired the site in 1977 and classified it as a state historic park in 1981. In recent years, even with state ownership, the park has remained unnoticed and unattended, with an unmarked entrance, and crumbling historic buildings.

The purpose of Olompali State Historic Park is to preserve and interpret for the public the prehistoric sites and features associated with the Coast Miwok village of Olompali; and to preserve, interpret, and restore where feasible, the remaining historic sites and features associated with Olompali's Mexican and American periods. Public use and enjoyment of the historic park is encouraged within the limits established by its State Park system classification and resource sensitivities.

The **general plan** will guide this effort and support California Department of Parks and Recreation requests to the Legislature for funding. The **general plan** provides management policies and development proposals to preserve, protect, and interpret the natural and cultural resources of Olompali State Historic Park. The major objective is to create an interesting place that tells a story, attracts people, preserves significant historic resources, and is compatible with the surrounding environment.

The **general plan** proposals can be summarized in six areas: resource element, land use and facilities elements, interpretive element, operations element, concessions element and environmental impact element. Key recommendations of each element are:

- o Restore and protect the area's natural conditions, habitats, and processes.
- o Control nonnative plant species.
- o Preserve and protect significant archeological resources at the park.
- o Maintain the historic integrity of the Burdell Ranch complex.

## Land Use And Facilities

- o Improve entrance road serving the park.
- o Rehabilitate the Burdell frame house as the visitor center, if feasible.
- o Develop a new 50 to 80-car parking area.
- o Provide public restrooms at the Burdell frame house.
- o Develop an overflow parking area; equestrian staging area.
- o Maintain existing fire roads for emergency and service access.
- o Demolish nonhistoric buildings.
- o Relocate maintenance facility/employee residence area to Worm Farm.
- o Provide day-use picnic area.
- o Provide environmental education area.

## Interpretation

Interpretation is crucial to cultivate interest and enthusiasm for the history of Olompali:

- o The interpretive period will include the flow of history from the earliest Coast Miwok Indian occupation through the contemporary period of site restoration.
- o The interpretive themes for the park follow a time sequence of primary themes and subthemes from the earliest time to the most recent.
- o Proposals for interpretive facilities include:
  - Restore the Burdell frame house as a visitor center, if feasible, for park orientation and interpretation of cultural and natural resources.
  - Use the grounds and other historic structures for historic interpretation.
  - Enhance existing trails and develop scenic overlooks for natural interpretation.
  - Develop an archeological site viewing area.
  - Place various displays and interpretive panels in the

## **Operations Element**

## **Concessions Element**

## **Environmental Impact Element**

- park.
- Develop a plan for curating and interpreting artifacts taken from archeological sites in the park.
- o Encourage volunteers to be an integral part of interpretive activities, and promote the development of a living history program.
- o Provide further information about the park through ongoing research.
- o Encourage volunteer participation.
- o Accommodate maintenance and storage facilities in the unit.
- o Institute user fees, provide sufficient visitor facilities.
- o Develop concessions that are interpretive or historic in nature.
- o Support special events sponsored by nonprofit associations.
- o Encourage concessions related to the "living history" concept.
- o Sell food, beverages, sundries.

The Environmental Impact Element discusses the anticipated impacts the proposed development will have on the area, and recommends mitigation measures including:

- o Conduct percolation tests in areas proposed for septic systems.
- o Pave access roads and parking with all weather surface.
- o Build new structures and upgrade existing structures to earthquake safety standards.
- o Maintain Monterey pine snags as wildlife habitat.
- o Post signs and install acceleration and deceleration lanes southbound on highway at park entrance.
- o Cap parking lot with a clean fill layer to prevent disturbance to midden area.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of Plan

The significance of Olompali is recognized by both the Federal Government and the State. Olompali was designated a California State Historic Landmark (#210) in 1932; and entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. In December 1977, the State of California purchased the Olompali property, and the State Park and Recreation Commission in December 1981 classified it as a state historic park. As such, the Public Resources Code (section 5019.59) mandates emphasis on preserving "*objects of historical, archaeological and scientific interest, and archaeological sites and places, commemorating important persons or historic events.*" In supporting this goal, the Code restricts facility development, within limited recreation and other commercial activities, to support the historic authenticity of the park.

The purpose of Olompali State Historic Park (as stated in the Resource Element) is to preserve and interpret for the public the prehistoric sites and features associated with the Coast Miwok village of Olompali; and to preserve, interpret, and restore, where feasible, the remaining historic sites and features associated with Olompali's Mexican and American periods. Public use and enjoyment of the historic park is encouraged within the limits established by its State Park System classification and resource sensitivities.

This **general plan** provides long-range development, management, and operational guidelines for Olompali State Historic Park to satisfy requirements of Public Resources Code Section 5002.2. Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey, under contract to the California State Parks Foundation, has prepared this plan to be presented to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for submittal to the State Park and Recreation Commission. The **plan** reflects the department's mandates to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the park while providing for the recreation needs of California citizens. Approval of this plan by the State Park and Recreation Commission is required before any development that would constitute a permanent commitment of natural or cultural resources.

The **plan** summarizes the available information about the park, documents the planning process and the relevant data used in making land use decisions, and recommends management and development proposals. As conditions change, the plan may be reviewed and updated as necessary to responsibly guide departmental actions at the park. The **plan**, however, is not meant to provide detailed plans for site development, resource management, or park operation and maintenance. Day-use and parking capacities indicated by the plan are

## General Plan Outline

approximate only, indicating maximum capacity, and may be less when specific site plans are prepared for funding and implementation. Resource management details will be included in specific resource management programs to be prepared at a later date.

Discussions about land not owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation have been included. These lands represent potential acquisition opportunities, based on available data. However, the discussions are intended for planning purposes only and do not represent an intention or commitment for acquisition.

The **general plan** is made up of the following elements, which reflect the department's responsibility to fulfill certain goals:

The **Resource Element** evaluates the natural and cultural resources of the park and sets management policies for protection, restoration, and use of these resources.

The **Land Use Element** describes current land uses and relevant planning issues, determines proposed land uses consistent with the resources and unit classification, and outlines land use objectives and recommendations.

The **Facilities Element** describes current facilities and proposed development to enhance public recreational experiences and enjoyment of the resources and values of the park, and establishes priorities for park development.

The **Interpretive Element** proposes programs and facilities for public information and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of the park.

The **Operations Element** describes specific operational and maintenance requirements and guidelines unique to the park.

The **Concessions Element** summarizes opportunities to provide appropriate goods or services to the public through concessions in existing or proposed facilities.

The **Environmental Impact Element** serves as the Environmental Impact Report required by the California Environmental Quality Act. This element assesses environmental effects and proposes mitigation measures and alternatives.

## Unit Identification

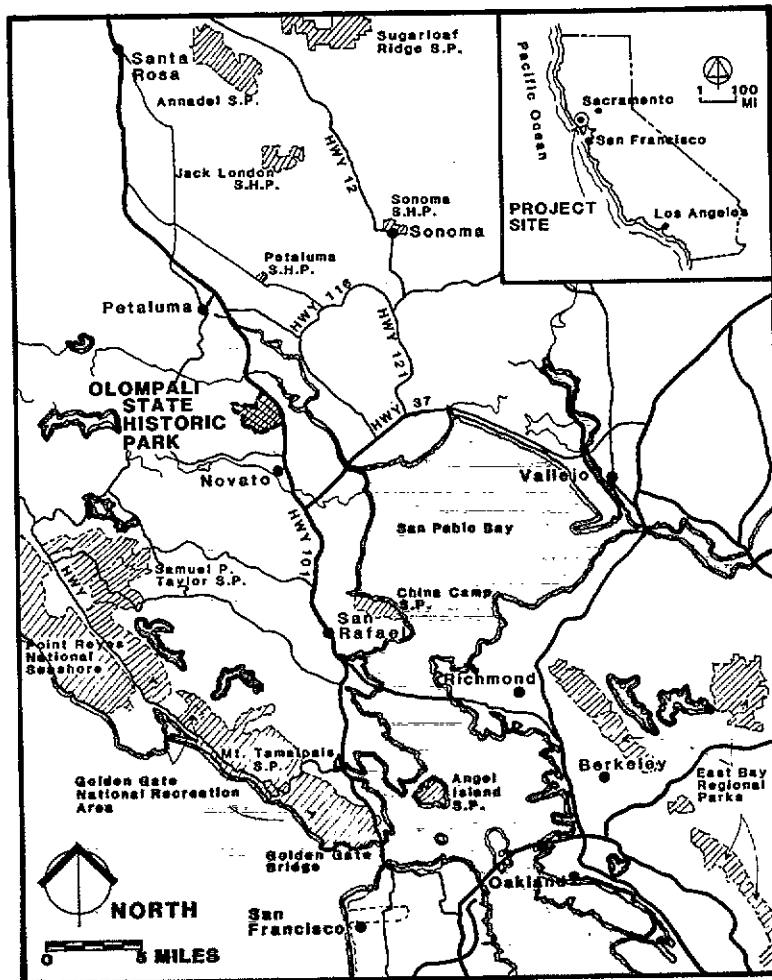
Olompali State Historic Park covering approximately 700 acres is located in northern Marin County, on the eastern flank of Burdell Mountain, 1.8 miles north of the city of Novato. About 6,000 feet of its frontage lies along U.S. Highway 101. The unit is roughly rectangular in outline and extends from U.S. 101 on the east to the peak of Burdell Mountain on the west. A portion of the western boundary follows the old Rancho Olompali land grant boundary line. Major landmarks near the park include Burdell Mountain and the water features and related marsh areas of San Antonio Creek, which joins the Petaluma River to flow southeast into San Pablo Bay.

The unit is located in the low Coastal Mountain Province as defined by Herbert Mason (1970). The low coastal mountains consist of several ranges running parallel to the San Andreas Fault system. The westernmost boundary of the province is the inner edge of the Coastline province, above the Third Marine Terrace. The low coastal mountains extend from the Humboldt/Mendocino County line at the north to mid-San Luis Obispo County where the province dips southeast, above the transverse ranges to the Tehachapis.

Current access to the unit is perpendicular to U.S. 101, requiring a right turn if going south, or a left turn across southbound traffic. Unit access from U.S. 101 both at the Worm Farm Road and the existing entrance do not meet Caltrans' current intersection standards for a public use access. Private roads enter the site near the southeast property lines; however, these roads are unimproved and not open to the public.

Olompali State Historic Park consists of natural undeveloped land with the exception of the concentration of former ranch residences, barns, and other related buildings. West of the ranch complex an existing old road, now used as a trail, follows a creek to the remotely located Deer Hunting Camp, which contains several cabins, and to an old reservoir. The terrain surrounding the park, to the west, south, and north is also undeveloped rolling hillsides, covered with clumps of native oaks as well as buckeye and grasslands. These areas are used primarily for grazing cattle, with limited trail access for hikers and equestrians. The Marin County Open Space District shares a common property line with the unit on the west boundary, managing the Mount Burdell Open Space Preserve. Across U.S. 101, east of the park, the topography is virtually level with the sloughs and associated marshlands of the Petaluma River. In this area near the confluence of San Antonio Creek with the Petaluma River is Burdell Island, once part of

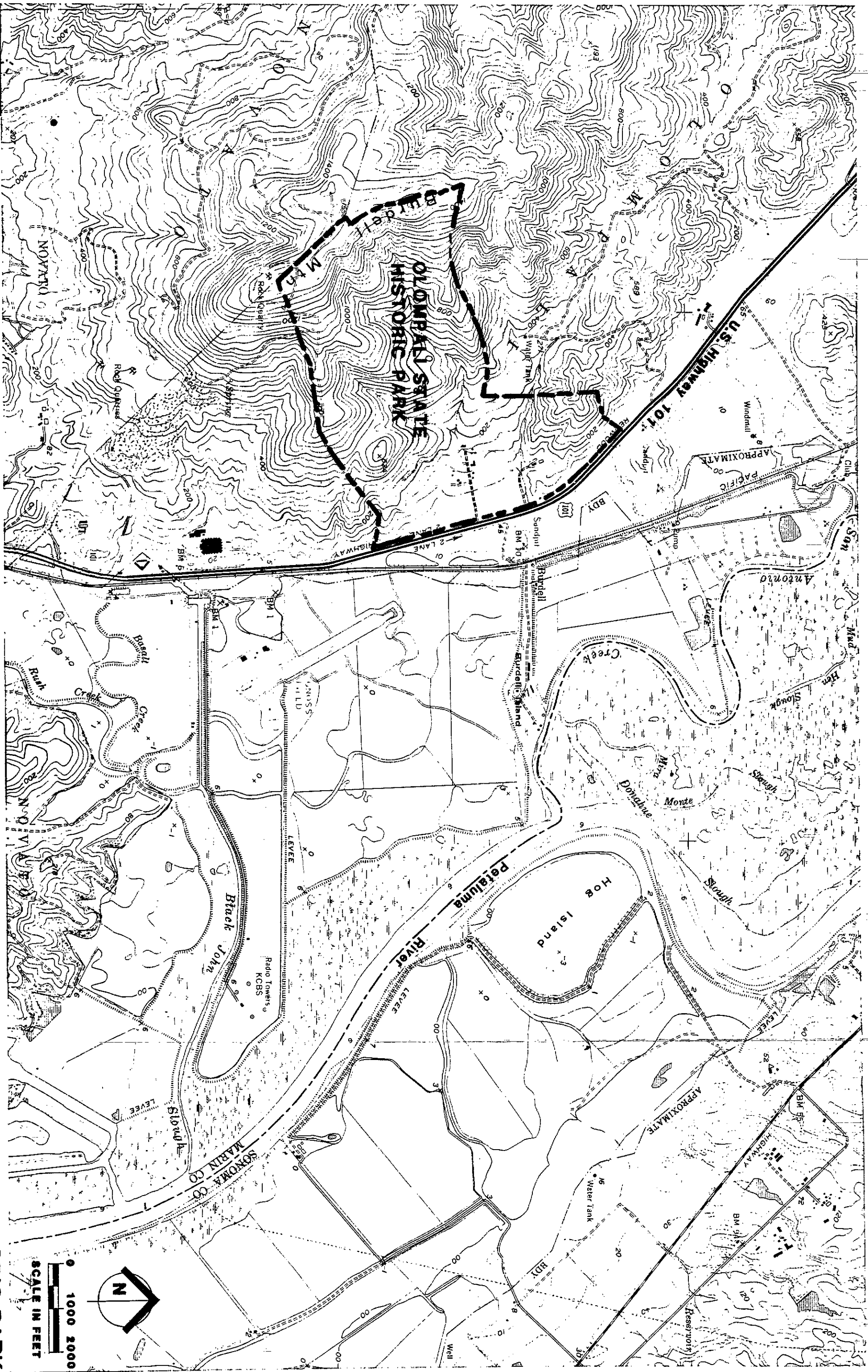
the original Burdell landholdings. To the southeast across U.S. 101 is Gnos Field, the Marin County Airport, and other airport-related uses constructed on historic tidelands diked and reclaimed before World War I for agricultural use.



**OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
STATE AND REGIONAL LOCATION MAP  
FIGURE 1**

### Regional Recreation Profile

Olompali State Historic Park, located 20 miles north of San Francisco along U.S. 101, is in an area with great recreational appeal which draws visitors from across the nation. The area offers a diversity of recreation environments: coastal beaches, lakes, rivers, bays, red-wood forests, mountains, wilderness areas, and areas of historic interest.



OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**LOCAL SETTING**

FIGURE 2

## Recreation Participation

This regional recreation area is located in the California Outdoor Recreation Resource Plan's (CORRP) District 4, which includes nine counties in the greater San Francisco Bay Area: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco. Of the 4.7 million acres in the planning district (about 5 percent of the area of the state), 17 percent is in public ownership.

Within Marin County, projections by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to the year 2000 show "nature appreciation" with the highest projected recreation demand out of 28 activities. The next highest projected demands are for picnicking, lake and stream fishing, visiting scenic areas, sunning, ocean swimming, golf, hiking and backpacking, and camping. (Data from PARIS- Park and Recreation Information System.)

On a statewide basis, the recently released **Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California - 1987** surveyed more than 2,000 Californians on the sorts of activities and facilities they preferred and their priorities for public expenditures. Major findings of the study include some that apply to Olompali State Historic Park:

- o Based on latent unmet demand and public support, Californians believe that eight outdoor recreation activities should have top priority for the expenditure of public funds: walking, bicycling, camping in developed sites with tent or vehicle, birdwatching/general nature study/visiting natural areas, picnicking in developed sites, beach activities, outdoor cultural events, and visiting museums/zoos/historic sites.*
- o In light of tight budgets, almost three-fourths of Californians believed spending should be increased for the protection and management of natural and cultural resources. Increasing the protection of scenery and the natural environment was strongly supported by three-fourths of the respondents.*

Olompali State Historic Park has an average monthly attendance of 55 people, with the use period concentrated from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During this period three to five groups per month enter the park or request ranger walks or tours. During the past few years horse group activity has increased in the park, rising from one or two groups per year to approximately six.

Use is limited by such constraints as park visibility, access, restrooms, water, and building safety. The park is open daily but the entrance gate is locked, requiring visitors to park along the highway and walk into the site. Special tours can be arranged with the rangers or docents.

Current activities include transitory pursuits such as hiking, running, and horseback riding, and those with a destination such as picnicking, visiting the historic area, nature study, photography, studying the geology, and birding. A variety of groups visit the park with different interests and expectations for recreation. Some of these groups include: The Olompali People (volunteers), Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school groups (elementary through college), family picnics, the Terwilliger Foundation, runners (both scheduled runs and practice), camera clubs, the Novato Historic Guild, California Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society, Tamalpais Residence (retired folks), garden clubs, and the Marin Horse Council. The needs for these different groups vary but they share in common requests for potable water and restrooms.

How many people will come to Olompali State Historic Park next year or 20 years from now? Although a specific answer to this question is impossible to determine, there are a number of factors that indicate there will be an increasing demand for park lands and facilities.

During the last 30 years, the state has grown tremendously. Between 1955 and 1985, California's population doubled, while attendance in the State Park System grew ten-fold, from 7 million to almost 70 million visitors annually. In 1986-1987 visitor attendance at state park units in Planning District 4 was about 9,313,961, and at state park units in Marin County, about 1,822,568.

Increased leisure time, higher family incomes, automobiles, greater urban populations, and a younger population have contributed to a higher general recreation participation rate.

The 20-year population growth of Marin County is projected to be below the statewide average, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments. However, nearby Sonoma County, from which Olompali State Historic Park could expect many visitors, is projected to be above the statewide average. By the year 2005, the Marin County population will grow from 223,400 (1985) to 261,000, while Sonoma County will grow from 332,200 (1985) to 471,800. Population increase within the entire San Francisco Bay Region (nine

## The Planning Process

counties) is projected from 5,531,500 (1985) to 6,663,300 (2005). Because of these factors, there will probably be continued growth in recreation use at Olompali State Historic Park.

Specific objectives guided the planning process as follows:

- o Identify the cultural and natural resources of the park.
- o Identify existing and future problems and provide solutions.
- o Determine land use, park development, and visitor activities compatible with the park and surrounding areas.
- o Determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities.
- o Establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation of the resources, development of facilities, and interpretation of resource values.

The **Resource Inventory**, January 1987, prepared by Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey and LSA Associates, provides a thorough, accurate and all-encompassing body of information on the natural and cultural features of the historic park. This information provides the necessary resource data for unit classification, for development of a resource management policy and program, for facility development, and for development of interpretive programs, and serves as background information for maintenance and operation.

The **Resource Element**, June 1987, prepared by State Park System staff, sets forth long-range management objectives for the natural and cultural resources of the unit. Specific actions or limitations required to achieve these objectives are also set forth in this element.

The planning team presented both documents at the first public workshop and received input on perceived issues.

In order to assemble a comprehensive understanding of site and program alternatives, the planning team prepared an **Alternatives Report**, July 1987, addressing land use (access, parking, interpretation center, day camps, etc.), interpretive programs (periods, themes, facilities), facilities (historic buildings, administration), and opera-



## Public Involvement

tions (programs, concessions). Alternative concepts included such decisions as what period or periods of history should be emphasized, how buildings should be preserved or restored, and where the public might enter and park vehicles to visit the site.

The planning team then presented these alternatives to the public at a second workshop with the objective of determining what combination of alternatives or portions of alternatives would constitute the overall general plan. These alternatives were interrelated and decisions about one issue could have resulting impacts on several alternatives. The public workshop became an important forum to discuss these alternatives.

The planning team incorporated information gained from the public, along with recommendations from state personnel, in the **preliminary general plan** and presented the plan at the third public workshop.

The public has been a vital member of the planning team throughout the general plan process. The Olompali People is a private interest group of volunteers dedicated to promoting and improving Olompali for public enjoyment. They are dedicated to restoring the historic buildings and developing better access to the park. As a committee of the California State Parks Foundation, they are working with the California Department of Parks and Recreation toward achieving the objectives of the general plan.

From the outset, the planning team attempted to identify all parties interested in or affected by this plan, and to encourage their participation in the decision-making process. This involvement was initiated before important land use decisions were made and encouraged continued public input. The Olompali People were crucial in setting meeting dates and locations and providing and updating a mailing list of over 900 names.

The Olompali People met prior to each workshop to review submitted material and thus provided valuable input and support. The continued involvement of The Olompali People will be important in supporting the general plan before the State Park and Recreation Commission and in assuring the priority of this park in future decisions on state park funding.

The planning team with the assistance of state personnel and The Olompali People held three public workshops in Novato. Newsletters sent prior to and following each workshop, along with ongoing newspaper coverage, publicized these meetings.

On May 14, 1987, 30 people attended the first public meeting held in the Novato Council Chambers. The planning team summarized the **Resource Inventory**, highlighting significant natural resources of the unit. State park system personnel presented the **Draft Resource Element**, which includes policies recommended by state departmental staff for protection and management of the cultural and natural resources. The workshop was then opened up for everyone to express ideas about the future of the park. Major concerns expressed at the public hearing related to interpretation, access, day-use facilities, and site resources.

On July 22, 1987, over 40 people attended the second public meeting at the Novato Unified School District Administration Building. The planning team summarized the **Alternatives Report**, emphasizing decisions addressing land use, interpretation, historic buildings, and programs/concessions. Following a brief question and answer period, people organized into individual groups to discuss and evaluate the above alternatives by completing an alternatives evaluation worksheet. Some alternatives showed a clear consensus of opinion, while other choices reflected the interests of different groups or individuals. The planning team synthesized this public input along with recommendations of departmental personnel to formulate a single plan. Using workshop recommendations as a guide, and respecting the planning assumptions established earlier by existing conditions, decisions about park use, objectives, recommendations, and facility proposals were made.

On October 29, 1987, over 40 people attended the third and last public meeting held in the Novato Council Chambers to discuss the **preliminary general plan**. Proposed maps of trail linkages and historic areas were presented. The workshop participants enthusiastically supported the plan and were most concerned about the future of the planning process. After the meeting, the alternate land use plans were evaluated, appropriate changes made, and the preliminary plan and environmental impact report developed in compliance with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) for review and comment.

## **Relationship to Local Planning**

The **preliminary general plan** is scheduled to be presented to the State Park and Recreation Commission on July 8, 1988. Public and government agency comments on the plan will be received during a public review period, mandated by CEQA, prior to the meeting. The State Park and Recreation Commission at its public hearing, will take final action on the plan after considering comments made during the environmental review process. The public will be invited to attend this hearing and comment further on the plan. The planning team will then notify the public through a last newsletter of the action taken by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Public participation will continue to be important in reviewing the general plan, in decisions regarding development priorities, and in park activities and programs.

### **Marin Countywide Plan Policies**

The 1981 updated Marin CWP contains an element with policy guidance for the county and city government roles in providing parks, recreation, and open space. These role definitions prompted the establishment of the Marin County Open Space District. Olompali State Historic Park is surrounded by agricultural preserves to the north and south. The Novato Planning Area includes a portion of the Inland Rural and Coastal Corridor with recommendations affecting agricultural preserves.

### **County Open Space District**

The district implements the open space recommendations of the Environmental Quality Element of the Marin CWP and cooperates with cities and other local jurisdictions. The district has two major programs: an Open Space Management Program and an Open Space Preservation Program. The district manages the Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve (1,454 acres), located west of Olompali State Historic Park.

### **Novato General Plan**

Olompali State Historic Park, although within the county's jurisdiction, borders the City of Novato's planning area, which includes 70 square miles. The 1981 Novato General Plan contains policies governing the preservation of open space lands, agricultural preserves and conservation areas. Other policies that would indirectly affect Olompali SHP because of the surrounding properties include agricultural policies listed in the Natural Environmental Element; specifically, policies that primarily address the preservation of agricultural and grazing lands.

**Other Agencies' Jurisdiction**

Olompali State Historic Park falls within the boundaries of: North Marin County Water District, Novato Fire Protection District, Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and County Service Area (CSA) No. 25 San Marin Open Space District.

Numerous contacts were made with the following agencies that have, or might have, an interest in the general plan:

- California State Department of Transportation
- City of Novato
- Marin County Planning Department
- Marin County Public Works Department
- Marin County Open Space District



## RESOURCE ELEMENT

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# RESOURCE ELEMENT

## Resource Summary

### Natural Resources

This Resource Element was prepared to meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2, Subsection (b) of Division 5, Chapter 1 of the Public Resources Code and Chapter 1, Section 4332 of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code. In compliance with this section of the Public Resources Code, the Resource Element sets forth long-range management objectives for the natural and cultural resources of the unit. Specific actions or limitations required to achieve these objectives are also set forth in this element; maintenance operations and details of resource management are left for inclusion in specific resource management programs that will be prepared at a later date.

This element also identifies specific resource sensitivities and physical constraints, and establishes the department's guidelines for acceptable levels of development and use with respect to these concerns.

The Resource Element has two main parts. The first is a brief summary of the unit's resources. More detailed information on these subjects is on file with the Department of Parks and Recreation. The second part deals with policy formulation, which begins with unit classification and declaration of purpose and concludes with specific resource management policies.

#### Topography

Olompali State Historic Park encompasses 700 acres and is located on the western fringes of the historic marsh of the Petaluma River, about four miles from San Pablo Bay. Before the construction of levees in the 19th century the present-day park was situated along the shore of the former False Bay, a large marshy basin drained by the Petaluma River. Approximately 95 percent of this unit lies within the Burdell Creek drainage, which forms an easterly-facing bowl. The lower portion of this bowl is characterized by gently-rising slopes; topography becomes increasingly steep in inland portions of the unit. The elevation of Olompali State Historic Park ranges from about 10 feet at the eastern boundary to 1,558 feet at the summit of Burdell Mountain, the highest point in the unit. Burdell Mountain and adjacent ridges form a western backdrop with slopes primarily facing east and north. Slopes of 50 percent or greater dominate the unit.

#### Meteorology

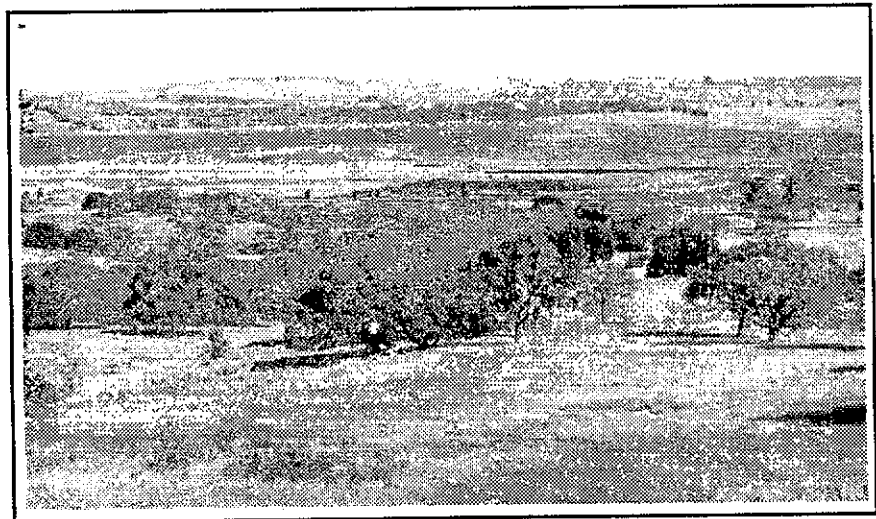
Marin County has a Marine West Coast climate type with Mediterranean characteristics. It is characterized by a humid mesothermal



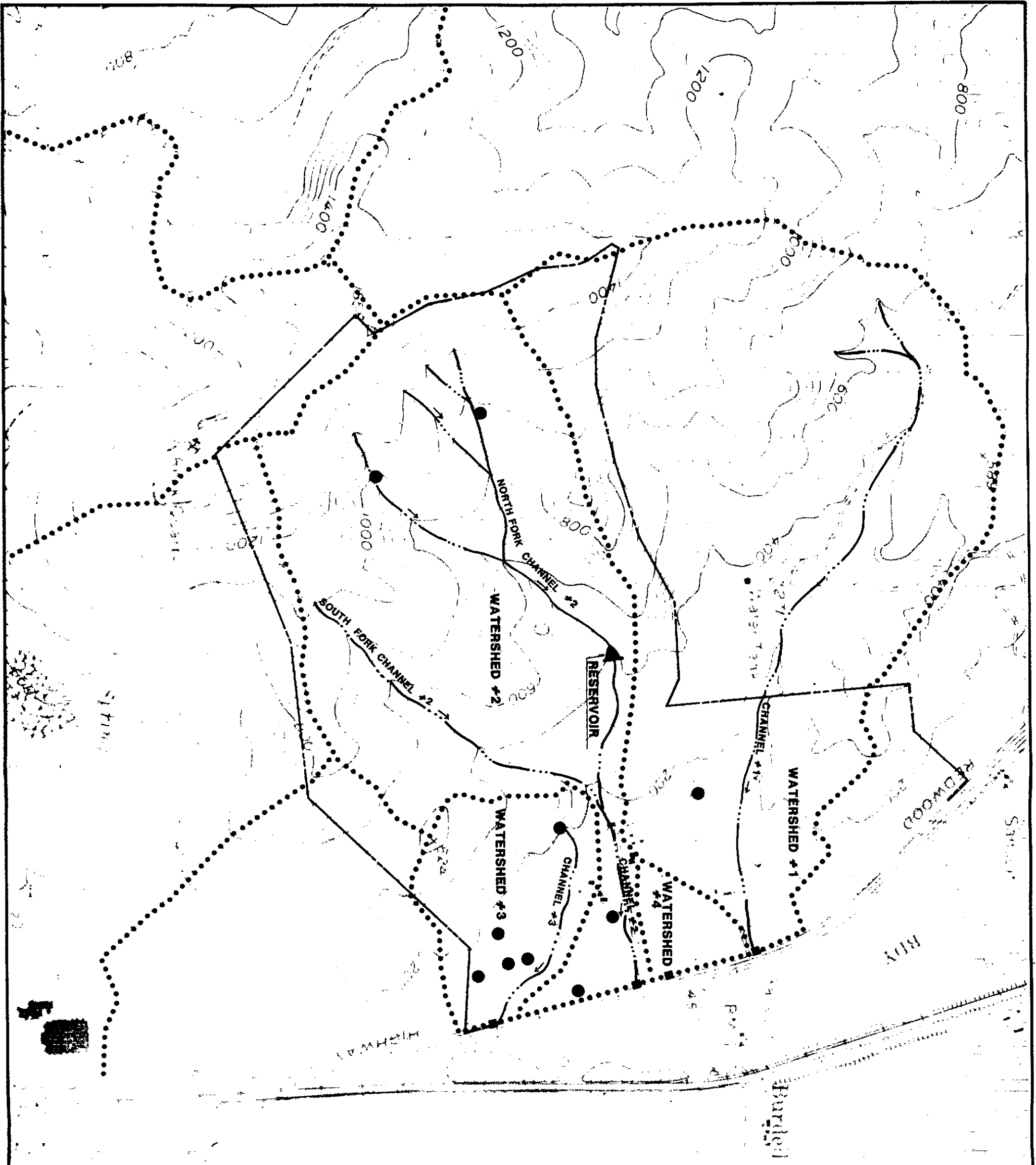
climate, drier air inland, and mild winters and warm summers. Due to protection from prevailing winds and summer fog provided by Burdell Mountain and its transverse ridge, Olompali State Historic Park experiences a more equable microclimate than does the surrounding terrain. Proximity of the unit to the Petaluma River marshes, however, results frequently in ground fog during the winter.

The temperature at Olompali State Historic Park is moderated by proximity to San Francisco Bay. Summer high temperatures range from 70°F to 85°F; winter high temperatures vary between 40°F and 65°F. Extreme summer highs are in the 90s; extreme winter lows reach the 30s. Rainfall in the vicinity of Olompali State Historic Park averages 30 inches per year with peak precipitation occurring during December, January, and February. Summer winds often flow eastward and eddy gently in the Burdell Mountain basin. Dominant winter winds are associated with winter storm tracks and usually pass through the area with a southeast to southwest wind generation.

Olompali State Historic Park is located in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Major pollutants monitored in the district are ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, hydrocarbons, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and total suspended particulate matter (TSP). Although the Bay Area currently exceeds air quality standards for ozone and carbon monoxide, data from monitoring stations in the vicinity of the unit indicate that air quality at Olompali State Historic Park is generally good.

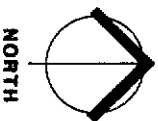


**View from Olompali to East**



**LEGEND**

- FLOW DIRECTION
- SEEP OR SPRING
- ▲ RESERVOIR
- PERENNIAL STREAM
- - - - - INTERMITTENT STREAM
- ..... WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- CULVERT



Bardell Island

OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**SURFACE HYDROLOGY MAP**  
 GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

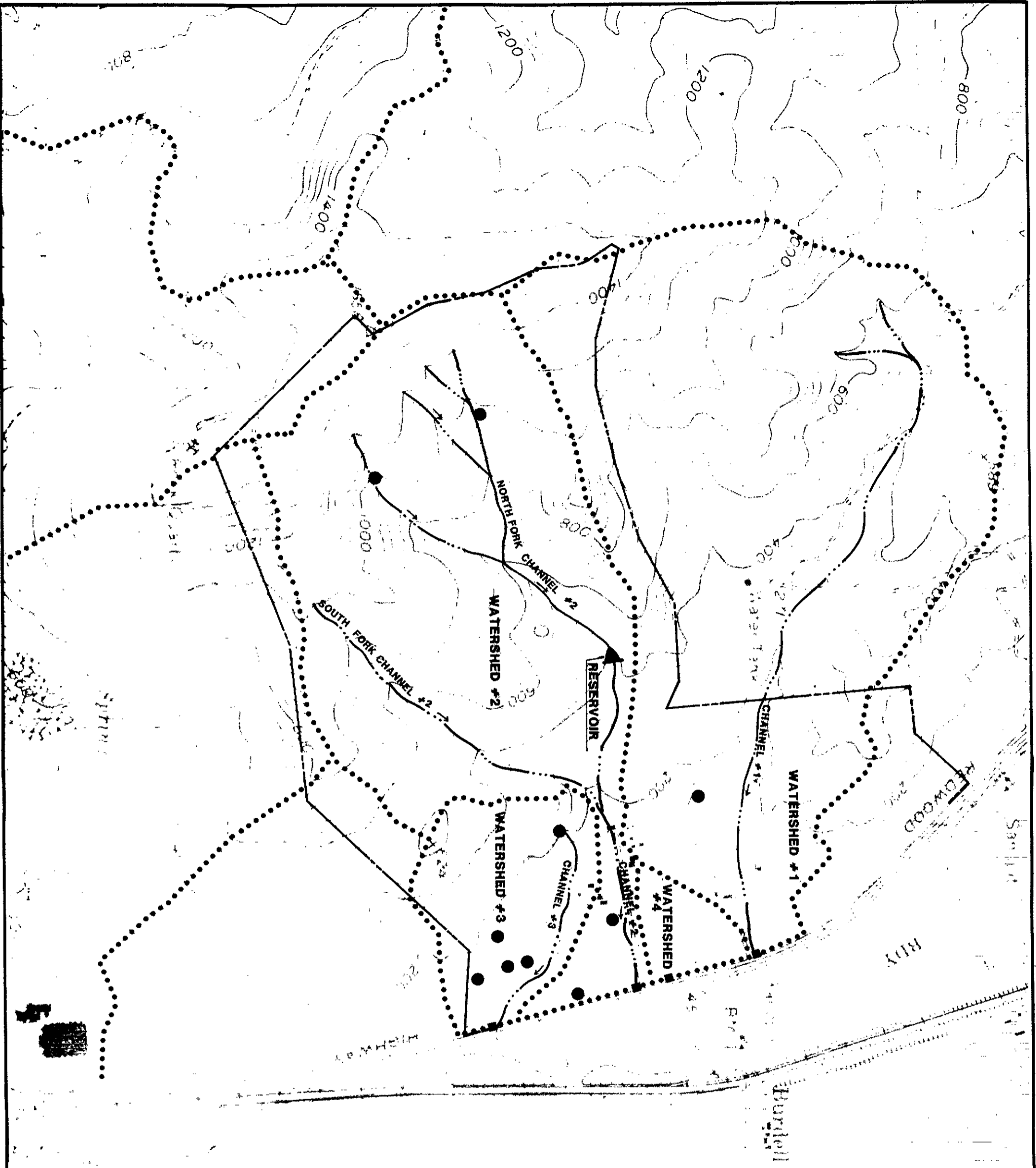
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



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DRAWING NO.  
**24676**

MAP  
 1



**LEGEND**

- FLOW DIRECTION
- SEEP OR SPRING
- ▲ RESERVOIR
- PERENNIAL STREAM
- - - INTERMITTENT STREAM
- ..... WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- CULVERT



Burdell Island

OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**SURFACE HYDROLOGY MAP**  
 GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## Hydrology

Olompali State Historic Park drains eastward. Culverts under U.S. Highway 101 channel surface flows into drainage ditches that deposit runoff into San Antonio Creek, a tributary of the Petaluma River, which flows into San Pablo Bay.

The unit is drained by five watersheds. The largest watershed encompasses 520 acres and drains approximately 161 acres in the northern part of Olompali State Historic Park. The central portion of the unit is drained by a 375 acre watershed. The third watershed area drains approximately 73 acres. The remaining two watersheds are drained by channels outside of the unit.

Streams in Olompali State Historic Park are predominately intermittent, although sections of several streams are permanent due to inflows from springs. A small reservoir in the northern part of the unit traps runoff from spring flows for landscape irrigation. Water from the reservoir was used in the past to irrigate Burdell garden and to provide drinking water. The reservoir has not been used for drinking water since 1979, except for the residents, restaurant staff, and customers on Burdell Island. Water rights at the unit are currently owned by three adjacent landowners and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Olompali State Historic Park is located in the Novato Valley groundwater basin. Water quality data for this groundwater basin is not available.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has not prepared flood maps for Olompali State Historic Park. According to the Marin County flood control engineer, property above the 10-foot elevation contour is generally excluded from flooding by the Petaluma River. Less than one acre of the unit is below the 10-foot elevation contour.

## Geology

Olompali State Historic Park lies within the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province in a complex geologic setting. The unit is situated on the slopes of Burdell Mountain, which is made up of andesitic lava flows and volcanic tuff breccia. The oldest bedrock materials in the unit are metamorphic rocks of an assemblage called the Franciscan complex, and represent the most resistant remnants of the disrupted and sheared rock materials caught in the zone of thrusting of the North American Plate over the Pacific Plate. The Franciscan outcrops

within the unit are typically monument-like masses of hard rock protruding from otherwise smooth slopes. Glaucofane-bearing blueschist typifies this type of outcrop. The northernmost extension of Olompali State Historic Park is underlain by gray to light brown metamorphosed sandstone that is slightly foliated. The southern and western portions of the unit are underlain by hard, compact andesitic lava flows and tuff breccias that erupted about 11.8 million years ago and are younger than the Franciscan assemblage. Large areas of landslide debris occupy much of the surface in the western central portion of the unit. Many of these deposits are located on slopes and consist of unstable, clay-rich soil debris that has moved downslope by intermittent flow episodes or creep. Most of these can be expected to continue their slow downslope migration particularly during wet years.

The largest landslide deposit is stabilized at the base of the slope on the flattest portion of the park. This ancient landslide deposit consists entirely of volcanic rock debris and soil from the adjacent northeast slopes of Burdell Mountain. Large boulders of volcanic rocks characterize this landslide. This large, fan-shaped deposit was formed by one or more catastrophic episodes of rapid debris flow or debris avalanches. These movements stripped upland slopes and carried their debris well beyond the base of the slopes. Great scars, evident on the steep mountain slopes, are likely to have been the sources of the debris. It is possible that one or more great earthquakes that occurred during periods of soil saturation triggered the event or events.

The age of the debris flow activity is not known, but the deposit is judged to be older than most of the other landslides at the unit. This landslide debris is stable because it has reached the base of the slope and is well consolidated. However, its presence and origin indicate that landslide hazards in this central area originate from the Burdell Mountain slopes, and further indicate a setting that is potentially hazardous to humans and structures because it is along flow or avalanche routes.

Landslides also surround the southern, southwestern, and southeastern slopes of Burdell Mountain. These slides originated as rotational slump blocks from failure in the volcanic bedrock. The headwall scarps upslope are still very steep, and future landsliding is likely, especially if combined with a sizeable seismic event.

The Burdell Mountain fault zone, a zone of related, intersecting, and lateral fractures, crosses the park. The principal fault zone transverses

northwest along the base of Burdell Mountain. Its trace is concealed beneath landslide and soil deposits within the boundaries of the unit, but at several localities elsewhere, topographic evidence in the form of scarps suggests geologically recent displacements along it. However, the State of California reports no evidence of known displacement on the fault within the last 11,000 years. Minor events (less than Richter magnitude 3.0) may have originated along the Burdell Mountain fault zone in historic times.

### Soils

Olompali State Historic Park is located in Soil Region I, the Northern Western Coast Ranges Soil Region. The dominant parent materials in this region include volcanic rocks, Franciscan melange, and Franciscan semischist. Colluvium has covered the bedrock material in some locations.

Based on site-specific surveys, four soil series occur at the park. Three of the four series are classified as complexes, which consist of two or more soils occurring together. These soils are the Gilroy-Gilroy Variant-Bonnydoon Variant loams, the Blucher-Cole complex, the Los Osos-Bonnydoon complex, and Reyes clay.

The predominant soil in the unit is Gilroy-Gilroy Variant-Bonnydoon Variant loams, 30 to 50 percent slopes. This complex consists of upland soils found in the western and northern portions of the park. This soil complex is 35 percent Gilroy loam, 25 percent Gilroy Variant loam, and 20 percent Bonnydoon Variant loam. The complex occurs on side slopes and convex areas on knolls and ridges, and is derived from igneous and metamorphic rock. Permeability is moderately slow to moderate, runoff is rapid, and erosion potential is moderate. Slope and depth to rock are the principal constraints associated with this soil complex. The native vegetation supported by this complex include coast live oak and California bay forest with scattered areas of native and non native grassland. California mixed chaparral and blue oak woodland occur on this soil in the northern part of the unit.

The Blucher-Cole complex, 2 to 5 percent slope, occurs along the eastern boundary of the unit and was formed in ancient landslide deposits. This complex is 40 percent Blucher silty loam and 30 percent Cole clay loam. Within the park, the dominant vegetation on this soil is non native annual grassland and remnants of the Burdell garden and orchard. Permeability is slow to moderate. A seasonal

shallow water table at depths of 1.5 to 5 feet is associated with the Blucher-Cole complex. The wetness, the shrink-swell potential, and the possibility of flooding associated with this soil are considerations in planning for recreational development.

The Los Osos-Bonnydoon complex, 15 to 30 percent slopes, is located on side slopes in the northwestern portion of the unit. The complex is derived from shale and sandstone, and consists of 60 percent Los Osos loam and 20 percent Bonnydoon gravelly loam. Non native grassland, blue oak woodland, and mixed evergreen forest are associated with this soil at the park. Permeability is slow to moderate and potential for water erosion is high. Slope, depth to rock, and erodibility are considerations in planning for recreational facilities, including camping and picnic areas, paths, and trails, and septic systems.

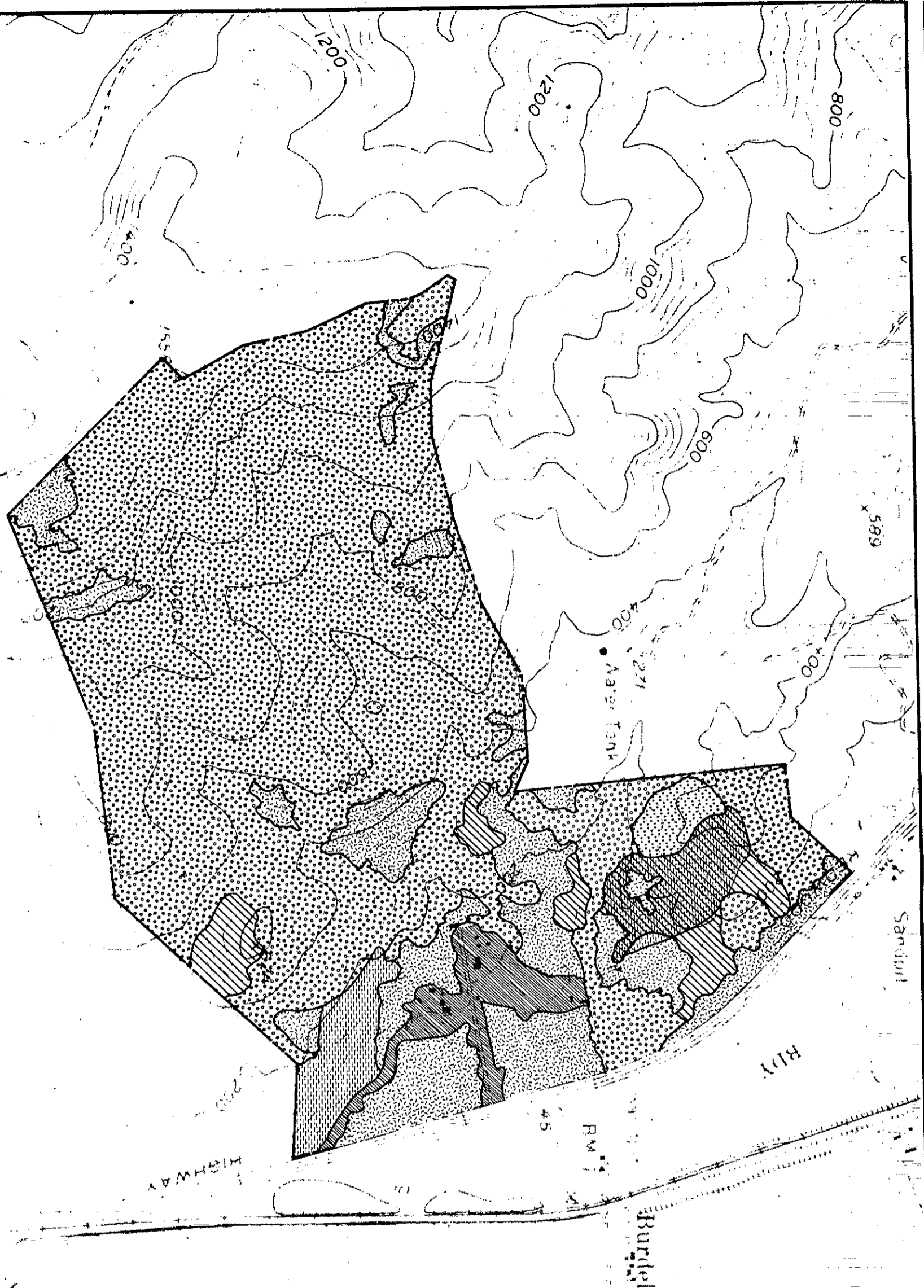
Less than one acre of Reyes clay occurs at the park. This soil, formed in alluvium, is located in the southeast corner of the unit on former tidelands. Slow permeability and a seasonal high water table are associated with Reyes clay. Wetness, shrink-swell potential, and potential flooding are potential constraints in recreational planning.

### Plant Life







Olompali State Historic Park is within the Central Coast Region of the California Floristic Province. Because of the relative stability of the climate, as well as habitat diversity, the Central Coast Region is one of the richer areas in endemic taxa in California.

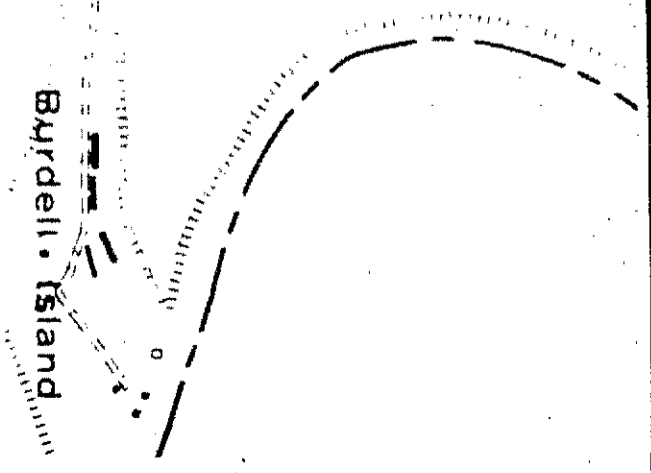
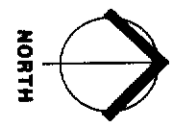
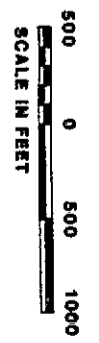
Four major plant communities are represented at Olompali State Historic Park: coast live oak forest, blue oak woodland/savanna, California mixed chaparral, and non native grassland.

Coast live oak forest is the predominant plant community at the park, and occurs on hills south and north of the ancient landslide deposits. The dominant canopy species in this forest are coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), and California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). These trees grow in height to approximately 40 feet. Canopy cover is densest in the bottoms of major stream drainages and becomes more open at the blue oak woodland/coast live oak forest interface. Understory plants include several species of ferns, hazelnut (*Corylus californica*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rivularis*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversiloba*).



**LEGEND**

-  NON-NATIVE GRASSLAND
-  COASTAL TERRACE PRAIRIE VALLEY NEEDLEGRASS
-  CALIFORNIA MIXED CHAPARRAL
-  BLUE OAK WOODLAND
-  MIXED NORTH SLOPE CISMONTANE WOODLAND
-  EXOTIC PLANTS



OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**PLANT COMMUNITIES**  
 GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

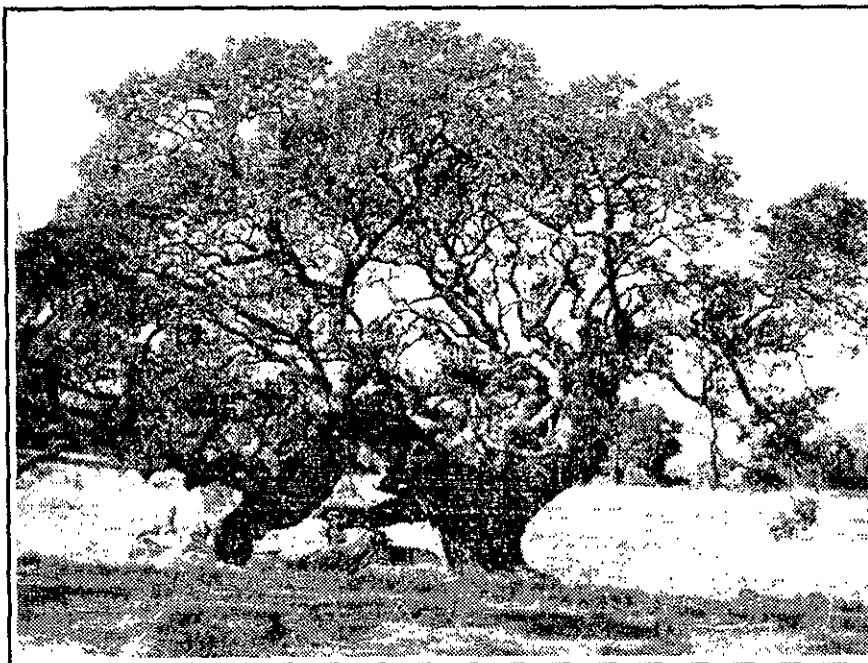
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### Coast Live Oak

Blue oak woodland/savanna occurs in the central and northeastern portions of the unit. Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) is the dominant tree. Other canopy species include coast live oak and valley oak (*Q. lobata*). Canopy cover ranges from open to dense and varies with slope exposure. Canopy density is greater on east-facing slopes in the unit. The understory is dominated by native bunchgrasses: needle grass (*Stipa sp.*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*). Tufted hairgrass grows in moister situations than does blue wild rye and needle grass, and is more common on east-facing slopes. Annual grasses and occasional shrubs also occur in the blue oak woodland/savanna understory.

California mixed chaparral occurs in the northwestern portion of the unit and is dominated by sclerophyllous shrubs. Dominant species present are chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and Eastwood's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*). Other species present include toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and coast live oak. Eastwood's manzanita and chamise form dense impenetrable thickets 4 to 7 feet high. The oaks in this community are browsed heavily by deer.

Non native grassland is the predominant grassland at the unit. This community occurs on the lower slopes of the hills and on ancient landslide deposits. Dominant species found in this community are wild oat (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and hare

barley (*Hordeum leporinum*). Other species occurring in this community include native and introduced forbs such as blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) and red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), respectively. This plant community is limited in its elevational distribution by moisture and occurs on lower slopes, with the more mesic coast live oak forest occupying the middle and upper slopes in the unit.

No rare, threatened, or endangered plants are known at Olompali State Historic Park. However, many sensitive species are reported in central Marin County by the Natural Diversity Data Base. Except *Trifolium amoenum*, these species are listed as rare and endangered (List 1B) by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS):

<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i> var. <i>sonomensis</i> *	Sonoma alopecurus
<i>Arctostaphylos montana</i>	Mt. Tamalpais manzanita
<i>Ceanothus masonii</i>	Mason's ceanothus
<i>Cirsium hydrophyllum</i> var. <i>vaseyi</i>	Mt. Tamalpais thistle
<i>Fritillaria liliacea</i> *	Fragrant fritillary
<i>Hesperolinum congestum</i>	Marin dwarf-flax
<i>Holocarpha macradenia</i>	Santa Cruz tarweed
<i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i>	White-rayed pentachaeta
<i>Streptanthus batracopus</i>	Tamalpais jewelflower
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i> **	Showy Indian clover

\* Expected to occur in the unit. Reported from Burdell Mountain.

\*\* List 1A, presumed extinct.

Tiburon buckwheat (*Eriogonum caninum*), a serpentine and shale endemic, occurs on the serpentine outcrop at the Olompali State Historic Park. This species is designated as a plant of limited distribution (List 4) by the CNPS.

The blue oak woodland/savanna and serpentine outcrops are special interest plant communities within the unit. Native bunchgrasses are significant due to the density at which they grow at the park. Blue oak is of limited distribution in Marin County.

Approximately 50 species of exotic plants are currently reported at the park. Many of these species are associated with the Burdell Mansion and garden, or with areas grazed previously.

## Animal Life

Three major biotic communities are represented at Olompali State Historic Park: woodland-savanna, grassland, and chaparral.

Oak woodland and oak savanna intergrade within the unit and support similar assemblages of wildlife. High foliage height density, plant species diversity, and biomass per acre are reflected in high numbers of animal species. Oaks provide food for mule deer, scrub jays, band-tailed pigeons, and acorn woodpeckers. Natural cavities in older oaks provide nest sites for western bluebirds, western screech owl, white-breasted nuthatches, and western gray squirrels. Western skink, racer, and gopher snake are common reptiles.

Grassland species that frequently nest on-site include horned lark, grasshopper sparrow, and lark sparrow. Western meadowlark and Brewer's blackbird are also common grassland species. Common burrowing mammals are broad-footed mole, California vole, California ground squirrel, and Botta's pocket gopher. Predators include coyote, gray fox, northern harrier, and red-tailed hawk.

Chaparral is intermediate in structural complexity between woodland-savanna and grassland. Biological diversity is relatively low in the chaparral at the park due to the senescent nature of the plants in the community. Anna's hummingbird, wren-tit, and orange-crowned warbler are common avian species. Brush rabbit, deer mouse, and dusky-footed woodrat thrive under the dense cover. Skunks and bobcats are the major mammalian predators. Mule deer often forage and find shelter in the chaparral.

In addition to major biotic communities, wetland areas, snags, and rock outcrops are special wildlife habitat areas. Wetland habitats include intermittent and permanent sections of streams, seeps and springs, and a reservoir. These areas provide green forage and water for many species of animals, and are especially important during the onset of summer drought. Snags are important for cavity nesting birds and mammals, as well as for survey sites for raptors. Rock outcrops occur primarily in serpentine areas and are used by foxes and coyotes for den sites.

No threatened or endangered animal species are known at Olompali State Historic Park. The golden eagle and black-shouldered kite are known to have nested historically in the unit.

## Cultural Resources

### Archeological Sites

Both prehistoric and historic cultural resources are common in the unit. Extensive prehistoric sites have been identified contiguous to the historic standing structures of the Burdell Ranch. A complete archeological survey was conducted for this unit.



#### Indian Artifacts

##### Mrn-193

Mrn-193 is an extremely large occupation site, characterized by dark soils containing various artifactual and ecofactual materials, rock and ash features, structural remains, and human burials and cremations. In addition to the subsurface remains, at least 17 modified boulders, all of andesite, have been recorded within the site's boundaries. The boulders include 11 cupule boulders, three bedrock mortar boulders, and three boulders with both cupules and bedrock mortars. One of the cupule boulders has approximately 20 parallel grooves on it and is an example of the pit-and-groove petroglyph style.

The cultural deposit appears to be oval in outline, trending northwest to southeast, and measures approximately 500 meters (1,640 feet) in length and 300 meters (984 feet) in width (15 hectares, or 37 acres, of surface area). In those areas which have been tested archeologically, the deposit appears to be about one meter (three feet) in depth.

The site is located toward the center of the large alluvial fan at an elevation of 30.5 meters (100 feet). The sheltered nature of the fan

afforded the site's inhabitants protection from the prevailing winds. A perennial stream (now dammed) bisects the site, running eastward toward the Petaluma River. Before the construction of levees in the 19th century, the site was situated near the marshy shoreline of the river.

Mrn-193 was first recorded in 1907 by Nels C. Nelson, of the University of California, during his famous survey of San Francisco Bay shell mounds. In 1957, Adan E. Treganza of San Francisco State College excavated a trench through the center of the site in search of evidence of Sir Francis Drake's 1579 visit to the northern San Francisco Bay Area. The most extensive archeological investigation of Mrn-193 was conducted by Charles M. Slaymaker. Slaymaker conducted excavations at the site from June 1972 to October 1977, and recovered approximately 50,000 artifacts. Also encountered were several structural remains, including the remains of a large dance house.

The archeological record indicates an initial occupation of Mrn-193 from at least 1000 A.D. and continuing until the 1850s. Certain evidence, especially the cupule boulders, suggests an even earlier, but much less intense, utilization of the area. The site's cultural deposit appears to be the remains of the ethnographic Coast Miwok village of Olompali. Probably a tribelet center, Olompali was undoubtedly a large and important village and is discussed by numerous early explorers, missionaries, and ethnographers.

#### **Mrn-507**

Mrn-507 is a large flake scatter with a single modified boulder. The cultural deposit appears to be oval in outline, trending north to south, and measures approximately 250 meters (820 feet) in length and 200 meters (656 feet) in width (5 hectares, or 12.35 acres, of surface area).

Obsidian, chert and quartzite flakes, and chipped stone tools are scattered about the surface of the site. In addition, an andesite boulder with 25 cupules and one bedrock mortar is located near the northern periphery of the site. The mortar is superimposed on at least one of the cupules, suggesting that the latter predate the former. An unshaped stone pestle was observed on the surface less than one meter from the boulder.

The site is located along the northern portion of the alluvial fan at an elevation of 12 meters (40 feet). A perennial stream defines the site's northern boundary. Before the construction of levees in the 19th century, the site was situated adjacent to the marshy shoreline of the Petaluma River.

The center of Mrn-507 is located approximately 400 meters (1,312 feet) northeast of the center of Mrn-193. There appears to be just over 100 meters (328 feet) of non-site area between these two sites. However, with a more thorough surface inspection, it might be revealed that a continuous cultural deposit exists between these two sites.

#### **Mrn-508**

Mrn-508 is an isolated cupule boulder site. The site consists of a single andesite boulder containing one cupule. The boulder is situated on a hillside at an elevation of 76 meters (250 feet). There is a panoramic view of the Petaluma River area from the boulder.

#### **Mrn-509**

Mrn-509 is an isolated cupule boulder site. The site consists of a single andesite boulder containing two cupules. The boulder is located on top of Burdell Mountain, at an elevation of 457 meters (1,500 feet). It is located in a grassy meadow that overlooks San Marin Valley to the south. The site provides an extremely panoramic view of the northern San Francisco Bay Area to the south.

#### **Mrn-510**

Mrn-510 is a flake scatter. The cultural deposit appears to be oval in outline, trending northwest to southeast, and measures approximately 250 meters (820 feet) in length and 50 meters (164 feet) in width (1.25 hectares, or three acres, of surface area).

Obsidian, chert, quartzite, and basalt flakes are scattered about the surface of the site. Several projectile points, numerous chert core tools, and one clamshell disc bead also were observed on the surface. Most of the materials observed on the site's surface were located in one of two loci. The first of these is located on the northwestern corner of the site along the north side of the stream. The projectile points (one obsidian midsection and a chert triangular Excelsior-like point) and

**Standing  
Structures  
And Facilities**

**Contributing  
Structures**

most of the chert core tools were observed here. The second locus is located in the southeastern corner of the site along the southern side of the stream. One core tool and numerous flakes were observed on the surface here. The shell bead was located on the north side of the stream midway between the two loci. Several flakes were also observed on either side of the stream between the two loci.

**Mrn-526**

Mrn-526 is a buried shell midden. It is located close to the former bay shore. The cultural deposit appears to be composed of finely fragmented mussel shells and charcoal.

Resource Management Directives for the Department of Parks and Recreation that pertain particularly to the Euroamerican cultural resources of Olompali State Historic Park are 50-53, 54-72, and 75.

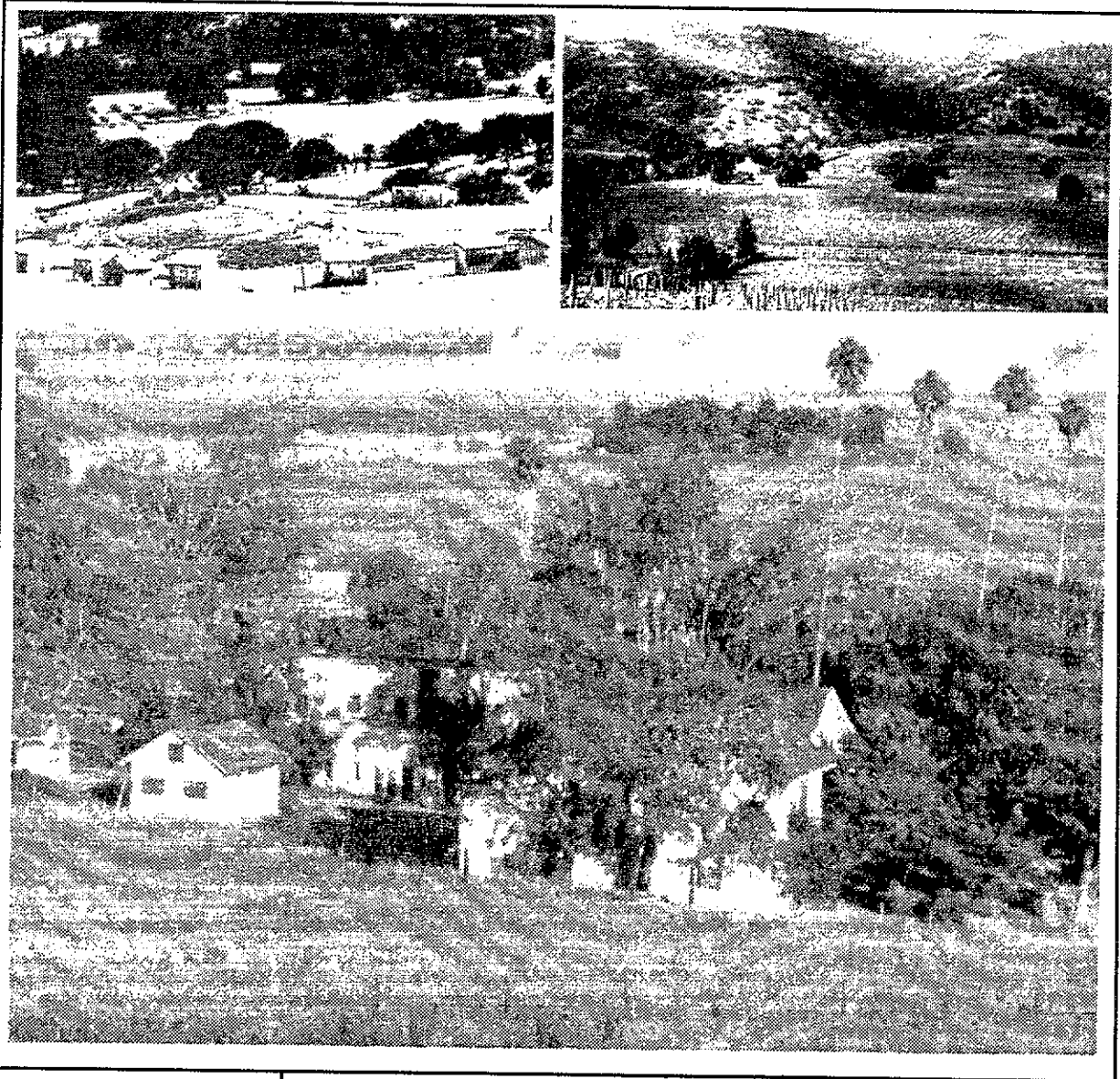
Olompali State Historic Park contains eight historic standing structures and seven related historic features located in several locations. The eight historic standing structures and two of the historic features are located in the Burdell Ranch complex.

**The Burdell Ranch Complex**

The Burdell Ranch complex is located in an alluvial fan, which opens onto the bay. It is surrounded on the south, west, and north by gently rolling oak savanna, which rises toward Burdell Mountain in the west.

The complex consists of a series of structures ranging in age from circa 1840 to the 1950s, and a historic garden. The oldest building, the Camilo Ynitia adobe, encased in the remains of two later buildings (the circa 1866 Burdell clapboard house and the 1911 stucco mansion). These remains are architecturally unique in California. Contemporaneous with the circa 1866 clapboard house is the original square clapboard barn with cupola, the saltbox house (house #1), and the blacksmith shop. Remains of the historic garden directly west of the Burdell Mansion and the cypress-lined garden directly north of the mansion date from this period.

Historic photographs document the two-story Galen Burdell frame house (originally rectangular), which lies directly southwest of the Burdell Mansion, as contemporaneous with the early buildings and garden.



**Upper Photos: 19th Century Ranch Overviews**

**Lower Photo: Present Day Burdell Ranch Complex**

Twentieth century changes in the Burdell Ranch complex include the swimming pool, bath house, and caretaker's cottage installed by the Jesuits in the 1950s. Modern dairy buildings west of the original complex and modern corrals date from this period.



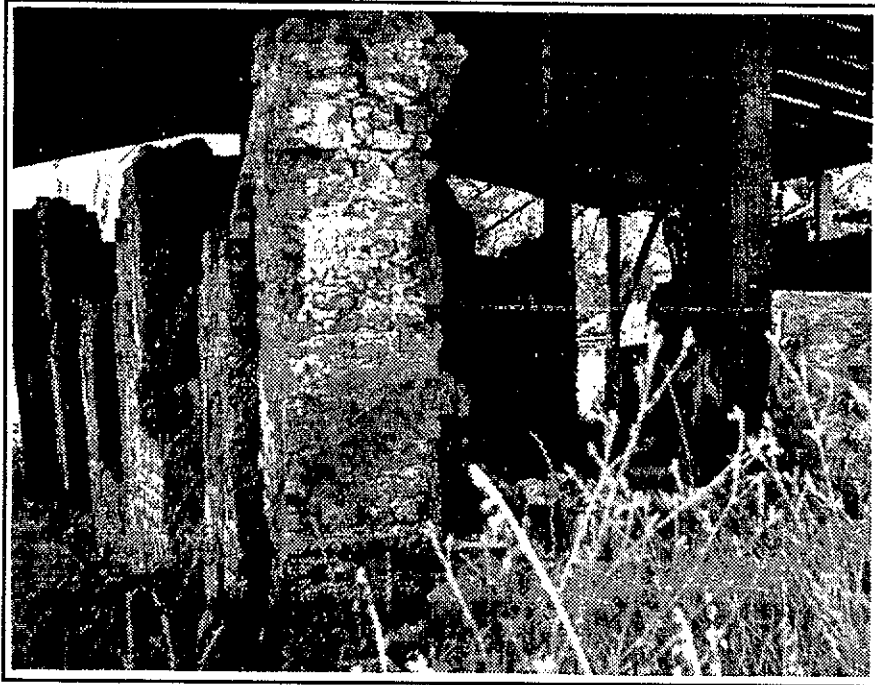
If researched, associated trash dumps (one located under house #2 and another located south of the swimming pool complex) could provide information regarding living patterns at the Burdell complex.

### **The Burdell Mansion (Camilo Ynitia Adobe)**

The Burdell Mansion (Camilo Ynitia adobe), though in ruins due to a fire in 1969, contains the remnants of three earlier buildings: the circa 1840 Camilo Ynitia adobe (which may have been his second adobe), the adobe add-on that James Black constructed in the 1850's, and the circa 1866 Galen Burdell clapboard frame house. There is no extant documentation concerning size and location of the original Ynitia adobe. The 1843 Olompali diseno depicts a rectangular gable-end building standing just east of the then existing road (El Camino Nacional); the diseno in the Laguna de San Antonio land case depicts an adobe with length twice its width, a door, and two windows. Disenos, however, due to their inaccurate nature, cannot be relied on to locate and describe buildings. Historians Hendry and Bowman infer the adobe depicted in the disenos is not the original adobe, and that the Camilo Ynitia adobe had been greatly enlarged subsequent to 1852. The 1859 U.S. patent survey notes do not describe the adobe nor does the 1859 survey plat depict it in detail. No other evidence of enlargement exists. Consequently, this contention cannot be confirmed with certainty.

Historic photographs taken during the circa 1866 Galen Burdell two-story clapboard frame house construction period denote either repair of, or construction of, additional adobe walls. It is possible another wing was added at this time. These photographs are the earliest known documentation of the extant adobe building. Earlier configurations cannot be documented with certainty.

The adobe depicted in the photographs consists of two one-story wings. The larger adobe wing forms the lower story of the east end of the east wing of the present building. It is approximately 48 by 21 feet with 24-inch walls. A 30-inch adobe partition located toward the north end of this larger adobe forms the present two rooms. The original entrance to this wing was located on the east facade and was flanked by several large window openings. A cement foundation was added to this wing, probably during the 1911 remodeling and enlargement.



**Walls of Camilo Ynitia Adobe**

The smaller adobe adjoins this large adobe on the west side in line with the north end. It measures approximately 10 by 7.3 meters (33 by 24 feet) and is constructed of 60-centimeter (24-inch) walls made of adobe bricks of various sizes. The original entrance to this wing opened on the south facade. The smaller wing appears to have been divided into two rooms by the Galen Burdells when they framed in the adobe circa 1866.

The circa 1866 clapboard frame building enclosed the adobe wings and, with the exception of a wood-frame second story added to the west wing and an enclosed porch room added to the south facade of the west wing adobe, the wood framing outlined the configurations of the adobe structure. The clapboard frame building was surmounted by a steeply pitched cross gable-end roof. Two gable-end dormers projected from the south and north facade eavelines. Fenestration consisted of six over six light double-hung sash windows.

In 1911, the clapboard dwelling underwent a major stylistic modification. H. S. McCargar, a Petaluma contractor, designed a modern flat-topped two-story asymmetrical stucco building. The original adobe and frame dwelling was enlarged to include a large asymmetrical addition at the west end. This west end addition contains a large two-story wing, which projects from the center of the south facade,

and an asymmetrical one-story wing, housing the kitchen headquarters, which forms the rear facade.



**1866 Burdell Clapboard House**



**1911 Burdell Stucco Mansion**

Although the 1911 building is now in ruins, it was originally distinguished by a series of large-scale pillars that ran across the front facade and supported a second story east wing and open veranda overhang. The second story veranda was partially screened in circa 1930. A series of similar pillars run the length of the interior of an enclosed porch room, which projects from the south facade of the west wing adobe. Though badly damaged, this enclosed porch room retains its original wood paneling, wooden lattice work, and floor tiles dating from the 19th century.

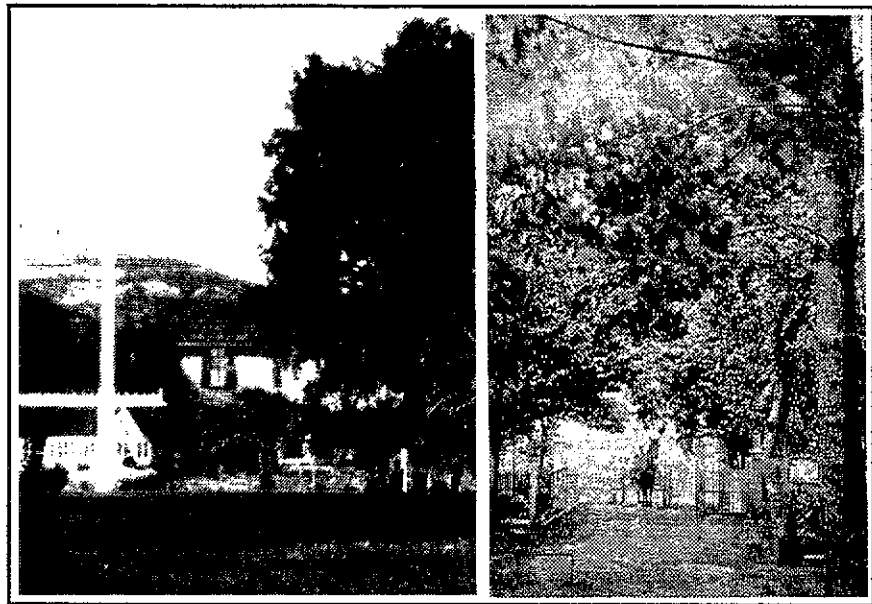
Interior fireplaces were added and remodeled during the 1911 construction period. The interior adobe walls were plastered over by Court Harrington after he purchased the property in 1943. This plaster is now almost entirely gone. Intended to be used as living rooms by the James Burdells, the adobe portion of the 1911 building became a

storage area instead. The first floor of the projecting southern wing became the main living room.

### **The Burdell Frame House**

The Burdell frame house is a tall, rectangular two-story wood-frame channel rustic building surmounted by a gable-end roof. An early rectangular two-story addition projects from the south side of the rear facade. Its roof forms a cross gable to the original gable-end roof. Later additions include a narrow two-story shed addition and a one-story garage addition on the north facade. Original fenestration consisted of a symmetrical series of four over four light double-hung sash windows and louvered shutters at the first and second floor stories. The front facade entrance door was originally surmounted by a single light transom. This transom is still visible on the interior.

This building, although substantially altered on the interior by the Jesuits, is significant for its association with the early Burdell Ranch complex, and mid-20th century association with the University of San Francisco Jesuit retreat and McCoy commune.



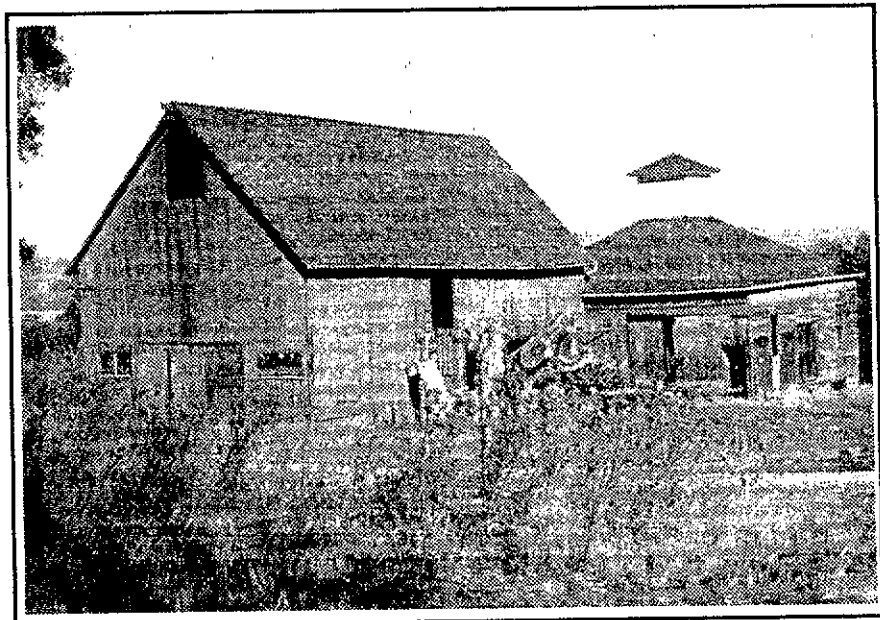
**The Burdell Frame House and Conservatory; 19th Century Ranch Entry**

### **The Burdell Cook's House**

The Burdell cook's house is a small rectangular one-story wood-frame building surmounted by a single gable-end roof with extended rafter eave overhang. The east facade is faced with channel rustic. The other three facades are board and batt. A recent shed porch projects from the east facade at the south end. This building is not depicted in any extant historic photograph, and the preponderance of wire nails suggests early 20th century construction.

### **The Galen Burdell Barn**

The Galen Burdell barn was originally a square wood-frame tall one-story building resting upon a raised cut stone foundation, which provided stall and storage space under the main body of the barn. The original hip roof and hip roof square cupola remain. The original barn is sided with narrow clapboard on the south and east facades. It is probable that the entire barn was originally sided with clapboard. Alterations include a shed addition that extends the original barn on the north facade. Original fenestration consisted of a series of six over six light double-hung sash windows across the four facades. The interior space of the original barn has been partitioned over time into four separate spaces. Construction techniques include both timber and balloon frame. Mortise and tenon frame joining is evident in the interior east facade.



**Wood Barn and Galen Burdell Barn**

A large rectangular wood-frame barn with steeply pitched gable-end roof was joined to the original barn on the north half of the west facade, probably in 1882. Wide entrances to this barn are located on the west and south facades. Stalls line the interior on the north facade.

The original Galen Burdell barn is significant as a representative example of early 19th century, East Coast, rural architecture transmitted to California after 1850.

### **The Galen Burdell Blacksmith Shop**

The Galen Burdell blacksmith shop is a rectangular one-story wood-frame wide random plank board and batt blacksmith shop surmounted by a gable-end corrugated metal roof. The walls rest on wood sills. The front facade faces east and contains a wide opening across the left half. A door and window are located to the right of the large opening. Original six over six light fenestration is gone. The interior is divided into two rooms. The workroom to the left contains an original cabinet hung on iron hinges. These hinges are also in the Galen Burdell frame house as well as the worm farm house. Remains of a picket fence lay on the ground on the south side of the shop. On the back wall of the shop is an impression of the Burdell cattle brand.

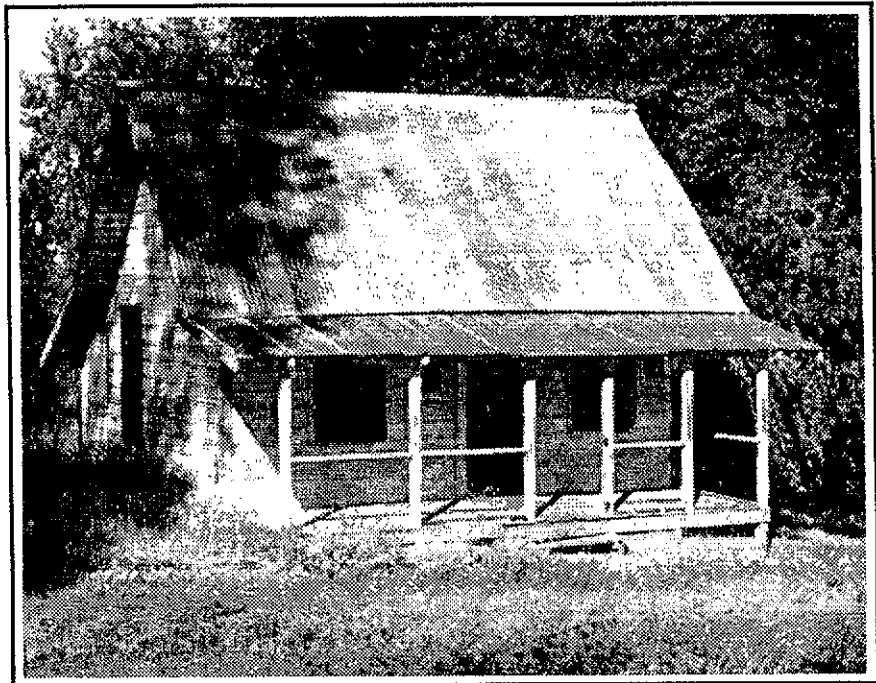
The blacksmith shop is in poor condition. It is significant as one of the original buildings in the Burdell Ranch complex. A historic photograph depicts the building in its original appearance (Charmaine Burdell Collection).



**Blacksmith Shop with Saltbox House in the Rear**

### House #1 (Saltbox House)

House #1 is a small one-story rectangular wide channel rustic-sided wood-frame house surmounted by a steeply pitched gable-end roof with wide eave overhang. The original shingle roof is covered with corrugated metal. Although the house originally had no porch, an open add-on porch extends from the shed addition on the east facade. The rear shed addition appears to be original with the house. A recent enclosed shed roof porch constructed of random plywood and glass windows runs the length of the three-bay front facade. Fenestration consists of a series of six over six light double-hung sash windows. A rectangular air vent appears at each gable end. The foundation rests, in part, directly on the ground and on random stones, as well as wood sills. Artifacts associated with house #1 include recent random debris, tin cans, and household items.



### House #1 (Saltbox House)

Although the house is in poor condition, it is significant as one of the earliest buildings in the Burdell Ranch complex. It is architecturally representative of buildings built throughout northern California in the 1850s and 1860s.

It is probable that this house was the blacksmith's residence. (See historic photograph of blacksmith shop for original appearance.)

## **House #2**

House #2 is a narrow rectangular one-story raised basement wood-frame channel rustic-sided house with rear wing perpendicular to the main house. The house is surmounted by a cross gable roof. Two small board and batt shed additions extend north and west from the perpendicular wing. A shed roof raised porch added at a later date extends across the front facade. Lattice work runs the length of the front facade under the porch and across the raised basement. A small room addition extends the original house on the north facade. Original fenestration consists of six over six light double-hung sash windows.

It is possible that house #2 was built over the trash dump associated with house #1. Fragments of ceramic beer bottles, ironstone ware, and Bennington ware are randomly scattered over the surface of this dump. Entrance to this raised basement is located at the front of the north facade through a lattice work door.

There is a small outbuilding to the south of House #2.

## **The James Burdell Generator House**

The James Burdell generator house is a small square one-story one-room cement block building surmounted by a wooden pent roof. Ventilation is provided through vertical lattice work directly below the roof on the east, north, and south facades. A central door is located on the north facade. Fenestration consists of a large central 27-light rectangular window in the west facade and a rectangular 12-light window on the south and east facades. The machinery is gone. The building has most recently been used as a storage facility.

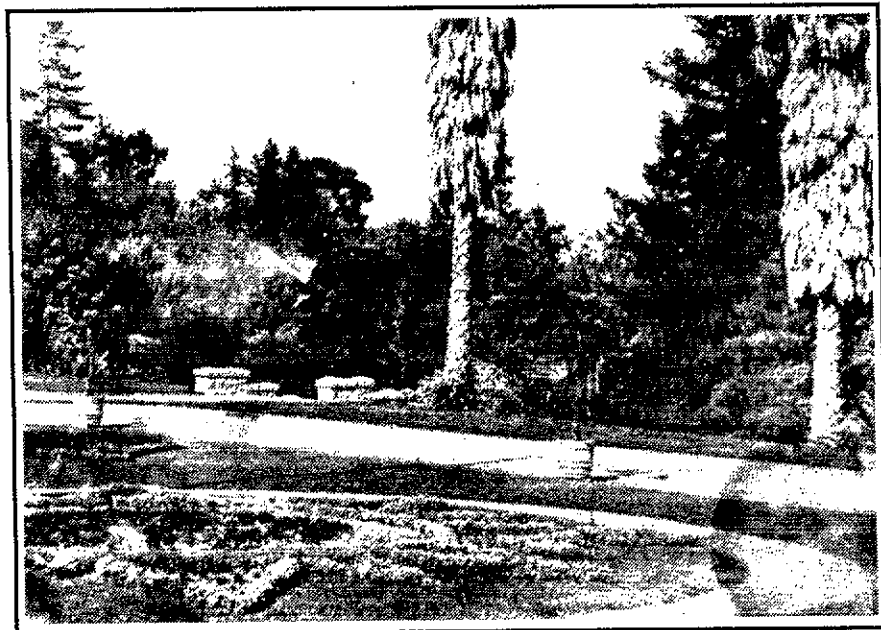
## **Burdell Garden and Pomegranate Hedge**

The original formal Burdell garden measured approximately 100 by 50 meters (328 by 164 feet) and was located due east of the Burdell house (other gardens and plantings evolved elsewhere on the property over time). The original garden was graded in long terraces toward the bay. Mary Burdell began designing the garden as soon as she took up residence on the property in 1866, possibly even earlier. After her return from a trip to Japan in 1874, she provided the garden with exotic plants, two bronze cranes (one of which adorned the stone fountain), ceramic pots, and several Japanese gardeners. Margaret Boyd



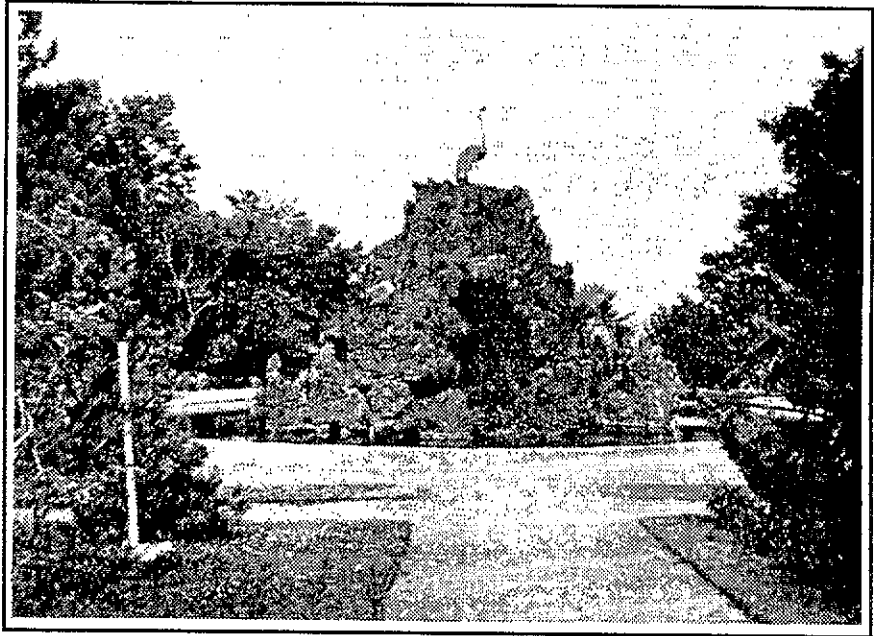
described the mature garden in detail in 1934: “Mrs. Burdell brought back an exotic collection of oriental trees, shrubs, and flowers. Going up the long avenue of pine and eucalyptus trees (entrance road), with pink amaryllis growing in profusion under them, we come to the original garden laid out — as were all early gardens — with great formality; regulation circular bed in the center; then brick paths radiated from this, to end up with the shield effect at the outer edge. Here undoubtedly was the first planting of exotics in the county; magnolias, Japanese maples, oleanders, camellias, and many other rare tropical and semi-tropical varieties which still flower in this garden.”

“A magnificent and huge specimen of spiral palm dominates the round bed, and four very tall palms, the tallest in Marin County, stand guard on either side...the pomegranate hedge is a thing of beauty, and at this time of the year maples which border the stream are a blaze of color.” (Boyd 1934: n.p.)



#### 1911 Stone Stairway to Garden

The fountain that dominated the center of the garden is constructed of andesite rocks. It is not known when the stone fountain was constructed; however, it was apparently constructed prior to 1874. Forming a circle at the base, the fountain tapers upward in a rustic, informal manner typical of rural 19th century “picturesque” gardens.



### **Andesite Rock Fountain**

A pomegranate hedge, extending along the south side of the road to the south of the historic area, was planted when the original garden was laid out, and still produces fruit.

The original garden has been overgrown and its original design and brick-edged walks are gone. The four tall palms and redwood tree survive from the earliest plantings. The stone staircases replaced the earlier wooden staircases in 1911. The original picket fences that lined the entrance avenues are gone. The citrus trees, camellias, and rose bushes are gone, as are the maples, oleanders, and cypress hedges. A comparison of historic photographs over time depicts the garden's evolution.

### **Trash Dump #1**

Trash dump #1 is located underneath house #2. There are also recent materials three meters (10 feet) to the east of the northeast corner of the house and approximately two meters (six feet) north of the north end of house #2. Recent materials extend mainly in the area around the northeast corner of the house and don't extend toward the south or west. The dump is composed of diverse materials. Materials observed: Humboldt Times and San Francisco newspaper fragments dated 1917, June 18, 1919, and April 18, 1923; spice tin; clothing; ceramic stoneware crock top (type used for cheese or dry goods);

**Related  
Historic  
Features**

Royal baking powder tin; several oyster shells; springs; shoes (two button type and recent rubber sole and leather sole); Velvet tobacco tin; thread spindle; barrel hoops; square nails; saw-cut bone; Celtic-design metal button; blue depression-era plate fragment; cast iron stove foot; fleur-de-lis metal piece from main Burdell Mansion; aqua glass tube; ceramic beer bottles incised with Portly-Pottery, Glasgow, and Midland Pottery #1, #4, #5; also Grosvenor-Glass #6; bottle cap; French square bottle fragment; octagonal mustard jars; 1940s clear pressed glass bowl fragment; dark green small bottle base with indented and inter-nipple raised base; wood-handle fork; 1940s patterned ceramic fragments; glazed jar top; Asian ceramic blown base and sides with off-white glazed with blue design. Miscellaneous glass, metal, and ceramic fragments. Mercury glass medicine bottle neck and lip; 1860s brown ceramic glazed jar top. Window glass; terra cotta tiles; chert and obsidian flakes; basalt grinding stone and cupule boulder with cupules; shotgun shells; coconut shell; corks; animal scats (cow, raccoon, coyote). Estimated age ranges from the 1860s to the 1940s, possibly 1950s.

**The Historic Andesite Quarry (Mrn-511 H)**

Outside the park, the historic andesite quarry is located on the southern corner of the peak of Burdell Mountain, just north of Novato and San Marin Valley, among bay and oak trees. It consists of a large open pit surrounded by numerous smaller pits. This basalt quarry is part of a larger 19th century operation run by Joseph W. Taylor, a San Francisco street contractor. Taylor purchased the Clark Ranch, formerly Apalacocho, in 1879 for \$15,000. The principal product of the Burdell Mountain quarries was paving blocks, and the Taylor quarry operated as late as 1894.

**The Burdell Stone Walls**

Stone walls run along the western, northern, and southern boundaries of the unit. Less than a mile of stone wall is located in the northeast section of the unit. These walls are composed of non mortared andesite boulders randomly piled on top of each other to a height of four feet. They are typical of rock walls found throughout California dating from the 19th century.



### **The Burdell Stone Walls**

The 1880 Population Census lists a force of 40 Chinese laborers under Galen Burdell's household. Apparently, this labor force completed the extensive system of walls as well as the rock-lined reservoir, original barn foundation, and rock-lined creek beds.

### **The Deer Hunter's Complex**

The deer hunter's complex is composed of several raised one-story wood-frame scrap lumber shacks east of the stone reservoir and several auxiliary structures to the south. Fenestration consists of wire-mesh windows. The shack to the left of the trail that leads through the site contains graffiti dating from the McCoy's commune era. The creek leading from the reservoir runs just north of these shacks. Close friends of the James Burdells were given permission to hunt there.

### **The Burdell Reservoir**

The Burdell reservoir is a stone-lined reservoir occupying approximately 1/8 of an acre. A deep stone-lined circular shaft protects the shut-off valve for the system. This stone-lined shaft and a wooden platform abut the reservoir to the right over the creek bed leading down the hill.

An 1878 article in the Marin County Journal stated that Dr. Burdell had completed a water system at large expense, and that he constructed a stone reservoir "in the hills back of his house" for over \$1,600. From this reservoir, several miles of pipe conveyed water to all the points on the ranch.

**Non-Contributing  
Structures**

**The Wooden Trestle**

The wooden trestle located near the northeast boundary of the unit was constructed to support water pipes leading to the main Burdell Ranch complex. The trestle appears to be a remnant of Galen Burdell's 19th-century water system that conducted water throughout the ranch.

**Octagonal Concrete Slab**

A concrete slab, approximately 24 feet across, was installed in 1968 by The Chosen Family. It is located southeast of the Burdell frame house.

**The Staff Housing/Maintenance Area**

This complex is located directly south of the western terminus of the Worm Farm Road. It now includes two forty feet by sixty feet mobile homes, two twelve feet by sixty feet mobile homes, and one twelve feet by twenty five feet office trailer.

**Chicken Ranch and Worm Farm Area**

As early as 1873, Mary Burdell was operating a chicken ranch on the property. That year, it was reported that she had raised 900 fowls. In 1967, 'Williams Red Worms' farm occupied the location of the former chicken ranch north of the Burdell Ranch complex. The only readily visible cultural resource left in this area is a deteriorated wooden house from the worm farm.



**Historic Photos of Worm Farm Area**

## **Ethnographic and Historic Background**

### **The Modern Dairy Barn**

The modern dairy barn, located west of the historic barn complex, dates from the 1950s. It is a long rectangular structure composed of cement walls and open wood framing surmounted by a gable-end roof. A small stucco room addition is located at the southeast corner on the east facade.

### **The Caretaker's Cottage**

The caretaker's cottage, located directly north of the Burdell Mansion, was installed by the Jesuits in 1953. This cottage is a rectangular one-story wood-frame building surmounted by a pent roof with boxed cornice. Siding consists of wide channel rustic on the south facade. Wide lap siding faces the other facades. The raised foundation faced with lattice work consists of large rocks, tin cans, and bricks. Remains of a square wood fence corral are located directly north of the building.

### **The Bathhouse and Swimming Pool**

The bathhouse was erected by the U.S.F. Jesuits in connection with the swimming pool sometime in the 1950s. This building is a rectangular one-story channel rustic sided wood-frame structure surmounted by a pent roof. Fenestration consists of a series of small square single light windows located directly below the eave line. Entrance is obtained at the southeast corner of the south facade. The swimming pool has been largely filled in, but remnants of its ground level elements remain

Olompali State Historic Park is located within the ethnographic territory of Coast Miwok Indians. Miwok, one of several California Penutian languages, consists of several contiguous groups, the Bay, Plains, and Sierra Miwok, and two discrete groups, the Coast and Lake Miwok. Along with the Costanoan, the Miwok form the Utian family of the Penutian linguistic stock.

Although a Palaeo-Indian and a Millingstone Complex have been identified elsewhere, little is known of the earliest occupation of the San Francisco Bay Area. The earliest known occupation of the San Francisco Bay Area, the Early Berkeley Pattern, was possibly derived out of the Millingstone Complex.

At the time of historic contact (just before 1800 A.D. in the San Francisco Bay Area), the Coast Miwok occupied all of the Marin Peninsula, including all land south of Duncan's Point on the Sonoma County coast and east to the divide between Sonoma Creek and Napa River. Hokan speakers (including the Pomoan, Shastan, and Yuman language) were spread around the periphery of the Central Valley, with Penutian speakers holding the Great Valley and San Francisco Bay Area. It is through the distribution of these peoples that we might recognize the "wedge" of the Hokan Displacement Theory. It is possible that the Hokans once occupied all of central California, and that the Penutians represent a later intrusive group. The Utians, ancestors of the Miwok and Costanoan, are believed to have entered California from Oregon before any of the other Penutian groups. The Utians also may have come to California by way of the Great Basin. There is no agreed-upon date for the arrival in California of the Utians.

The earliest description of the Coast Miwok comes from Francis Fletcher, a sailor who accompanied Sir Francis Drake in his 1579 visit to central California. Landing somewhere in the Point Reyes or northern San Francisco Bay Area, Fletcher described the Indians who greeted them.

In addition to the written historical data noted above, further historical evidence of Native American/English contact of Drake's period was found at the Olompali archeological site. Charles Slaymaker and a number of archeological staff worked at the CA-MRN-193 site from June 1972 to October 1977. In addition to many archeological findings relevant to Native American life and history, Dr. Slaymaker recovered an Elizabethan sixpence dated 1567 and minted at the Tower of London. Furthermore, two white glass paste trade beads commonly traded by the English during that time were found in association with the coin along with thousands of Native American artifacts. And, finally, the coin was recovered from the context of an aboriginal structure dated at A.D. 1600  $\pm$  75 years (radiometric technique).

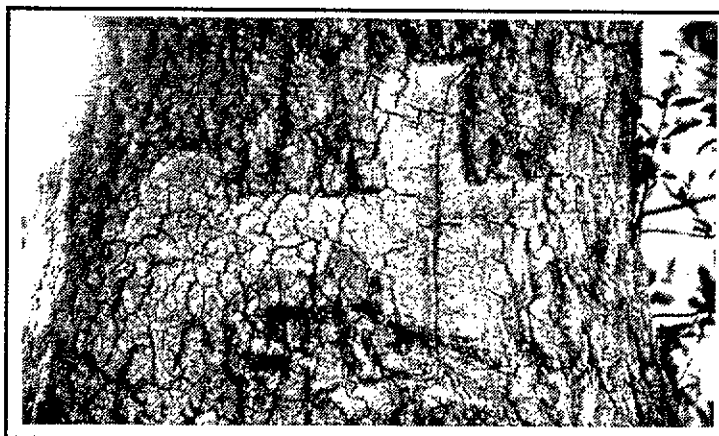
As noted by Dr. Slaymaker in his appendix to a Del Davis and Associates 1976 publication on Rancho Olompali, students of California history must ponder these finds in terms of their relationship to Drake and how they got there. And, as noted in the main body of the 1976 Davis publication, these finds do not mean that Sir Francis Drake and/or his party were at Olompali. Nevertheless, and irrespective of other arguments, these finds in their archeological context are

are historically significant. Somehow they got to Olompali, and quite possibly from the English in contrast to some other intermediary country's travellers. And, since they appear in an archeological context of the period of Drake's landing in the central coastal area of California, it is not unreasonable to conclude that either the Drake party brought these artifacts to Olompali or they arrived via intermediary Native Americans, for whatever reason. (The foregoing information can be found both in departmental files and the department's Olompali publication used to classify the unit.)

After Drake's visit, no Europeans observed the Coast Miwok again until the arrival of the Spanish in the late 18th century. Earliest recorded exploration of the San Francisco Bay occurred in 1775-76 when Captain Ayala's crew surveyed the area.

Missions were established at San Francisco (1776), San Jose (1797), and San Rafael (1817), with each mission baptizing some of the Coast Miwok population. Over 250 individuals from Olompali (Mrn-193) were baptized at these three missions.

Definite contact with the Olompali group cannot be verified until 1814, however, when the first Olompalis were baptized at Mission San Francisco de Asis. Between 1814 and 1816, 23 Olompalis were baptized at this mission. The bulk of the village population was baptized at Mission San Jose de Guadalupe between 1816 and 1818. The mission records there list 226 Olompalis among their baptisms. From 1817 to 1822, 10 Olompalis were baptized at Mission San Rafael Archangel. Following secularization in 1834, many of the neophytes settled in post-secularization communities such as Echa-Tamal near Nicasio in Marin County.



Incised Cross on Tree (now destroyed by fire)



The village of Olompali survived into the post-secularization period contact. After the founding of the San Rafael asistencia in 1817, European citations of the Olompali rancheria appear frequently in the literature. After the Sonoma Mission was established in 1823, regular trade was conducted along El Camino Nacional. It was during this period that the first Olompali adobe was probably constructed by neophyte labor that had filtered back from the San Rafael Mission. It appears that as early as 1834 leadership at the Olompali rancheria passed to Camilo Ynitia, a young "Christianized" Native American. Ynitia was granted Rancho Olompali, two leagues of land more or less, in 1843. He was the only northern California Indian to later have his grant confirmed and patented by the U.S. government.

During the Bear Flag Rebellion, a brief skirmish between a Mexican force gathered at Camilo Ynitia's adobe and Henry L. Ford's Bear Flaggers took place on June 24, 1846. At least one fatality occurred during this confrontation, which later became popularized as the "Battle of Olompali."

In 1852, Camilo Ynitia sold the majority of his grant to James Black, Marin County assessor, for \$5,200 in gold coin. Ynitia retained a parcel known as Apalacocha in the southeast portion of Olompali for his own use. According to Dr. Robert Thomas, Camilo's great-great grandson, the Ynitia family lived in the adobe until 1856 when Camilo Ynitia was killed outside his door.

Although the record is silent regarding land use on Olompali between 1856 and 1866, after the latter date historic photographs and archival material document the evolution of the property into the early 20th century. In 1863, James Black's only daughter, Mary Augustina, married Dr. Galen Burdell. Mary Augustina received Rancho Olompali as a wedding gift from her father on September 13, 1865. By 1866, the Galen Burdells had moved onto Rancho Olompali.

The post-1866 buildings that Mary and Galen Burdell had constructed on the property were vernacular in design, based on early 19th-century East Coast precedents. The Camilo Ynitia adobe was encased in wood siding, a square clapboard-sided barn with cupola was erected, a long rectangular glass conservatory was installed to the south of the enclosed adobe, and a two-story channel rustic frame house was constructed southwest of the main Burdell house. These buildings, as well as a small blacksmith shop and saltbox house west of the barn, appear to be the earliest buildings constructed in the post-1866 period. The Camilo Ynitia rancho was profoundly altered with

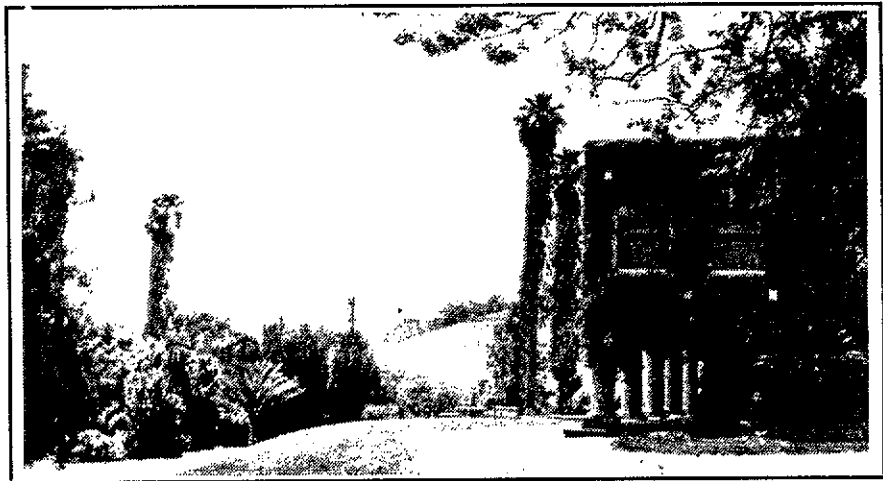
the introduction of these East Coast architectural features and an immense formal garden that Mary Burdell began designing as a bride.



**Late 19th Century Burdell Ranch Overview**

Although Rancho Olompali, which became known simply as the Burdell Ranch, remained in Mary Burdell's ownership, 19th-century accounts credit her husband, Galen, with many of the ranch's innovations. Burdell reclaimed much of the San Pablo Bay salt marshes east of the ranch, planted 60 acres of vineyards, experimented with raising bananas, and successfully grew olive trees on the ranch.

Mary Burdell's death in 1900 divided the property among her heirs. After Galen's death in 1906, James Burdell succeeded in buying "Home Place" from his sister, Mabel. This parcel included the Burdell house, which encased Camilo's adobe. James Burdell continued to manage the ranch and, in 1911, had an innovative, modern, asymmetrical, two-story, flat-topped, stucco mansion constructed around the Burdell house.



**1911 Burdell Stucco Mansion**

With James Burdell's death in 1933, his widow, Josephine, and their son, James Burdell, Jr., continued to occupy the property and manage the ranch. In 1943, Josephine sold 700 acres containing the Burdell Ranch complex to Court Harrington of Los Angeles. Scarcely five years later, Harrington sold the parcel to the University of San Francisco for a Jesuit retreat. After this date, Rancho Olompali went through a series of sales and alterations that affected the property's 19th- and early 20th-century character.



### Swimming Pool

The Jesuits removed the brick-edged walkways, installed a swimming pool, bath house, and caretaker's cottage on the property in the 1950s, and turned the interior of the two-story frame house west of the Burdell Mansion into a series of small dormitory rooms. Modern dairy buildings west of the original complex and modern corrals date from this period. Alvin Hanson leased land from U.S.F. to operate a dairy ranch.

The University of San Francisco sold the 700-acre parcel to a San Francisco Bay Area investment group in 1964. This group opened the short-lived "Olompali Swim Club," a private country club managed by Bernie Whaley.

In 1967, Timothy W. O'Donoghue purchased the property and leased it to the C-Bar-N Ranch, a stable and horseback riding business which was still on the property in 1977. During this period, "Williams Red Worms" farm occupied the former chicken ranch headquarters north of the main Burdell complex.

Sometime in 1967, Donald McCoy, Jr., former businessman turned "hippie," moved onto the property and formed a commune that attracted a number of celebrities. The rock group, The Grateful Dead, recorded at Olompali, and several of the record albums depict the Olompali hills on the covers. Graffiti-covered walls remain and document the thoughts of this 1960s Marin County commune. (More information on this period of Olompali's history is available in departmental files.)

On February 2, 1969, a fire broke out at 5:00 a.m. in the Burdell Mansion, severely damaging the building and ending yet another era at Rancho Olompali. The property reverted to U.S.F. in 1970. On December 29, 1977, the State of California purchased the parcel from the Marin County Open Space District for \$700,000.

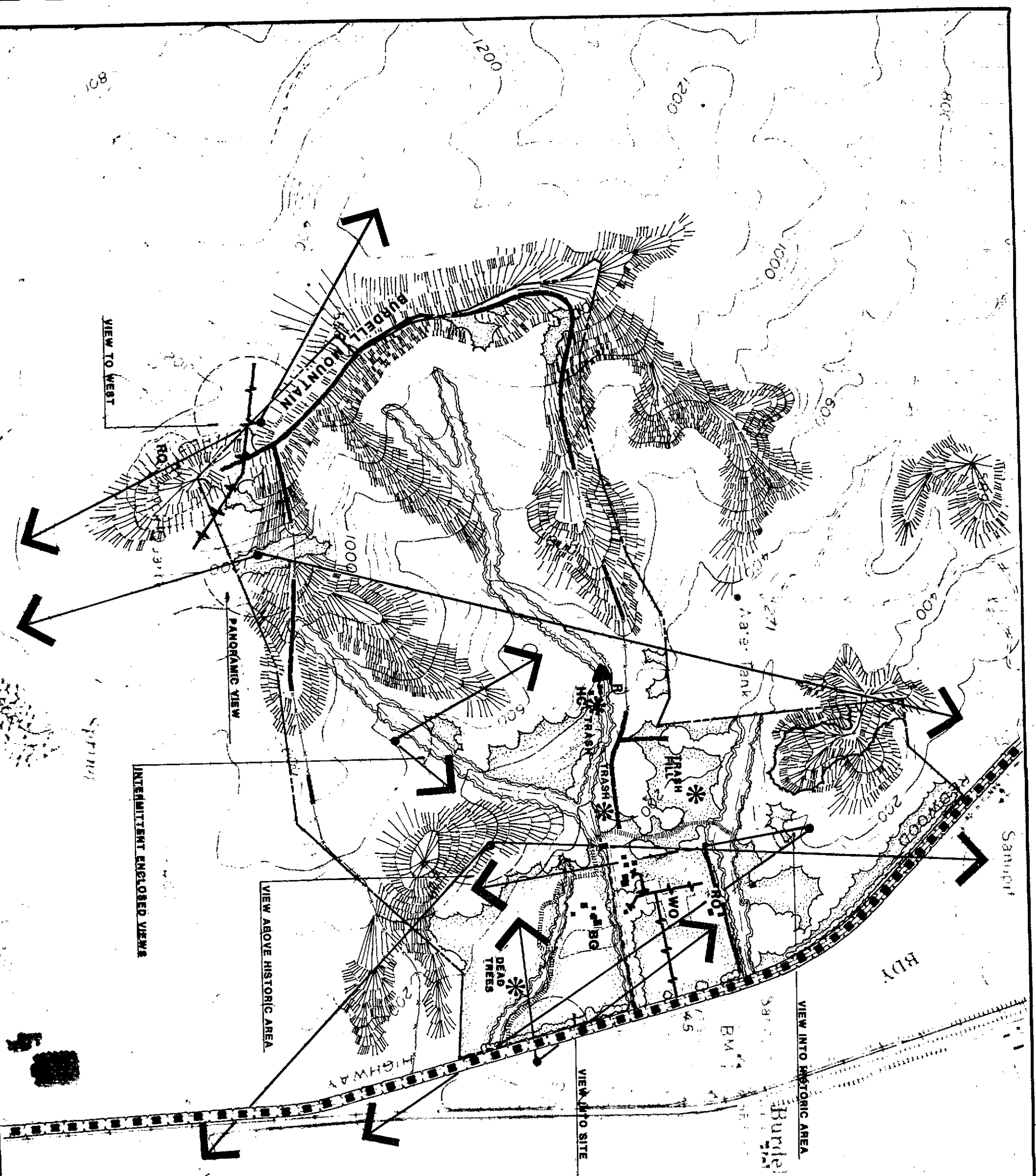
**Primary  
Historic Zone**

Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code states, in part, that areas outside the primary historic zone may be acquired, developed, or operated "as a recreation zone to provide limited recreational opportunities that will supplement the public's enjoyment of the unit." The intent of a "primary historic zone" designation is to protect the environmental integrity of significant historic resources, and to restrict incompatible facilities in that area.

An 86.8-acre area in the central eastern edge of the park is the "primary historic zone" as shown on the attached map. This zone includes the prehistoric and historic Olompali village site, the remains of Camilo Ynitia's adobe, and the Burdell Ranch complex as discussed in the preceding Cultural Resources section.

**Aesthetic  
Resources**

Olompali State Historic Park occupies a basin formed by Burdell Mountain and its lower-flanking slopes. The location of this unit, inland from Petaluma marsh, offers numerous, contrasting visual impressions. Within the historic section, the adobe structures and old buildings, with remnants of the formal garden, create a sense of timelessness: gnarled fruit trees and brick paving, soft-hued adobe and oaks. Outside the historical area, shaded canyon trails provide access to uplands within the unit. On upper slopes, near the ridge of Burdell Mountain, expansive, panoramic views of Olompali State Historic Park and the adjacent wetlands are seen.



**LEGEND**


**POSITIVE SCENIC FEATURES**

- LI HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- BG BURDELL GARDEN
- WO WALNUT ORCHARD
- RESERVOIR
- RI RIPARIAN CORRIDOR
- STONE WALL/FENCING
- TREE EDGE
- GRASS/CHAPARRAL OPEN AREA
- RIDGELINE/SLOPE
- RO ROCK QUARRY
- MAJOR VIEW CORRIDOR
- FIREBREAK

**NEGATIVE SCENIC FEATURES**

- PL POWER LINES
- \* VISUAL CONFUSION
- RO RESIDENCES/OPERATIONS
- HC DEER HUNTING CABINS
- FW FREEWAY



DRAWING NO. <b>24678</b>	<b>OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK</b> <b>AESTHETIC RESOURCES MAP</b> GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION APPROVED _____ DATE _____		225 Miller Avenue Mill Valley California 94041 415 253-7888
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**View Northeast from Mount Burdell**

The juxtaposition and intermingling of cultural and natural resources in Olompali State Historic Park creates a unique opportunity to enjoy the scenic resources of the unit. Stately oak and bay trees shade boulders, which were marked by prehistoric people. Refined, formal garden elements such as the pomegranate hedge, terracing, and meandering pathways exist adjacent to the historic complex and groves of native oak and bay trees. The weathered wood barns and structures contrast pleasantly with the surrounding grassy hillsides and scattered trees. Rock walls, constructed by Chinese laborers during the 1870s and 1880s, delimit the unit boundaries. These walls are composed of rounded andesite boulders piled to a height of three to four feet. The dark volcanic rock is covered by lichens and mosses and creates a sense of historic continuity throughout the unit. Similar boulders line creek beds, another link between historic and natural aesthetic resources. These narrow stream canyons are enclosed by bay trees with an understory of ferns and provide focused views to nearby grassy hillsides and scattered oaks. The sounds of running water in the creek channels and of birds in the forest canopy are positive auditory resources.

There are several prominent negative visual features at Olompali State Historic Park. These features are associated primarily with the historic complex and with human-made intrusions into the viewshed. Telephone poles, television antennae, and department employee housing are visible from the historic area. A portable latrine, temporary fencing, and trash (pipes, fencing) associated with the historic area detract from the aesthetic values of the unit. Although the charred

## Recreation Resources

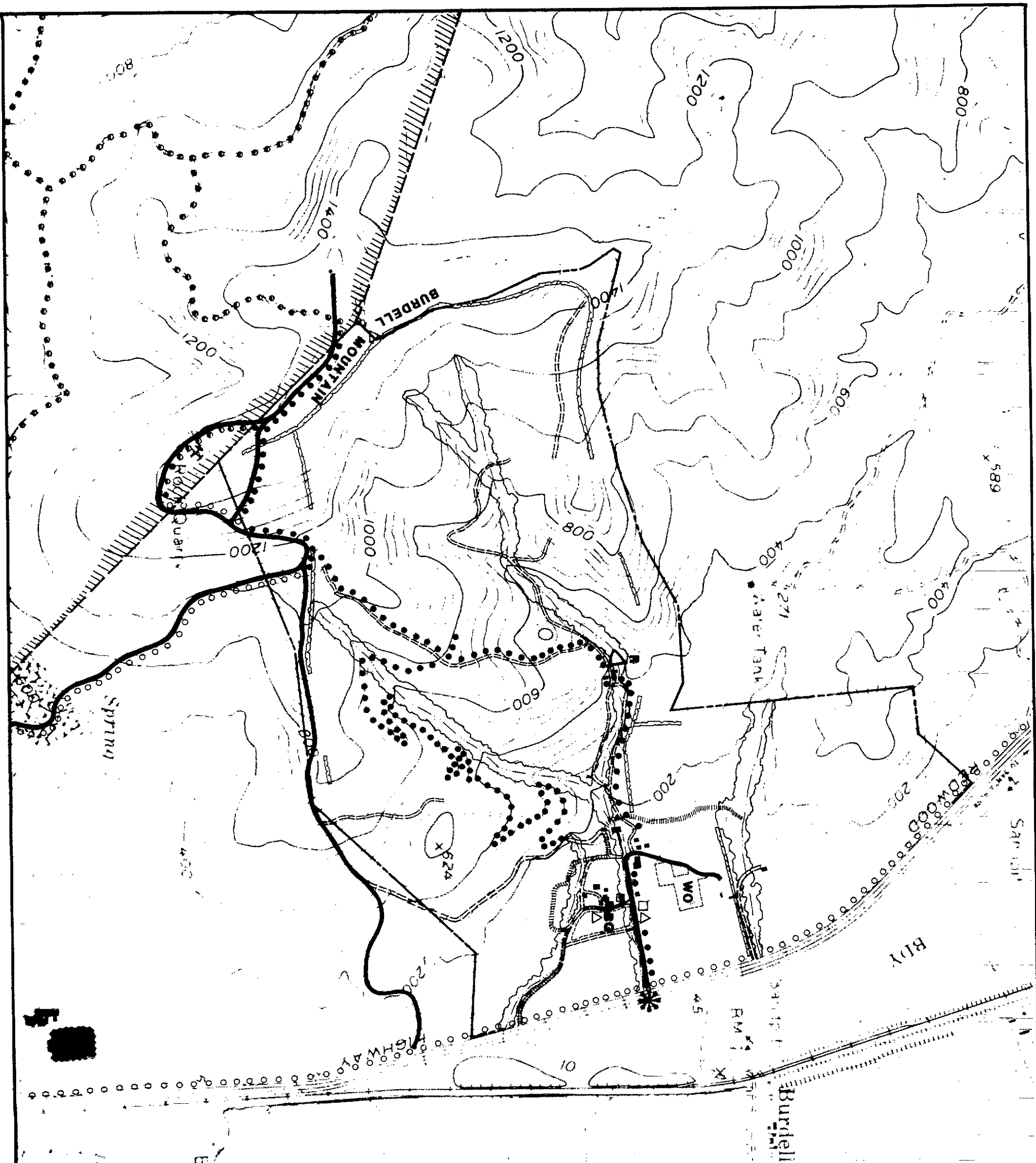
remains of the Burdell mansion allude to an earlier era of gracious living, little remains today, and the fire-scarred, collapsed rooms contrast starkly with the graceful brick patio and remnants of interior decorative panels. The Camilo Ynitia adobe has been enclosed in plywood and plexiglass to protect the structure from the elements. This enclosure is in itself a visual intrusion in the historic area. Scrap lumber shacks at the Deer Hunting Camp contain large mounds of trash (wood, refrigerator, old furniture) and debris, and detract from the natural surroundings of the area. Graffiti have also been painted on one of the shacks at the Deer Camp.

At higher elevations in the unit, other visual intrusions become obvious: U.S. Highway 101 and its constant stream of traffic, Gness Field (airfield), the landfill operation in Petaluma marsh, and power lines and the microwave tower in the southwest corner of the unit.

The noise associated with the traffic on U.S. 101, as well as Gness Field, are negative auditory features.

Recreational use at Olompali State Historic Park reflects a change through history according to the cultural preferences of the inhabitants. Although the term "recreation" is of 20th-century origin, it is likely that persons of earlier eras pursued various activities for relaxation, pleasure, and social contact. Native American activities predated those of later occupants, and many activities regarded currently as recreational were, in a historical perspective, important daily activities in a subsistence culture. Such activities included hunting and fishing. Dances, storytelling, and athletic games were cultural, as well as "recreational," pastimes. Other activities such as recreational gardening and horseback riding evolved from practices related to farming and ranching. For example, the Burdells enjoyed experimental horticulture as is indicated by their development of the Burdell garden. They also entertained the San Francisco elite and participated in hunting and fishing activities. Although the site was used primarily as a religious retreat during the Jesuit period, the 1950s, Rancho Olompali recreation included hiking, swimming (a swimming pool was built during this time), gardening, and card games.

Today, recreational activities include transitory pursuits such as hiking, running, and horseback riding, as well as destination activities such as picnicking, visiting the historic area, and birding. The complex natural and cultural resources of the upland areas and



**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- ⬢ BURDELL GARDEN
- ⬢ WALNUT ORCHARD
- PARKING AREA
- △ PICNIC TABLES
- PORTABLE TOILET
- ▬ FIREBREAK
- ▬ EXISTING OLD ROAD
- ▬ EXISTING SERVICE ROAD
- ⋯ EXISTING TRAIL
- ⬢ RESERVOIR
- ▬ STONE WALL
- ✱ PARK ENTRY
- ▬ MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
- ▬ MT. BURDELL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
- ⋯ EXISTING TRAIL
- ⋯ PROPOSED TRAIL



OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**RECREATION RESOURCES MAP**  
 GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Royston  
 Hamamoto  
 Alley &  
 Abey

DRAWING NO.  
**24679**

MAP

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## Resource Policy Formulation

### Classification

historic site provide excellent opportunities for the study of natural history, geology, and human history, as well as contemplative activities.

Olompali State Historic Park has an average monthly attendance of 55 people with use concentrated from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Existing facilities include a portable toilet, picnic tables, service road/trail system, and a small parking lot. Constraints on recreational use include lack of potable water, poor access to the unit, and a lack of interpretive information.

Classification of a State Park System unit forms the foundation on which all management and development policies are based.

The State of California purchased the Rancho Olompali parcel from the Marin County Open Space District, a public agency, in December 1977. This acquisition was the result of special state legislation that recognized the transcendent importance of Olompali in California history (refer to Appendix for acquisition history).

The unit was classified as a state historic park in December 1981 by the State Park and Recreation Commission. The Public Resources Code's definition of a state historic park, which is pertinent to general planning efforts, is found in Section 5019.59 and follows:

#### State Historic Park

*5019.59. Historical Units. Historical units, to be named appropriately and individually, consist of areas established primarily to preserve objects of historical, archeological, and scientific interest, and archeological sites and places commemorating important persons or historic events. Such areas should be of sufficient size, where possible, to encompass a significant proportion of the landscape associated with the historical objects. The only facilities that may be provided are those required for the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of the visitors, such as access, parking, water, sanitation, interpretation, and picnicking. Upon approval by the commission, lands outside the primary historic zone may be selected or acquired, developed, or operated to provide camping facilities within appropriate historical units. Upon approval by the State Park and Recreation Commission, an area outside the primary historic zone may be designated as a recreation zone to provide limited recreational opportunities that will supplement the public's enjoyment of the unit. Certain agricultural,*

**Declaration  
Of Purpose**

*mercantile, or other commercial activities may be permitted if those activities are a part of the history of the individual unit and any developments retain or restore historical authenticity. Historical units shall be named to perpetuate the primary historical theme of the individual units.*

**Zone of  
Primary  
Interest**

The purpose of Olompali State Historic Park is to preserve and interpret for the public the prehistoric sites and features associated with the Coast Miwok village of Olompali; to preserve, interpret, and restore, where feasible, the remaining historic sites and features associated with Olompali's Mexican and American periods; and to perpetuate, for public use, inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment, and scientific study the natural area of diverse native vegetation, wildlife, and scenic uplands. Public use and enjoyment of the historic park is encouraged within the limits established by its State Park System classification and resource sensitivities.

The department has a concern for all lands adjacent to the unit where any new development or land use change could jeopardize or degrade the cultural and natural resources of the park.

In addition to systemwide policies, specific policies that pertain to existing or potential resource issues or problems have been formulated for Olompali State Historic Park and are given below by major subject. All natural resources policies pertain to areas outside of the primary historic zone, except as specifically noted.

**Resource  
Management  
Policies**

**Hydrologic Resources**

**Natural  
Resources**

The water features at Olompali State Historic Park are important to the perpetuation of the natural and aesthetic values. Any significant alteration of the hydrologic systems supporting these water features, either within or outside of the unit, may affect them significantly. Potential impacts, including stream diversion and pollution, need to be identified, monitored, and prevented or corrected to maintain natural resources and aesthetic values of the unit.

Policy: The department shall be actively involved in local activities and land use decisions, such as stream channelization, diversion, or pollution sources, that may have an adverse impact on water features at Olompali State Historic Park. Measures to maintain ground and

surface water quality and channel flow shall be recommended and supported. No water shall be diverted within the unit's boundaries that will significantly affect the water features and the ecosystems they support.

### **Geologic Hazards**

Geologic hazards at Olompali State Historic Park include landslides, debris flows, fault rupture, and seismic shaking. Site-specific investigations prior to new developments can help to avoid building in areas subject to these hazards.

Policy: New permanent facility development shall avoid geologic hazards. Site-specific geologic investigations, conducted at the unit by a registered geologist, shall be used to identify potential geologic hazards before final siting of new facilities.

### **Soil Constraints**

Some of the soils at Olompali State Historic Park are cited by the Soil Conservation Service as poorly suited to the development of recreation facilities, structures, and septic systems. Constraints cited in the Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Marin County for the soils present in the unit include slope, shallow depth of rock, wetness, and a high shrink/swell potential or low strength. Some soils have slow permeability and are poor filters, creating problems for the design of sanitary facilities.

Policy: Soil information based on site-specific surveys shall be considered in the design and location of facilities. Facility development, visitor use, and unit operation and maintenance shall be conducted to minimize surface disturbance of soils except where necessary to protect or interpret cultural resources.

### **Soil Erosion**

Trails, roads, and hillsides within Olompali State Historic Park are experiencing erosion. As modifications to the natural system are introduced or as visitor use increases, erosion could accelerate and cause damage to the natural environment and to cultural resources. Some of the trails and roads now in the park were constructed without adequately considering methods to prevent erosion. It may be necessary to modify those areas experiencing active erosion to reduce current soil loss, and to include soil erosion considerations in future

plans for development and use.

Policy: The department shall endeavor to minimize human-caused erosion within Olompali State Historic Park. Unnatural or destructive erosion shall be controlled and prevented by means that are consistent with the purposes of the unit and department policies. Steps shall be taken to correct existing erosion problems and eroded areas. These areas shall be identified, restored to natural contours, if possible, and revegetated with appropriate native plant species when necessary. Erosion caused by facility development shall be monitored, and projects shall be implemented when necessary to prevent soil losses and restore soil integrity. Corrective measures shall be as unobtrusive as possible, designed to fit into the natural environment, and have minimal impact on cultural resources.

### **Vegetation Management**

It is a policy of the department to preserve and perpetuate representative examples of natural plant communities (Policy No. 7; Res. Mgt. Directives, 1831.1). The natural plant communities at Olompali State Historic Park have been affected by human use, road construction, and invasion by exotic species. The net results of such impacts include changes in the range and distribution of native species and community structure.

Policy: The department shall develop and implement a plant community restoration and management plan for Olompali State Historic Park. The primary objective of this program shall be to manage native plant communities outside of the primary historic zone toward a natural condition with a minimum of disruption to natural processes. The secondary objective shall be to restore and perpetuate the native plant communities that prevailed in the unit prior to Euroamerican influence.

### **Oak Management**

Through grazing pressures, habitat modification, and fire suppression, oaks in California have experienced a very low rate of regeneration. Most oak woodland/forest areas display a loss of natural age structure, which typically exhibits a variety of different age classes. A plant community composed of even-aged individuals is considered to be an unstable community, especially when limited to the older age classes found among the oaks. Little regeneration from seed has been noted in the oak woodlands in the unit.

Policy: To ensure the protection and perpetuation of the native oaks of Olompali State Historic Park, the oak communities outside the primary historic zone shall be managed to promote an increased representation of the younger age classes of the oaks. An oak monitoring program shall be established to determine annual recruitment and mortality of oaks, and present age class representation.

### **Native Grasslands**

Extensive changes in the grassland have occurred as a result of long-term grazing, fire suppression, and the introduction of non native species. Native grassland occurs within Olompali State Historic Park as an understory of the blue oak woodland, as well as on open slopes. Species that characterize native grassland (for example, needlegrass, blue wild rye, and tufted hairgrass) occur throughout the unit but are not extensive. In areas in which they occur, native bunchgrass cover is high.

Under natural conditions, the density of native bunchgrasses is variable. When sparse, numerous annual species are commonly associated with the bunchgrasses. In the grassland, these species include goldfields, bird's-eye gilia, popcorn flower, brodiaea, Mariposa lily, and members of the carrot family.

Policy: Native grassland sites within Olompali State Historic Park and outside the primary historic zone shall be managed to restore and maintain the diversity and integrity of native grasslands. Efforts shall include field surveys to identify and assess populations of native grasses, the control and/or eradication of exotic species, and the possible restoration of fire to its natural role in the ecosystem.

### **Prescribed Fire Management**

Historically, fires burned regularly throughout Olompali State Historic Park. The fires were most often ignited by lightning in the late summer and early fall, and by the intentional or accidental activities of Native Americans and ranchers. Wildfires began to be effectively suppressed in the late 1920s and, since that time, fire has only infrequently burned through the unit. Disruption of natural fire processes has resulted in ecological imbalances and the increased likelihood of destructive wildfires due to fuel accumulation. Reintroduction of fire through a carefully controlled prescribed fire program may be needed to maintain native plant species and plant communities that developed under a regime of frequent fires, to restore the proc-

esses necessary for perpetuation of natural ecosystems, to control exotic species, and to reduce the potential for wildfires.

Policy: Use of prescribed fire shall be allowed at Olompali State Historic Park in accord with department prescribed fire management policies. Use of prescribed fire shall be limited to natural plant communities occurring outside the primary historic zone and upslope from the department-maintained firebreak. A Prescribed Fire Management Plan shall be prepared prior to initiation of any burning. Special emphasis in this plan shall be placed upon smoke management and public safety.

### **Fire Prevention and Suppression**

Wildfire can be a threat to natural and cultural resources, facilities, and human life and property. A Prescribed Fire Management Program that simulates the historic natural fires of this region will reduce the damage from future wildfires, but cannot eliminate the threat of wildfires during periods of fire weather conditions and from human-caused ignitions. For these reasons, the department requires that a Wildfire Management Plan be developed for every State Park System unit that experiences wildland fires.

Because conventional fire control facilities and fire-fighting procedures can have long-lasting impacts on park resources, development of special standards and procedures applicable to sensitive unit resources is important.

Policy: The department shall work with appropriate agencies to implement a Wildfire Management Plan at Olompali State Historic Park. This plan shall address all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, suppression, and suppression. An overall objective of this plan shall be to prevent ignitions at U.S. Highway 101 and in heavy visitor use areas from spreading throughout the unit. Protection of sensitive park resources, adjacent property, human lives, and facilities shall be an important element of this plan.

### **Grassland Fuel Reduction**

Olompali State Historic Park is adjacent to U.S. Highway 101, and wildfire in close proximity to the highway could cause serious public safety problems. Fire-suppression procedures, as well as fire itself, could also impact the cultural resources of the unit. The dominant vegetation along the highway corridor is non native annual grassland. The grass is currently mowed and disked to reduce fuel levels.

**Policy:** The department shall work to reduce the flammability of grassland fuels adjacent to U.S. Highway 101 in the historic zone at Olompali State Historic Park. Methods to reduce flammability shall be described in the unit Wildfire Management Plan and may include the application of a fire retardant or growth inhibitor, as well as mowing and removing the grass. Because the density and, therefore, the flammability of native bunchgrasses is lower than that of annual, introduced grasses, conversion to native grassland shall also be considered as a means to reduce the fuel load. Grazing by livestock shall not be used as a method to reduce grassland fuels.

### **Exotic Species**

Approximately 50 species of exotic plants are currently reported at Olompali State Historic Park. Although many of these plants are associated with the Burdell Mansion and garden and have historical significance, some exotics that do not have historical significance occur outside the primary historic zone. These species include blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), which is naturalized and spreading, calla lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), and cactus (*Opuntia sp.*). Because these exotic species compete successfully with native species, perpetuation of native plant communities depends on their control and removal.

**Policy:** The department shall pursue a long-range objective of reducing exotic plants outside the primary historic zone, particularly naturalized eucalyptus, calla lily, and beavertail cactus. Highest priority for control efforts shall be given to those species most invasive and conspicuous in the landscape. Exception shall be made for mature plantings outside the primary historic zone that have historical significance.

### **Rare and Endangered Plants**

Ten rare or endangered plant species or plants of limited distribution have been reported in central Marin County. While populations of many of these species have been accurately located, site-specific information for some of these sensitive species is lacking. As a result, rare or endangered plants can be inadvertently destroyed by development of facilities, maintenance programs, visitor use, or other activities.

**Policy:** Rare and endangered plants at Olompali State Historic Park shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation, in accordance with state law (PRC, Division 2, Chapter 10, Section 1900).

Systematic surveys for rare and endangered plants shall be made wherever facility development, resource management, or increased visitor use is proposed. Populations shall be mapped, and management plans for their protection and perpetuation shall be developed.

### **Livestock Grazing**

Generally, livestock grazing is incompatible with State Park System management objectives of promoting natural processes and restoring natural ecosystems. Livestock grazing impacts native grasslands, pollutes surface waters, and detracts from aesthetic features with the necessary installation of cross-fencing and watering troughs and tanks. Recreational experiences are restricted in areas where cattle congregate. The Department of Parks and Recreation has terminated grazing in Olompali State Historic Park. In a state historic unit, however, grazing for interpretive purposes to depict historic pastoral scenes may be appropriate.

Policy: Livestock grazing in Olompali State Historic Park shall continue to be prohibited, except in the primary historic zone. Livestock numbers shall be limited to those necessary to meet the interpretive objective and not cause resource degradation.

### **Wildlife Management**

Animal life is an important part of natural ecosystems and adds interest and variety to the park experience. Protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations is a management objective at Olompali State Historic Park.

Policy: Altered natural habitats shall be restored as nearly as possible to conditions that would exist had natural ecological processes not been disrupted. Whether or not restoration of natural conditions is possible, it shall be the policy of the department to avoid significant imbalances caused by human influences on the natural wildlife populations. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, the methods used shall be based on sound principles of ecosystem management, be consistent with the general policies of the department, and avoid disturbance to other natural and cultural values of the unit.

### **Golden Eagle Nest Site**

The last recorded nesting of golden eagles at Olompali State Historic Park was in 1984 in a Monterey pine snag. Although golden eagles



have not nested recently at the site, these birds are known to return to former nest sites after intervening use of alternative nest sites. Since golden eagles are especially sensitive to human use and activity in a nest site area, utilization is dependent on favorable conditions. Golden eagles, which are unusual in Marin, continue to frequent the unit and can be seen regularly over the grasslands throughout the year.

Policy: The department shall protect nesting habitat of the golden eagle at Olompali State Historic Park. The 1984 nesting site shall be protected from disturbance. Human use in and around the area shall be minimized during the nesting period from February through May. Monitoring for golden eagle nesting activity shall continue to be conducted annually. Monterey pine snags shall be maintained as potential golden eagle nest sites.

### **Feral Animal Control**

To achieve a more natural wildlife population in the park, adverse influences by feral animals or uncontrolled domestic animals must be minimized. Cats and dogs may seriously threaten wildlife. A visitor's experience can be disturbed by the sight or intimidating action of a stray dog. Feral cats are a particular problem, released into the park or escaped from nearby urban development.

Although feral pigs are not currently reported at Olompali State Historic Park, they are known in central Marin County. Wild pigs cause considerable environmental damage by their rooting activities.

Policy: The department shall strictly enforce rules and regulations regarding feral animals or uncontrolled domestic animals in Olompali State Historic Park. Feral cats and dogs shall be removed as humanely as possible, and a continuing program of population management shall be designed and implemented. Should evidence of wild pig activities be found in the unit, a specific management program shall be developed and implemented. An eradication program in conjunction with adjacent landowners shall be an important element of this plan.

## **Cultural Resources**

### **Development Limits And Construction Monitoring**

Both prehistoric and historic cultural resources are found throughout the park. Extensive prehistoric sites have been identified around the Burdell Ranch complex. The major sites including the village of Olompali, remains of Camilo Ynitia's adobe, and the Burdell Ranch

complex are located in the southeast portion of Olompali State Historic Park in the primary historic zone.

In the winter of 1981, an extensive architectural and archeological survey was conducted at Olompali State Historic Park to identify and record the cultural values in this unit.

Policy: In keeping with Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code, new development at Olompali State Historic Park will be limited. No development of any type will be permitted without first consulting with department historians and archeologists.

### **Native American Resources**

The sensitivity of the Native American sites is based on the type of site, the current condition of the site, and its potential for destruction. Sites composed entirely of bedrock outcrops with mortars and/or cupules are generally less sensitive to weathering and visitor impact. Sites with cultural debris and/or artifact scatters tend to be quite sensitive to weathering and human impact.

Long-range management objectives for Olompali State Historic Park center on the protection, investigation, and interpretation of the unit's Native American sites.

Policy: The department shall protect and preserve all of the Native American resources at Olompali State Historic Park. The department shall prepare and implement a plan for the long-range management of Native American and archeological resources in the unit. This plan shall include programs for future research, curation, interpretation, and excavation of archeological resources. Archeological and historical societies, universities, and interested groups or individuals shall be encouraged to participate in this program under the guidelines established by the management plan.

### **Mrn-193**

The large ceremonial dance house excavated in the 1970s has never been backfilled. As a result, this large excavation is slowly eroding due to weathering. There is a likelihood that nearby human burials and/or artifact concentrations will erode from its walls above the layer of backfill soil.

Policy: This excavation shall be filled to its former surface level, using as fill the dirt piles adjacent to it. To preserve the archeologi-

cal integrity of the excavation, a thin layer of white sand (or any other suitable signalling material) shall be spread on the pit floor prior to filling. If additional fill material is needed, noncultural soils shall be imported from off-site and placed. A state archeologist or a professional consulting archeologist, will monitor this work.

The smaller excavation units adjacent to the dance house also require backfilling.

Policy: Small excavation units adjacent to the dance house shall be filled according to the policy outlined above.

Disturbance vegetation, such as thistle, currently delineates the archeological excavation. Future removal of these plants could result in damage to the cultural deposit.

Policy: All thistle removal within the mapped boundaries of Mrn-193 shall be done by appropriate means under the supervision of departmental cultural resources staff.

#### **Mrn-507**

An unimproved dirt road, known as "Worm Farm Road," intersects this site. The road passes within two meters of the cupule and mortar boulder located just north of the road. Any improvements to the road could adversely impact this cultural resource.

Policy: This site shall be designated as a limited use area. Vehicular use shall be limited to the existing road, and any improvements to the road (e.g., widening, paving) shall be monitored by a state archeologist. Capping the site with an appropriate fill shall be considered as a preservation technique

#### **Mrn-508 and Mrn-509**

Mrn-508 and Mrn-509 are located in secluded areas and, as a result, any vandalism to them might go unnoticed.

Policy: These sites shall be designated limited use areas. All pedestrian and equestrian trails shall be kept away from the sites.

#### **Mrn-510**

A dirt access road runs through this site. Any improvement to the road could result in damage to this site.

Policy: This site shall be designated as a limited use area. Vehicular use shall be limited to the existing road, and any improvement to the road (e.g., widening, paving, etc.) shall be monitored by a state archeologist. Capping the site with an appropriate fill shall be considered as a preservation technique.

### **Euroamerican Resources**

The specific department Resource Management Directives that pertain particularly to the Euroamerican cultural resources of Olompali State Historic Park are 50-53, 54-72, and 75. Olompali State Historic Park contains eight historic standing structures and seven related historic features located in several locations. The primary historic zone contains the Olompali village site, which existed prior to and after the European contact period, and the Burdell Ranch complex.

Policy: Departmental resource management directives shall be strictly enforced.

### **The Burdell Ranch Complex**

The Burdell Ranch complex, located in an alluvial fan that opens onto the bay, consists of a series of structures ranging in age from circa 1840 to the 1950s, and the remains of a historic garden. The remains of the oldest building, the Camilo Ynitia adobe, are encased in the remains of two later buildings. Twentieth century additions include the swimming pool, bathhouse, and caretaker's cottage installed by the Jesuits in the 1950s. Modern dairy buildings west of the original complex and modern corrals date from this period.

The historic resources are generally in poor condition; the principal resources, the Burdell Mansion and Camilo Ynitia's adobe, are in ruins. The following includes a general policy statement regarding these resources, and then proceeds to address each resource separately.

General Policy: Introduction of modern facilities, roads, and parking lots shall be avoided in the vicinity of the Burdell Ranch complex (with the exception of a possible, appropriately designed interpretive center or compatible facilities for the preservation and/or interpretation of historic resources) to protect the site's sense of time and place and historic integrity. The exterior facades of any building adapted for contemporary use shall be based on documented research and historic photographs.

### **The Burdell Mansion (The Camilo Ynitia Adobe)**

This mansion is in very deteriorated condition due to the devastating fire and weathering since then. Furthermore, it no longer protects the adobe remains from the weather.

Policy: The remains of the Burdell mansion and the adobes within shall be protected and stabilized for both interp[retation and research. Portions of the Burdell mansion which endanger resources or the public shall be removed or stabilized.

### **The Burdell Cook's House**

The Burdell cook's house, a small rectangular one-story wood-frame building located directly behind the Burdell mansion, is in poor condition. This building is not depicted in any extant historic photograph, and the preponderance of wire nails suggests early 20th-century construction.

Policy: The Burdell cook's house shall be retained if an appropriate use can be found for it.

### **The Galen Burdell Frame House**

The Galen Burdell frame house is a tall rectangular 19th-century two-story wood-frame channel rustic building, although substantially altered in the interior by the U.S.F. Jesuits, and is significant for its association with the early Burdell Ranch complex and mid-20th-century association with the U.S.F. Jesuit retreat and McCoy commune.

Policy: The Burdell frame house building shall be restored to its 19th-century exterior appearance (see historic photographs), and its interior may be adapted for contemporary use. Consideration may be given to reconstructing the wing of the house that has since been removed.

### **The Galen Burdell Barn**

The Burdell barn was originally a square, wood-frame, tall one-story building resting upon a raised cut stone foundation, which provided stall and storage space under the main body of the barn. Alterations include a shed addition, which extends the original barn on the north facade. A large rectangular wood-frame barn was joined to the original barn on the north half of the west facade.

Not only is the original barn architecturally significant as one of the few remaining examples of early 19th-century East Coast rural architecture transmitted to California after 1850, it also serves as an aesthetic focal point in the alluvial fan that opens toward the bay. The barn is readily visible from Highway 101. Historic photographs document the original appearance of the Burdell barn.

Policy: Modern corrals shall be removed and the barns restored to their original appearance.

### **The Galen Burdell Blacksmith Shop**

The Burdell blacksmith shop is a one-story, wood-frame, random plank board and batt blacksmith shop, constructed with square nails. It is significant as one of the original buildings in the complex.

Policy: The Burdell blacksmith shop shall be restored to its original appearance as part of the historic Burdell Ranch complex. The board carrying the Burdell brand's impression shall be preserved.

### **Saltbox House (House #1)**

The saltbox house is a small one-story, rectangular, wide channel rustic sided roof frame house, surmounted by a steeply pitched gable-end roof with wide-eave overhang. This structure is significant as a representative example of early 19th-century East Coast vernacular, rural architecture transmitted to California after 1850. It is probable that this house was the blacksmith's residence. Alterations to this building can be documented with historic photographs.

Policy: The saltbox house shall be restored to its original appearance as one of the earliest buildings in the Burdell Ranch complex.

### **House #2**

House #2 is a narrow rectangular one-story raised basement wood-frame channel rustic sided house with rear wing perpendicular to the main house. It is associated with Burdell Ranch operations. The house is in very deteriorated condition. There is a deteriorated outbuilding to the south of it.

Policy: House #2 and associated out building shall be restored.

### **Burdell Generator House**

The Burdell generator house is a small, square, one-story, one-room cement-block building that once housed the generator operation for the 1911 Burdell Mansion. Because the machinery, which formed the integral part of the building, is no longer present, the building has lost its significance.

Policy: Unless an appropriate use can be found for the generator house, it shall be removed after being recorded on inventory forms.

### **Burdell Garden and Walnut Orchard**

The Burdell garden was originally designed in the formal style of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and was the first garden of its type in Marin County. The garden is located east of the Burdell Mansion and contains many of the original species first planted in the 1800s. Other areas north and south of the mansion and along the entrance road contain original garden plantings. These ornamentals include blue gum, olive, Monterey pine, liquidambar, Japanese maple, black locust, and camphor. The garden's original design, brick-edged walks, and glass conservatory are gone. The andesite rock fountain that dominated the center of the original garden remains, however, as do the stone stairs that replaced the earlier wood stairs in 1911.

In addition to original plantings by Mary Burdell, a variety of other plants have been recently planted in the garden area. The placement of many of these plants conflicts with existing, mature native and ornamental vegetation. In other areas of the garden, native vegetation has recolonized sites formerly within the formal garden. Formal garden plants in these recolonized areas are largely dead.

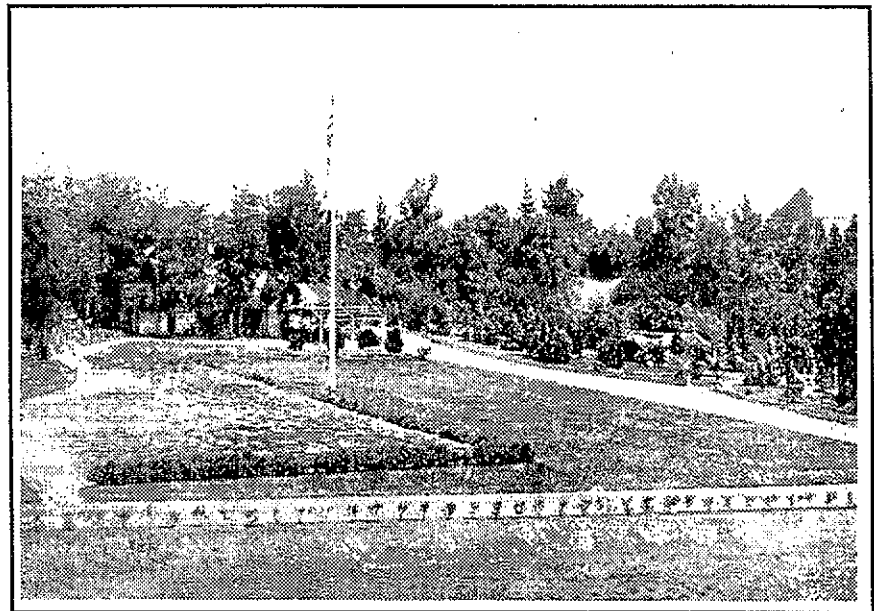
The walnut orchard, located north of the Burdell garden, contains black walnut and English walnut.

Policy: In recognition of the historical significance of the Burdell garden, the entrance road plantings, the walnut orchard, and other landscaping in the primary historic zone, the department shall develop and implement a landscape restoration and maintenance plan for these areas including both floral and nonfloral elements, such as walkways, stairs, and the fountain. Restoration of the formal garden shall follow the historic design to the degree that it can be accurately established.

Ornamental species used in the restoration of the primary historic zone shall be consistent with those species commonly in use at the time the landscaping was first established. For design components that cannot be accurately established from records, historically appropriate species shall be used.

Recent ornamental plantings that are likely to overcrowd existing, mature native and ornamental vegetation shall be removed. Adaptive use of the Burdell garden and walnut orchard shall not be precluded under this policy.

The stone stairs that replaced the earlier wood stairs in 1911 shall be retained. The andesite rock fountain that dominated the center of the original garden shall be restored.



**Burdell Ranch Complex, circa 1880s**

Areas in the primary historic zone, both within and beyond the Burdell garden and walnut orchard, from which exotic species are to be removed shall first be examined by an archeologist to determine potential impacts on cultural resources.

#### **Caretaker's Cottage**

The caretaker's cottage is a modern one-story wood-frame building installed by the U.S.F. Jesuits in 1953. It detracts from the park's historic setting.



Policy: The caretaker's cottage shall be removed.

### **The Bathhouse and Swimming Pool**

The bathhouse is a one-story wood-frame structure installed by the U.S.F. Jesuits in connection with the swimming pool which was built sometime in the 1950s. They detract from the historic setting.

Policy: The 1950's bathhouse and remaining visible portions of the swimming pool shall be removed after being recorded. The swimming pool shall be completely filled in.

### **Trash Dump #1**

Located underneath house #2, this dump ranges in age from the 1860s to the 1940s. It is possibly associated with the saltbox house (house #1) located west of the blacksmith's shop.

Policy: This resource shall be excavated and recorded as an archeological site.

### **Modern Dairy Barn**

This barn and the associated shed roof structure, located west of the historic barn complex, dates from the 1950s. It intrudes upon the historic setting.

Policy: The modern dairy barn and shed shall be removed.

### **The Burdell Stone Walls**

The Burdell stone walls, which run along the western, northern, and southern boundaries of the park, date from the 19th-century Burdell Ranch period. They contribute to the park's historic and esthetic setting.

Policy: The Burdell stone walls shall be preserved in place and maintained to preserve their historical structural integrity.

### **The Deer Hunter's Complex**

The deer hunter's complex is composed of one major location, just east of the stone reservoir, and several auxiliary units to the south. The complex detracts from the park's aesthetic quality.

Policy: The complex has been recorded on state inventory forms. This complex shall be removed.

### **The Worm Farm**

In the latter part of the 1960's, 'Williams Red Worms' were produced at the location called the 'Worm Farm' north of the Burdell complex. The only readily observable parts of this farm that remain now are a deteriorated house and shed.

Policy: Any remaining cultural materials from the Worm Farm area shall be removed after being recorded.

### **The Burdell Reservoir**

The Burdell reservoir is significant to the history of the unit, and provides a pleasant environment for the visitor

Policy: The reservoir shall be retained with appropriate consideration given to public safety.

### **Staff Housing/Maintenance Area**

Residences for park staff and maintenance equipment and facilities are located in the unit.

Policy: If staff housing is allowed at this park unit, such structures, and maintenance facilities and equipment storage, shall be confined to one area, appropriately screened from the remainder of the historic zone; and this complex shall be relocated to what is called the Worm Farm area.

### **The Wooden Trestle**

The wooden trestle located near the northeast boundary of the project area remains from Galen Burdell's 19th-century water system which conducted water throughout the ranch.

Policy: If it is determined that this trestle is not a public hazard, it shall be preserved and maintained.

### **Octagonal Concrete Slab**

This concrete slab is the only remaining structure built by The Chosen Family within the historic zone.

**Aesthetic  
Resources**

Policy: The department shall retain the octagonal concrete slab.

**Aesthetic Resources Management**

Scenic quality in Olompali State Historic Park is derived from its diverse natural landscape and from the juxtaposition of cultural and natural resources.

Rugged topography, a mosaic of vegetation, abundant wildlife, and remnants of adobe structures and the formal garden contribute to the esthetic features of this unit. Human-made facilities can encroach on esthetic resources and detract from the scenic quality within the unit. The U.S. Highway 101 traffic corridor, trash associated with historic structures, park residences and maintenance structures, and overhead utility lines constitute negative esthetic features.

Policy: Management of Olompali State Historic Park shall be toward the maintenance of aesthetic resources and a reduction or elimination of human-made intrusions. Residence structures, parking areas, and maintenance facilities shall be designed and landscaped to blend into the natural landscape and/or be located in areas of low visibility.

Overhead utility lines in the park shall be placed underground where feasible.

**Tree Snags**

A row of eucalyptus snags occurs in a stream drainage south of the primary historic zone. These trees are obtrusive in the landscape and block views into the unit from U.S. 101.

Policy: Standing dead trees in the drainage south of the primary historic zone shall be removed.

**Recreation  
Resources**

**Motorcycle Trespass**

Upland trails at Olompali State Historic Park provide access to the Marin County Open Space District. In several areas, motorcycles have entered the unit illegally. Motorcycle trespass can cause environmental degradation, impact cultural resources, and cause conflicts with legitimate recreational uses.

Policy: The department shall use signing and physical barriers to restrict illegal access by motorcycles into Olompali State Historic Park.

**Allowable Use  
Intensity**

**Bicycle Use**

Bicycle use is a popular recreation activity. Riding bicycles in the historic and natural areas of the unit could result in the degradation and destruction of vegetation and in accelerated soil erosion. Equestrian, hiking and bicycle uses are not always compatible activities.

Policy: In order to preserve and protect the natural and cultural features of Olompali SHP, and to provide a quality recreational experience, the department shall designate which areas, if any, bicycle use may be permitted. Any areas where bicycle use is permitted shall be monitored for erosion and vegetation loss, and shall be restored if degradation occurs. Bicycle use closure may be necessary to alleviate negative impacts.

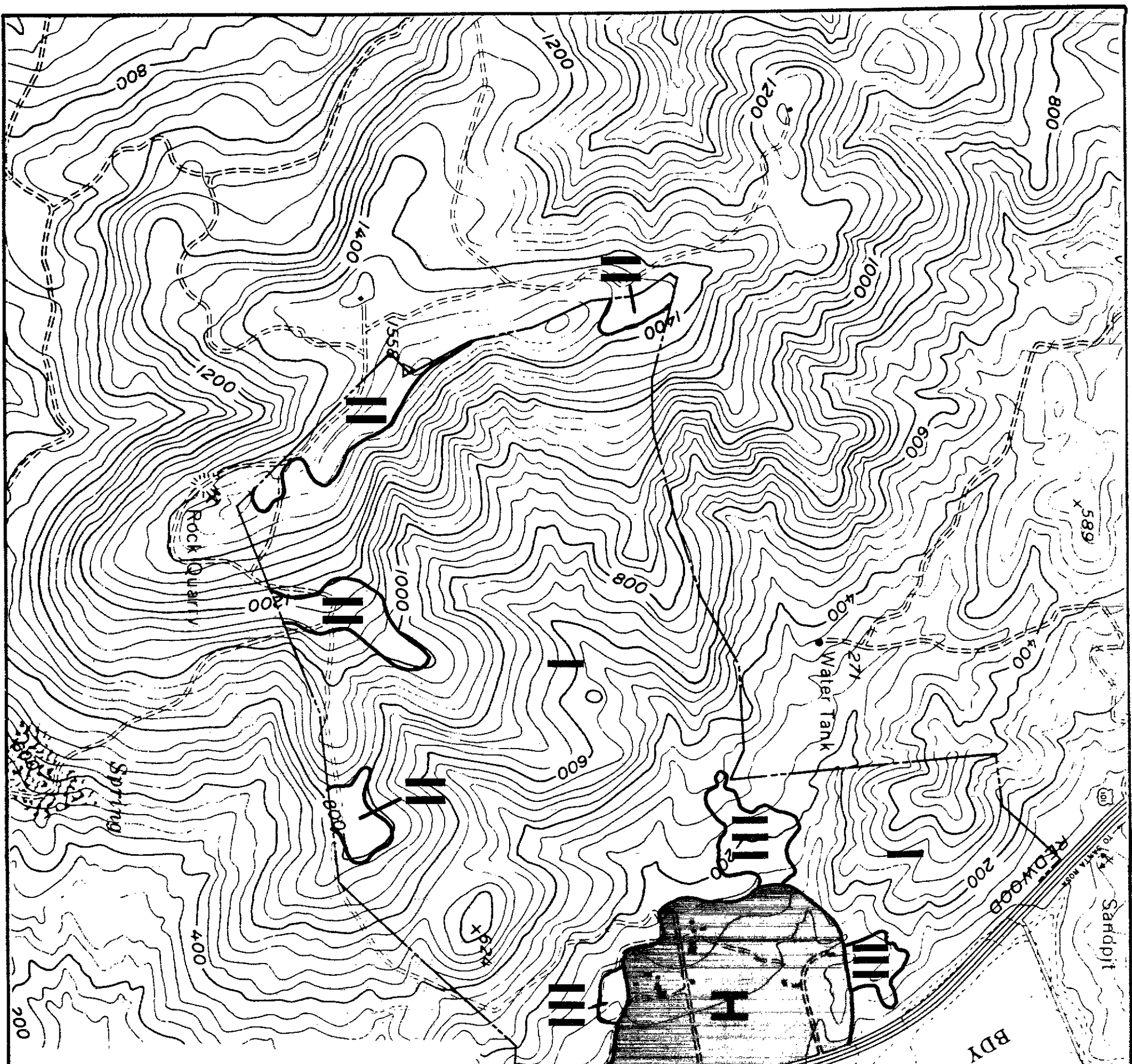
**Equestrian and Hiking Trails**

Horseback riding and hiking are two popular recreation activities at Olompali State Historic Park. Trails in the unit are used by riding and hiking enthusiasts. Long-term use of this unit by horses could result in the degradation and destruction of vegetation and in soil erosion. Equestrian and hiking uses are also not always compatible activities.

Policy: To preserve and protect the natural and cultural features at Olompali State Historic Park, and to provide a quality recreational experience, the department shall designate trails in this unit as foot trails or equestrian trails. Trails shall be monitored for erosion and vegetation loss, and shall be restored if degradation occurs. Trail rotation or closure shall be considered to alleviate negative impacts.

The California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made prior to the preparation of any development plan for any state park or state recreation area. Section 5001.96 further requires that attendance be held within limits so established. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the land carrying capacity concept and is prepared as part of the Resource Element of the general plan in fulfillment of the above code sections.

Allowable use intensity is just one of several factors considered in developing the Land Use Element of the general plan. Other factors that may also be considered in determining land use for any unit of the State Park System are classification and purpose, recreation needs, design considerations, and social carrying capacity or the desired quality of the recreation experience.



This map is based on natural, cultural, and scenic constraints and sensitivities. Other factors such as land use, socioeconomic, and design factors may indicate that a higher or lower use intensity is desirable in particular areas. If appropriate mitigations are feasible and can be incorporated in the planning process, higher use intensities may be acceptable.

The minimum mapping unit size is 2 acres. Smaller sensitive resource areas and small areas without constraints are not mapped. Therefore this map is useful only for general planning. Once site specific proposals for land uses or facilities have been developed the proposed locations should be checked for resource sensitivity on the various resource maps on file in the Resource Protection Division office. Site specific field investigations may also be necessary.

**ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY**

USE INTENSITY CATEGORY	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE FACILITIES OR ACTIVITIES
I - LOW	Archaeological sites; Coast live oak forest; Blue oak savanna with native bunchgrass understory; Wildlife habitat. Steep slopes and erodible soils; High scenic value.	Picnic sites and trails; restrooms only in areas fully screened from historic structures and garden. Nature study and hiking.
II - MODERATE	Shallow slopes; Areas upslope from primary historic zone capable of being screened by vegetation.	Picnic sites and trails; Restrooms.
III - HIGH	Non-native grassland; Low visibility from primary historic zone. Relatively flat land.	Campgrounds, picnic sites, and trails; Restroom only in areas fully screened from primary historic zone; Administrative support facilities.
H - PRIMARY HISTORIC ZONE	Primary historic zone including Burdell ranch complex and garden.	Picnic sites and trails; Restrooms only in areas fully screened from historic structures or by using an historic structure for such adaptive use; Adaptive use of interiors of Burdell ranch complex buildings for restroom facilities; Access road for historic zone parking and ranger residences; Parking limited to Use Intensity Category III at northern and western periphery; Ranger residences and associated structures in northern section and fully screened.

DESIGNED	DATE	REVISIONS
CHECKED	10/88	Revised text & title
DRAWN		

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK  
**ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY**  
GENERAL PLAN - RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING NO. 23848  
MAP 5

Allowable use intensity determinations establish the limits of development and use an area can sustain without an unacceptable degree of deterioration in the character and value of the scenic, natural, and cultural resources. Determinations are based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivities information.

Resource management objectives are defined by the Public Resources Code and other law, unit classifications and declarations of purpose, and by specific declarations of resource management policy presented in this Resource Element.

Resource constraints are factors that would make visitor use or facility development unsafe, economically impractical, or undesirable. They are determined by evaluating such factors as erodibility and compaction potential of soils, geologic hazards, slope stability and relief, hydrologic conditions, potential for pollution of surface waters, and flooding.

Sensitivities are conditions, locations, or values of resources that warrant restricted use or development to protect resources. Sensitivities are evaluated by considering such factors as the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact, not only in the short term but also over a more extended time span; the fragility and significance of archeological and historical resources; vegetation characteristics such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations such as tolerance to human activity, population levels, and stability. Sensitivities may also include scenic resources; rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and habitats; unique or scientifically important botanic features; and other resources of regional or statewide significance.

Decisions setting the level of use, made during the planning stages, cannot be considered irrevocable. Monitoring of resources after a developed site is subject to public use may indicate that unacceptable damage is occurring; therefore, an adjustment in allowable use intensity may be necessary. However, other site management techniques, such as installing barriers, paths, artificial surfaces, and applying cultural and silvicultural measures, may suffice. Also visitor management techniques including party size limitation, use of reservations, and interpretive signs, talks, and other devices should be considered along with a possible change in use intensity.

The allowable use intensities for lands in Olompali State Historic Park are shown on the Allowable Use Intensity Map. Decisions to provide such types and intensities of use, in effect constitute the management objectives for the area. Four use intensity zones have been developed as follows:

The **low intensity use zone** includes archeological sites, diverse natural plant communities, steep slopes, erodible soils, and areas of high scenic value. Appropriate development might include: picnic sites, trails, portable restrooms (only in areas fully screened from historic structures and garden), nature study, and hiking.

The **moderate use zone** includes areas of shallow slopes, as well as areas upslope of the primary historic zone capable of being screened by vegetation. Appropriate development might include: picnic sites, trails and restrooms.

The **high intensity use zone** includes nonnative grassland, sites of existing facilities outside the primary historic zone, and areas of gentle slope without significant sensitivities. Appropriate development might include: campgrounds, trails, portable restrooms only in areas fully screened from primary historic zone, and administrative support facilities. Parking is limited at the northern, southern and western periphery. Ranger residences and associated structures in the northern section should be fully screened.

The **primary historic zone** includes the Burdell Ranch complex and garden. Appropriate development might include: picnic sites, trails, and restrooms (only in areas fully screened from historic structures). Interiors of Burdell ranch complex buildings may be adapted for restroom facilities. This area may include the access road for historic zone parking and service roads.

## LAND USE ELEMENT

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## LAND USE ELEMENT

### Land Use Goals

The Department of Parks and Recreation protects and preserves the resources of the State Park System while providing recreation opportunities and facilities for the public through the use of the State Park System. The establishment and classification of Olompali as a state historic park recognizes the significant cultural and natural resources of the site. These resources present diverse and quality recreational, interpretive, and educational opportunities to enhance the public's enjoyment of the unit.

The **Land Use Element** determines the optimum use of the land at Olompali State Historic Park for providing these opportunities consistent with the programs and policies identified in the Resource Element for resource protection and perpetuation. The element considers the activities and facility needs identified by the various general plan elements. The element considers desirable and necessary land uses - undeveloped (natural or open space) and developed (interpretive, operations, recreation, and concession facilities) - and determines what uses are appropriate and where they should be located. The **Facilities Element** more specifically locates these facilities and activities within the appropriate land use zone or area.

### Land Use Limitations

Providing for human activity within the park to perpetuate resource values and ecological systems involves setting limitations: how many people can use an area (carrying capacity) and for what purpose (allowable use intensity). These two concepts are vital to preparing the final Land Use Element.

### Land Carrying Capacity

Based on allowable use intensities described in the Resource Element, the *land carrying capacity* for the park is set by examining the amount of existing visitor use, the capacity of existing facilities, and the desirable capacity of proposed new or improved facilities to provide additional use.

*Carrying capacity* refers to the number of people, or the intensity of activities (allowable use intensity), that an area of land can support without losing its ability to renew itself. Parklands and their associated resources have inherent limitations with regard to the type and amount of public use they can endure without irreparable damage to resources. The decision about carrying capacity, or number of visitors, is based on professional experience, an analysis of existing activities, user characteristics, regional recreation information, and the determination of initial park goals, management objectives, and allowable use intensity.

## **Existing Land Use Conditions And Assumptions**

The location of access, parking, and facilities may be used to control the density and distribution of users. However, the number of parking spaces provided for vehicles is the major factor that determines carrying capacity and density of use because most visitors gain access to the park by motor vehicle.

Existing facilities and activities at Olompali provided recreation opportunities for about 3500 visitors in 1985-86. Use has continued to increase since the park was acquired. In considering capacity, estimates are that each vehicle accounts for three visitors. Taking into consideration turnover rates (each parking space is used an average of twice daily) and seasonal use patterns (which peak between May and September at Olompali), the average daily and annual visitor attendance can be projected. Since the park is not open yet, visitor attendance is low and focused on special events.

The park currently has temporary parking capacity for 10-20 vehicles, or 30-60 visitors, with a maximum of 75 vehicle capacity along the sides of the existing entry road for 225 visitors. The proposed vehicle capacity of the new parking area is 75 vehicles, or 225 visitors with a 25-50 vehicle overflow parking area. Existing and proposed vehicle capacities represent the existing and proposed parking spaces to be available at the unit. Totals of existing and proposed parking spaces include:

1. Parking in established unpaved areas.
2. Overflow parking on an infrequent basis. During special events, overflow parking is permitted in a designated area to the extent that the health and safety of visitors and unit resource values are not jeopardized.

The following considerations outline the process by which land use decisions were made. The reasoning behind planning decisions can be traced from initial assumptions and planning issues through the alternatives, to the chosen objectives and recommendations for actual use and development.

## Recreation Values

- o The park, with scattered oaks, open flat grass areas and distant views of the marsh and sloughs to the east, is highly scenic.
- o The undeveloped and quiet character of most areas of the park is a significant value, particularly when found near an urban area.
- o The park's western boundary is contiguous to the Marin County Open Space District, which shares similar management goals with Olompali SHP.
- o The park has become increasingly popular as more people find out about the beauty of the site and its history.
- o The abundance of cultural and natural resources at the park make it ideal for many types of recreation.

## Recreation Use

- o There are no existing formal recreation facilities at the park.
- o Informal recreation use was estimated at 1,000 in 1985-86 and 2,000 in 1986-87.
- o Popular recreation activities are birdwatching, hiking/walking, nature observation/study, special events, archeologic field study, picnicking, and interpretation of Native American culture and ranching history.
- o Most activity occurs around the Burdell Ranch complex.
- o Existing recreation use at the park is limited by the lack of potable water, adequate access, developed facilities, and interpretive information.
- o Intensive recreation facilities and activities are provided elsewhere within Marin County.

## Physical Factors

- o The primary recreation season (May through September) coincides with hot summer months.

## Transportation And Circulation

- o There are only three areas in the park suitable for high intensity recreation use (Allowable Use Intensity III).
- o Considering the physical limitations of the park resources, the capacity of the land for intensive recreation use and development of structures is relatively low.
- o For these reasons, certain recreation development will not be feasible within the present configuration of the unit ( for example, overnight camping).
- o If development around the unit occurs, opportunities for land acquisition will be lost with potential negative visual impact.
- o Origin of Olompali visitors
  - Most visitors are local residents to Marin and Sonoma counties or come from the greater San Francisco Bay Area.
- o Means of Travel to Olompali SHP
  - Nearly all visitors arrive by motor vehicle.
  - Public transportation might be possible along U.S. 101, although there are no current plans to make Olompali a bus stop.
  - Currently there are no public trails to the west connecting Olompali to the Marin County Open Space District.
- o Routes of Vehicle Access to Olompali SHP
  - Unit access is perpendicular to U.S. 101, requiring a right turn for cars going south, or a left turn across southbound traffic. Unit access from U.S. 101 does not meet Caltrans current intersection standards for a public use access. At present, Caltrans proposes to close the median providing northbound access to the site. With this closure access to Olompali would be from the southbound lanes of U.S. 101 only. Private roads enter the site near the southeast property lines; however, these roads are unimproved and not open to the public.
  - In the long term, Caltrans proposes to move the lanes of U.S. 101 to the east and construct a major interchange, either at the landfill road or directly east of Olompali, thereby allowing the existing southbound lanes to be used as a park frontage road.

## Planning Issues And Alternatives

- New park development will generate minor increases to traffic on U.S. 101.
- o Means of Travel at Olompali SHP
  - Owing to physical constraints and the existence and extent of sensitive cultural and natural resources, many areas of the park are inaccessible except by foot.
  - There are several miles of existing trails within the park.
  - Walking and hiking are popular activities at the park.
  - Trails should be made compatible with the scenic and natural resources and be as inconspicuous in the landscape as possible.
  - Off-highway vehicle use is not permitted at the park.
  - Bicycle use will be permitted in designated areas.

Using the analysis of existing conditions, the Resource Element, and concerns expressed at the first public workshop, the planning team assembled site and program alternatives.

In relation to **Land Use** these alternatives included: access at the existing entry or from the northern property line along a frontage road; parking in close proximity to U.S. 101 or within the park site; an interpretive center within existing buildings or in a new structure near parking areas; and other alternatives related to trail connections, environmental education areas, equestrian staging, restoring the Burdell garden, managing the walnut orchard, and acquiring additional land.

The alternatives were presented and discussed at the second public workshop. Following a brief question and answer period, people organized into individual groups to discuss and evaluate the above alternatives outlined in an Alternatives Evaluation Worksheet (see Appendix). These worksheets helped the planning team assess the major issues, the areas of consensus, and the various trade-offs that would have to be reconciled in developing a final plan. State park personnel also reviewed the proposed alternatives and worked with the planning team to develop a single plan.

## Significant Public Issues

Following the workshop, the newsletter summarized public opinion as expressed in the worksheets and described the developing single plan. The planning team presented the single plan at the third public meeting for public review and comment. As a result of this meeting, some additional changes were incorporated into the plan.

Public evaluation of the land use alternatives included the following significant issues and areas of general agreement (refer to Appendix for further information):

- o Parking near existing entry along U.S. 101.
- o Loop existing trails and connect to the Marin County Open Space District trails.
- o Use existing buildings for an interpretive center, either in the barns or the Burdell frame house.
- o Relocate the staff housing to the Worm Farm area.
- o Provide equestrian staging.
- o Provide environmental education areas.
- o Restore the Burdell garden and the walnut orchard.
- o Rebuild the conservatory.
- o Acquire additional lands.

## Land Use Goals And Objectives

The discussion of land use addresses those aspects relating to the functioning of the park, the physical layout or location of park elements aside from decisions about historic buildings (Facilities Element) or programs (Interpretive Element and Concessions Element). In accordance with the state historic park designation, certain goals can be accepted:

- o Preserve the integrity, quiet, and natural beauty of the entire park.
- o Interpret to the public the site's significant cultural and natural resources.
- o Provide diverse recreation opportunities, compatible with the park's integrity.
- o Minimize environmental damage from recreation use and development.
- o Provide facilities and staff consistent with park operation, resource protection, public health, and safety.
- o Encourage "nonvehicular" circulation in the park.

From the above goals the following planning objectives guided decision-making in developing the single plan:

#### **Access**

- o Provide safe visible access from U.S. Highway 101.
- o Direct vehicles to convenient parking.
- o Minimize impact of vehicles on historic resources.

#### **Parking/Vehicle Circulation**

- o Keep visitor parking a reasonable distance from historic/interpretive facilities (5-minute walk).
- o Plan for visitor parking and roads with minimum disturbance of the land and the historic core.
- o Minimize conflict of pedestrian circulation with auto circulation and parking.
- o Minimize parking and road visibility from historic resources.
- o Minimize parking and road visibility from U.S. 101.
- o Assure convenient access for the elderly and disabled.

#### **Equestrian Staging Area**

- o Maintain adequate distance from other park use areas.
- o Provide adequate space for 25 vehicles with trailers.
- o Locate with immediate access to trail system and connections to Marin County Open Space District lands.

#### **Interpretive Center Location**

- o Provide adequate area and building requirements (temperature/humidity) for needs of interpretive program.
- o Locate center to be "first stop" from parking area.
- o Locate center in central or logical place in relation to historic features/trails.
- o Attempt to use existing historic structures.

#### **Staff Housing/Maintenance**

- o Provide adequate area and privacy for park residences.
- o Locate residences to minimize conflict with other park functions.
- o Provide direct access from future U.S. 101 frontage road with appropriate public intersection design standards.



- o Provide adequate facility for maintenance yard to include plant care, sprinkler system, historic repair, etc.

### **Picnicking**

- o Locate some picnic tables within 300 feet of parking area.
- o Locate picnic tables in proximity to historic features or special natural features (e.g. oak trees/serpentine rock).
- o Locate group picnic area in close proximity to parking for convenience.

### **Circulation/Trails**

- o Improve existing trails.
- o Make logical loop connections between existing trails.
- o Connect trails to adjacent Marin County Open Space District trails.
- o Use pedestrian pathways for service roads.
- o Provide vantage points with rustic bench and selective tree thinning to enhance existing views.

### **Environmental Education Areas**

- o Locate environmental education areas on fairly level site within reasonable walk (1/4 to 1/2 mile ) from historic area.
- o Provide portable restrooms and potable water.

### **Burdell Garden**

- o Restore and maintain garden to original design intent including the fountain.
- o Allow limited picnicking.

### **Conservatory**

- o Reestablish conservatory.
- o Incorporate conservatory in interpretive program.
- o Encourage volunteers or private organizations to manage.

### **Walnut Orchard**

- o Manage orchard as a viable productive display in interpretive program.

## Land Use Recom- mendations

### General Land Use

#### Land Acquisition

- o Acquire adjacent land that makes a physical connection or is an extension of natural environment.
- o Acquire land that has major visual impact on site.
- o Acquire land of historic significance

The planning team used the above objectives in evaluating previous public input and with state personnel assistance developed the single plan.

#### To Provide Safe Access and Convenient Parking

The plan proposes the park access road to begin at approximately U.S. Highway 101 post mile marker number MRN 24.5 and continue up into the unit along the existing firebreak road to the parking lot site south of the historic area. The primary reasons for relocating the entrance are: (1) to provide adequate distance for merging into southbound traffic after making a possible U-turn at the existing land fill crossing and moving to the west side of the southbound lanes of U.S. 101 to turn into the proposed deceleration lanes at the park entrance; (2) to allow adequate site distance for acceleration/deceleration lanes on U.S. 101 at the park entrance; and (3) to minimize vehicles within the primary historic zone.

Department of Parks and Recreation and Caltrans staff have agreed on the recommended location for the park entrance. The department has initiated a separate CEQA process for installation of acceleration/deceleration lanes at that location to expedite a Caltrans - standard public access to Olompali. The primary environmental issue involved is the potential removal of approximately 20 existing trees along the Caltrans U.S. 101 right of way.

Interim parking, until these improvements are made, will continue along the existing entrance road. If Caltrans moves U.S. 101 to the east, allowing the existing southbound lanes to become frontage road, the permanent, paved access road to the parking lot will be along the existing firebreak to the south of the parking lot.

The southern parking area conforms to initial criteria for the park entrance, circulation, historic continuity, parking, and access: adequate space to park 50-80 cars; relatively level area, previously used

as a parking area and therefore requiring minimal grading; adequate separation between vehicles and historic area so as to not interfere with historic "feeling"; convenient access for disabled and elderly; minimal visibility from the rest of the site and U.S. 101; minimal disruption to existing facilities, archeological or natural features. Visitors could walk from the parking area along the pomegranate lined walkway past the Burdell garden to the proposed Burdell Frame House Interpretive Center. In the long term, the parking area would also provide convenient access to a possible larger interpretive center or museum south of the periphery of the primary historic zone.

The **equestrian staging area**, the northern access to the Marin County Open Space District lands, would be located to the west of the proposed parking area. Equestrian use should not interfere or distract from the primary park uses. As a policy horses should not be allowed in the historic area. Adequate hitching posts and water should be provided so that riders can walk into the historic area. The staging area should have a gravel surface so that when it was not being used it would not be as visible as asphalt. Facilities to be provided at the staging area should include trail signs, portable restrooms, water, garbage cans and interpretive information signs, benches, and shade trees. The equestrian staging area will also be an overflow parking area.

#### **To Provide an Interpretive Center**

The **Burdell Frame House** should be restored and the interior rearranged to accommodate interpretive displays. Appropriate signing should create a "walk into history" by directing visitors from the southern parking lot, past the Burdell garden into the primary historic zone with the interpretive center as the first destination. Using the Burdell frame house as an interpretive center utilizes an existing structure, preserves the visual continuity and historic integrity of the site, and provides access from the nearby parking area. A new building may also be considered for an interpretive center, as shown on the Facilities Plan (map 7). The interpretive center shall accommodate needed interpretive facilities, which might include interpretive displays, a small meeting area or slide room, book sales, and restrooms. Handicapped access shall be provided.

#### **To Relocate State Staff Housing and Maintenance Facilities**

In the event that the department allows staff housing at Olompali SHP, the appropriate area for this is the Worm Farm. Maintenance facilities

should also be in this location. Before Caltrans moves U.S. 101 east, access should be from the park entrance road, north along the existing firebreak alignment paralleling U.S. 101 (an unpaved, non-cut road), then west along the old Worm Farm road, then north crossing the creek. If the existing southbound lanes of U.S. 101 become frontage road, access may be directly from the frontage road to the old Worm Farm road with appropriate public intersection design standards. In the interim, access to the Worm Farm area can remain along existing service access roads.

Park personnel would not need to drive through the historic portion of the park for daily travel to and from the park site. Advantages associated with this proposal include: needed distance from visitor use areas; visual distance from historic area; and desirable Worm Farm location (somewhat secluded allowing for privacy, but accessible).

#### **To Provide Trail Connections**

Olompali trails may be used for environmental or historical walks, hiking or horseback riding. Within the historic zone, known routes of El Camino Nacional should be interpreted as a historic walk into history. Existing trails should be improved and maintained with new trail connections to make logical loops through the property and to the adjacent Marin County Open Space District lands. Environmental trails should be routed past existing natural features rather than replanting or re-creating new environments.

Connections from the proposed countywide trail paralleling U.S. 101 can be made west along the present entrance road, and west along the old Worm Farm Road. Northwest from the Worm Farm area a trail loop should lead northwest upslope to the park boundary to a higher elevation. In the southern portion of the park a trail should lead from the existing switchback up to the 624' elevation. The trail should re-connect to the existing old road to the southern boundary, then follow the stone wall to the southwest boundary connecting to Open Space District trails. Near the western boundary the Open Space District trail leads north. A new trail should continue north within the park property along the stone wall and connect to the existing old road at the northwest boundary. Improvements should be made to enable visitors to appreciate the views such as selective tree thinning and rustic benches.

## Recreation Activities

### **To Provide an Environmental Education Area**

A day-use area for environmental education should be located southwest of the reservoir near the trail fork in a clear, relatively flat, and sheltered area.

Overnight camping is not recommended for the Olompali site because there is not a suitable location.

### **To Provide a Site for Reconstruction of an Indian Village**

The relatively flat area south of the first creek crossing on the existing old road up to the reservoir from the historic core area shall be the potential site at which a reconstructed Indian Village should be built.

### **To Restore the Burdell Garden, the Conservatory and the Walnut Orchard**

In accordance with the Resource Element a landscape restoration and maintenance plan should be developed for the **Burdell Garden**, including the andesite rock fountain. With restoration, this area might then be used for visitor picnicking, historic walks, plant identification, or special receptions.

The **Conservatory**, built in 1885, has since been removed. This structure should be restored to its original location south of the mansion. With restoration, this structure might serve a functional purpose for the Burdell garden, possibly operated by a local garden group and interpreted both for the architecture and the plants within.

The **Walnut Orchard**, located north of the barn complex, should be restored and maintained. As a producing orchard it should be part of the interpretive program and accommodate picnicking.

Under this general plan, opportunities for enjoying recreational and educational experiences will be provided through the following activities:

Museum tours	History study
Living history programs	Photography
Environmental living programs	Picnicking
Special events (1)	Archeological study
Nature study	Birdwatching

## Acquisition

Hiking  
Walnut picking (2)  
Demonstrations and exhibits  
Garden demonstrations  
Horseback riding

Festivals  
Interpretive walks  
Self-guided tours  
Scheduled runs

(1) By special event permit only at locations designated by the district superintendent and with activities and impacts monitored and evaluated.

(2) The site includes walnut trees remaining from the Burdell Ranch.

The following discussion and all other comments regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only and are not a commitment to acquire. Additional public lands could enhance recreational opportunities (e.g. camping), add to the enjoyment and appreciation of the park's resources, assure control over potential visual impacts to the park site, and maintain the integrity of the park. Acquisition could be considered in the following order:

### First Priority

An intermittent creek, flowing southeast between the Worm Farm and the state park rangers' mobile home complex, originates in a canyon northwest of the park. This canyon makes a logical extension to Olompali's natural environment: it completes the watershed; it is an extension of the riparian corridor; it is part of the same ecological unit; and it allows the state to make decisions about areas upstream. With acquisition, certain areas could be improved for camping.

### Second Priority

An area to the south of the property and west of U.S. 101 is also visible from within the park. Under private ownership this area might also be developed, with potential visual impacts on the unit. Portions of this property might be considered for acquisition to prevent possible negative visual impacts to the park, connect to Open Space District lands, and make logical trail connections and extensions.

### Third Priority

Burdell Island and lands to the east of U.S. 101 might be considered for future acquisition: the area is part of Olompali's history; it lies within Olompali's viewshed; and it could allow state control of visual

## **Proposed Land Use Zones**

In the long term, a pedestrian overpass could provide access between Olompali and Burdell Island.

### **Fourth Priority**

Near the top of Burdell Mountain is an historic quarry the source for the rock walls, the reservoir and the rock-lined streambed. This area might be acquired for its historic relation to Olompali and needed trail connections.

In designating uses for particular areas, the planning team worked within the limitations imposed by allowable use intensities and normal cost factors, as well as with the need to consider existing land uses, activities, and proposed facilities.

Olompali State Historic park can be divided into three basic land uses: Interpretive Use, Operations Use, and Natural or Open Space.

The order of the following land use areas identifies them by land use priority (the highest first).

### **Interpretive Use**

Cultural resource interpretation will occur primarily within or near areas of cultural significance. The land use area includes all of the primary historic zone.

### **Open Space/Undeveloped**

Open space includes the majority of the park site with its natural resources and scenic value. Only low-intensity recreation may take place in this area (hiking, picnicking, and the like).

### **Operations Use**

Operations areas include administration, maintenance, and service areas needed to provide support for park operation. In the Worm Farm area, these uses include staff residences and equipment storage. Administrative offices and small storage areas may be located in the Burdell frame house, or Houses #1 or #2.

## **FACILITIES ELEMENT**

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## FACILITIES ELEMENT

### Existing Facilities

The Facilities Element identifies existing facilities and recommends improvement or development of new facilities at Olompali SHP. Architectural design concepts, utility concerns, and priorities for development are also discussed.

Various facilities are necessary for optimum public access, use, and enjoyment of the unit. Roads, trails, restrooms, and parking areas are typical of the many types of public-use facilities to be provided. Maintenance yards, utilities, and administrative offices are examples of the other facilities needed for operation and maintenance of the park.

Olompali SHP consists of natural, undeveloped land with the exception of the concentration of the former residences, barns, and other related buildings. The unit contains 19 historic features located in several areas. The Burdell Ranch Complex contains 10 of these features including the remains of Camilo Ynitia's adobe. West of the ranch complex an existing old road, now used as a trail, follows a creek to the remotely located Deer Hunting Camp, which contains several cabins, and an old reservoir. The terrain surrounding the park site to the west, south, and north is also undeveloped rolling hillsides, dotted with clumps of native oaks, as well as buckeye and grassland. These areas are used primarily for grazing cattle, with limited trail access for hikers and equestrians.

Even with this limited development existing public facilities may be considered as follows:

**State park entry** provides direct access from U.S. 101. Visitors can park along the highway and walk into the site or call ahead for group access. A fenced locked gate prohibits vehicle access, but visitors can walk through an opening. No sign designates the site as Olompali State Historic Park or informs the public that the unit is open for public visitation.

**Existing service road** leads into the site with public parking about 1/4 mile into the site near the ranch complex. Public vehicle access is limited to the main entrance road, up to the old dairy barn. Vehicle access to other points within the unit is restricted to DPR employees for maintenance and emergency purposes.

**Parking** is provided in an unpaved area for approximately 10 cars near the caretaker's house.

**Portable latrine** is available near the parking area along the pathway leading to the Camilo Ynitia Adobe, the Burdell Mansion and the garden.

**Picnic tables** are located adjacent to the parking area beneath large trees and across from the adobe structure.

**Historic buildings** are not open for general visitation. Limited access is available to the Burdell Mansion and the Camilo Ynitia adobe. Special tours of the other buildings can be arranged with the state park rangers. The buildings are in various states of disrepair with associated safety hazards.

**Burdell garden** is open to the public. Clean-up efforts have cleared overgrown understory, exposing terracing and the rock fountain. Recent work has reestablished garden paths.

**Walnut orchard** contains both black and English walnut trees. People are allowed to pick walnuts in the fall.

**Stream/riparian corridor** offers linear connections for the unit's major trails with opportunities for nature study and shaded canyon walks.

**Reservoir** is located beyond the deer hunting cabins and provides an attractive destination point along the riparian trail leading west from the dairy barn.

**Firebreak** aids in the control of the spread of fire by separating the historic zone from the remaining project area. The firebreak can be used by emergency vehicles, and for hiking or horseback riding.

**Stone walls** are located along the western, northern, and southern boundaries of the unit, offering a cultural interest feature and a destination point for hiking.

**Existing old trails** are used as pedestrian access routes between points of interest, with vehicle access limited to the main road connecting to U.S. 101.

## Proposed Facilities By Area

**Existing trails** follow old roads leading to Burdell Mountain, linking developed areas to the undeveloped uplands of the park. A hiking trail begins near the dairy barn and follows switchbacks up to one of the old roads. In combination these old roads and trail connect to the Marin County Open Space District's property at the top of Burdell Mountain, creating an expanded trail system for a variety of hiking, running, or horseback riding opportunities.

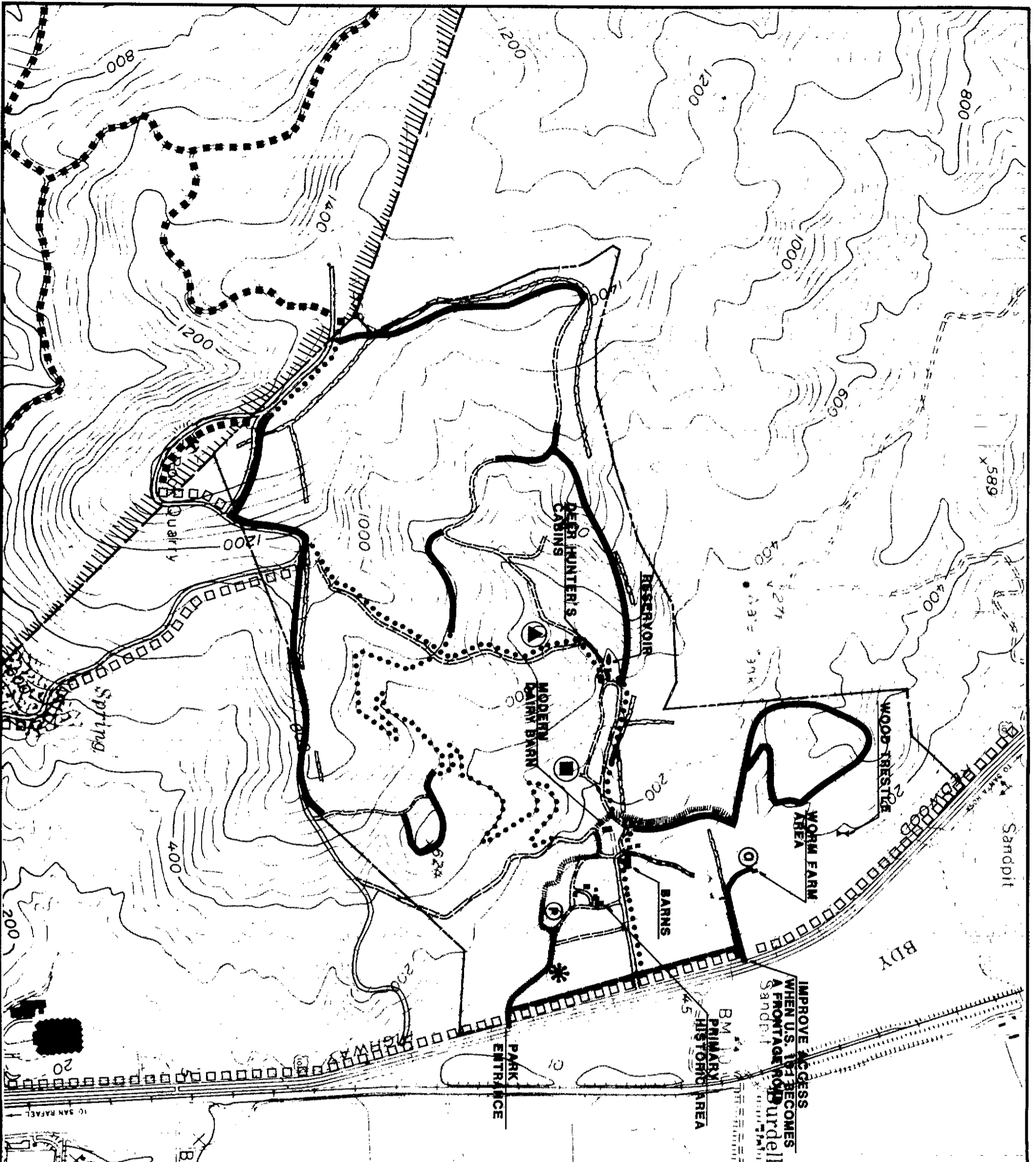
As Olompali State Historic Park's primary purpose is interpretation and passive recreation, development of recreation facilities will not be emphasized. Other state parks within Marin County and private commercial parks meet some of the projected demand for day use and camping facilities identified in this general plan's Regional Recreation Profile (see Introduction).

Facilities at the park will be concentrated in three use areas. Each of these areas will have its own particular emphasis:

1. The Burdell Ranch Complex/Visitor Center will be the primary interpretation area. The existing ranch structures overshadow the more significant, but less visible, Native American and Euroamerican cultural resources of the park. Development of a visitor/orientation center will tell the story of the park's Native American, Euroamerican, and natural resources in proper perspective. The center will orient visitors to the various areas of the park, and provide displays and exhibits for natural and cultural resource interpretation, including an archeological artifacts display, restrooms, and office and meeting space. A contact station along the entrance road will also be provided.
2. The **Staff Housing/Maintenance Area** will be relocated to the Worm Farm area.
3. The remaining area of the park, including coast live oak forest and the riparian corridor, will have minimal development with trails, scenic overlooks, and an environmental education area.

## **Burdell Ranch Complex- Visitor Center**

The Burdell Ranch complex is located immediately west of Highway 101 in the southern portion of the park. The Burdell mansion, Camilo Ynitia adobe, and related structures were in a state of deterioration when purchased by the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1977. A few years ago, the barns received new roofs. More recently, the adobe has been enclosed with a plywood covering with plexiglass viewing windows. The existing unpaved and undefined parking area intrudes on the historic scene. A chemical toilet is provided for public use. Picnic tables are scattered near the parking area and the mansion/adobe complex. Upon request, state park rangers will conduct walks or tours of the site. Volunteer programs (Olompali Open House, annual running race) are becoming popular annual events.



**LEGEND**

- HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- ▨ FRIEBREAK
- EXISTING OLD ROAD
- EXISTING SERVICE ROAD
- ..... EXISTING TRAIL
- - - - - PROPOSED TRAIL LINK
- STORE WALL - Island
- ▲ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AREA
- ▴ POTENTIAL SITE FOR RECONSTRUCTED INDIAN VILLAGE
- \* CONTACT STATION
- MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
- □ □ □ PROPOSED TRAIL
- ⊙ OPERATIONS
- Ⓟ PARKING AREA
- ACCESS ROAD
- NEW SERVICE ROAD
- - - - - STATE PARK BOUNDARY

**NOTE:** All proposals on property not owned by the State are intended for long-range planning purposes only and do not represent a commitment to acquire.

**NOTE:** For more detail refer to Facilities Plan.



**OLIMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK**  
**FACILITIES PLAN**  
 GENERAL PLAN - FACILITIES ELEMENT

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey  
 Landscape Architects  
 Urban Design  
 Park Planning  
 Environmental Planning

225 Miller Avenue  
 1988 Valley  
 California 94644  
 415 963-7900



**General  
Recom-  
mendations**

Enhance/upgrade existing facilities:

1. Protect adobe/mansion complex and interpret.
2. Develop interpretive center with visitor facilities (as described below) including restrooms.
3. Restore conservatory.
4. Eliminate parking and portable restroom near entrance to historic area.
5. Add benches, picnic tables, and interpretive signs to existing trails.
6. Restore walnut orchard.
7. Restore Burdell garden.
8. Rehabilitate other structures (and use as described below).

Additions:

1. 10 to 15 picnic sites, near the mansion/adobe complex, within the Burdell garden, near the barns, and near the walnut orchard.
2. 50 to 80-car paved parking area south of the historic area (as described in Land Use Element); the parking area shall serve as a trailhead for hiking trails throughout the unit.
3. 25-vehicle capacity at equestrian staging area with gravel surface, capable of providing overflow parking.
4. New, improved access from Highway 101 (as described in Land Use Element).
5. Contact station along entry road.
6. Disabled-accessible interpretive trails.
7. Reconstructed Indian Village site in the clearing along the road to the reservoir.

**Specific  
Recom-  
mendations**

The following discussion describes the existing condition of the historic structures, recommendations for conservation treatment, and recommended uses in concert with the overall park program. (The Resource Element describes the history of individual structures.)



**The Burdell  
Mansion/  
Camilo  
Ynitia Adobe**

**Existing Condition**

The Burdell mansion and Camilo Ynitia adobe are in a state of ruins resulting from a fire in 1969. The adobe is currently protected from further deterioration from the weather by a temporary wood post and beam structure. The mansion is exposed to the elements.

**Conservation Treatment**

Both structures are probably beyond the point of being considered for any form of rehabilitation; they are just too far gone at this point. However, given the importance of these structures to the interpretation of the park, some visual reminders of what formerly existed in this location should be preserved.

**The Adobe** should be stabilized in its present condition. Debris should be cleaned up, the existing shelter removed, and a new one constructed that would afford continued protection, but also at least allow visitors visual access to the adobe. If physical access to the interior portion of the adobe is deemed desirable, a walkway system could be constructed (disabled access must be addressed).

**The Mansion** should have existing debris cleaned up and a substantial portion of the existing structure removed. All ground-level elements of the mansion would be kept. In addition, chimneys should be stabilized along with some facades, and other vertical elements, now in fair condition, that could reasonably be expected to withstand weathering over the years. Not all the walls of the mansion would be stabilized and only fragments would remain. The main porch features—the brick terrace, the base of the columns, and remaining columns should be kept.

**The Burdell  
Cook's House**

**Existing Condition**

The cook's house is in poor condition. The most serious problem is a sagging roof ridge beam. The roof itself is in poor condition, all painted surfaces have failed, and wood siding and structural elements in contact with the ground have deteriorated.

**Conservation Treatment**

The cook's house is an important feature of the ranch complex and should be preserved. It should be restored and used in the interpretation of the James Burdell period at Olompali. It is a rectangular

**The Galen  
Burdell  
Frame House**

building with a simple construction system and its restoration should be straightforward. The extent of the work will have to be determined after a more thorough and detailed inspection of the building.

**Existing Condition**

The Burdell frame house appears to be in fair condition with the possible exception of the roof, which may be in poor condition. Architectural elements such as the window and door frames, sills, etc., are in varying states of disrepair and will have to be evaluated piece-by-piece. The structure rests on at least two different foundations; their condition will have to be assessed to determine if they are adequate to meet present-day code standards.

The following conditions on the interior were observed during an inspection on October 28, 1987. There was some evidence that the roof of the garage had leaked. This condition seems to have been corrected as no water had penetrated following 12 hours of rain on the previous day. Some rafters had dry rot and a new supporting structure has been constructed in the area of the ceiling where this condition was observed. A small portion of the floor was wet. Apparently, water was leaking in somewhere along the lower portion of the west wall; there was no observable leaking from above.

The remainder of the ground floor was dry. Peeling paint was most evident.

The second floor was also dry with no observed leaking. Overall, except for surface finishes, the condition of the house appeared to be fair. Although no leaks were observed, there was only a light amount of rain during the previous day. Whether heavier or sustained amounts of rainy weather would cause problems is unknown. There was some evidence that water had penetrated the structure in the past as some staining was observed on the underside of the roof in the attic space. Also the sheet rock ceiling in the large bathroom had fallen in. This is the worst damage on the second floor. Further investigation should be conducted to ascertain its cause and action taken to correct the problem.

**Conservation Treatment**

Based on a visual inspection of the exterior, the following restoration appears to be necessary: the roof should be replaced; door and window frames should be repaired and deteriorated elements replaced

**The Galen  
Burdell Barns**

in-kind; and all exterior surfaces should be cleaned, primed, and painted. The additions should be kept and restored as part of the history of this structure.

**Proposed Uses**

Adaptive use of this structure for other uses seems very feasible. Floor plan changes would probably have to be accommodated.

The frame house could be used for a visitor center although there may not be enough square footage to accommodate an optimal program for retail sales, exhibits, interpretation, slide presentations, and information, as well as public bathrooms. The frame house could be used for these functions until studies determine whether this building, a new building, or some other existing building would be more feasible as a visitor center.

The original house was added to and consideration may be given to reconstructing the west wing of the house, which has since been removed. This addition should be in keeping with the house in material, surface finishes, scale, etc. A phased approach could be developed for converting the frame house into a visitor center: first developing the ground floor with the knowledge that the facilities would be limited, and later, building a new addition for more space to accommodate future program requirements of the center.

**Existing Condition**

Both barns are in poor condition. This conclusion was reached given the evidence of structural failures in the supporting system under the floor.

1. Cracks were observed in the rock foundation at the southeast corner of the original barn. The actual cause of the cracking was not determined - it could be old and may not present an ongoing problem, but it also could be the result of continuing settlement.
2. Foundation piers appear to be inadequate for the loads bearing on them.
3. Floor supports have failed as evidenced by the extensive amount of recent reinforcing and replacement of structural elements. Existing wood structural members are in varying states of deterioration; crushing of floor joists was observed.

4. The newer barn structure is out of plumb.
5. Both barn buildings have new shingle roofs.
6. Exterior siding is virtually unprotected with widespread paint failure.

With the new roof, the interiors of both barns are dry. Normal wear and tear has taken its toll on the interior, but there do not appear to be any serious problems. The most serious issue here is the structural system—its adequacy and the condition of individual structural members.

#### **Conservation Treatment**

1. Foundations and all supporting elements should be inspected and evaluated. As a rule, original elements should be kept if at all possible and replacement should only be considered in cases where preservation or repair is determined to be unfeasible.

As an alternative to actual replacement of original materials, a system of structural reinforcing could be designed much in the way the existing bracing system supports the building on the north side. All traces of dry rot would still need to be removed, but much of the original materials would still remain.

2. Exterior surfaces needing repair should be patched or deteriorated pieces replaced.
3. Exterior surfaces should be cleaned, primed, and painted.

#### **Alternative Uses**

The barns present a somewhat difficult adaptive use problem. From the standpoint of their architectural and historical integrity, the least amount of intervention into the existing fabric of the buildings should be undertaken. In other words, the more that is done to the buildings, the less you will have of their original materials. Therefore, the uses that have a minimal impact on the buildings should be given priority. The original uses would be preferable, but are probably not feasible. Exhibits of farm equipment of the period is one possibility but would have to be integrated into the overall interpretation program for the park. The hayloft might be used as a huge sleeping loft for overnight programs. Spaces for small meetings might also be a possibility.

**The Galen  
Burdell  
Blacksmith  
Shop**

Any attempt to introduce creature comforts should be limited to small spaces within the structures and no attempt should be made to heat, air condition, or insulate/seal the entire buildings. The structures should be kept close to their present appearance, except for necessary structural and other work to make them safe for public use.

**Existing Condition**

A simple structure with a space open to the east for blacksmithing activities and an enclosed space adjacent to it, the blacksmith shop is in poor condition. Recent work to reinforce the building was evident in the open area. The walls rest on wood sills bearing directly on soil. The paint has failed and all surfaces are in a state of deterioration.

**Conservation Treatment**

A new foundation will be necessary. The existing wood elements, surfacing and structural, will require repair and selective replacement.

**Alternative Uses**

The blacksmith shop should be restored and used as part of the interpretive program for the Burdell Ranch complex.

**The Saltbox  
House  
(House #1)**

**Existing Condition**

This small house is in fair condition. Visual inspection of the exterior revealed very little in the way of major deterioration problems. Unless there are problems caused by the failure of the roof to keep out rain water, the structure may only need preservation and maintenance. The complication is the fact that the house currently rests on wood sills. A potential problem may exist with disabled access given the present height of the building from the ground.

The interior rooms appeared to be dry and in fair condition. The attic space was not accessible and therefore any problems caused by deterioration of the roof were not observable. The condition of the roof should be checked and replacement made a priority if it fails to keep water out of the building. Similarly, the floor supports should be inspected and their condition evaluated.

**House #2**

**General  
Comments**

**Conservation Treatment**

The restoration approach to this structure should be preservation and maintenance—barring any serious condition not observable through the exterior inspection.

**Alternative Uses**

The size of the house limits its use. Uses such as offices for park service staff or for special interest organizations are feasible. The building itself is an artifact and offers historic interest. As a house museum, it might be embellished with interpretive elements such as panels, exhibit furniture or exhibit enclosures.

**Existing Condition**

The structure appears to be in fair condition with no apparent structural or other failure except in the two rooms noted below. The roof is in need of replacement and the porch has deteriorated, but the foundation and floor supports appear to be in good condition.

On the interior, inspection showed only two rooms at the rear of the house that could be described as very deteriorated. The main portion of the house still seemed to be in fair condition although in the northeast corner there was evidence of a previous fire. The extent of this damage could not be ascertained. Unless extensive deterioration has taken place in portions of the building that are not easily observable, it would appear that the main structure is in fair condition, while two rooms are in very bad condition. The extent of damage caused by these two rooms to the main building was not evaluated.

**Alternative Uses**

Office use for park staff or nonprofit organizations is feasible. Small meeting rooms would also be a possibility.

The following items should be considered for all structures at Olompali:

1. The State Historical Building Code should be used to aid in determining the life safety and disabled access standards that will be used in restoration.

## Architectural Design Concepts

2. Paint analysis should be undertaken on all buildings to be restored.
3. Ramps or other devices to implement disabled access requirements should be sensitively designed and located.
4. The existing condition of the structures should be documented prior to any work being undertaken.
5. All restoration work should be documented and as-built documents/drawings prepared.
6. A cyclical maintenance program should be developed.
7. All structures will require further inspection and evaluation prior to work being undertaken. A process similar to the federal government's preparation of historic structure reports should be implemented for each structure before starting restoration.

In general, development at Olompali State Historic Park should follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. The guidelines are incorporated into this general plan by reference; the standards for rehabilitation are as follows:

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property that requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
3. All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and that seek to create an earlier appearance shall be discouraged.
4. Changes that have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.

5. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize a building, structure, or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
6. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
7. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.
9. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural material, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
10. Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

A review of all proposed work should be undertaken by the State Historic Preservation Office prior to actual implementation, using the above standards (Public Resources Code 5024.5). In addition, all work requiring code items should be reviewed by the State Historic Building Code Board.



## Other Historic Features

### **Burdell Garden**

The original main garden area is approximately 100 x 50 meters, located just east of the Burdell mansion. The garden contains many of the original species first planted in the late 1800s. Other areas, mainly to the north and south of the mansion, contain original garden plantings.

Over the years of neglect, native oaks have invaded the garden area, crowding out many of the original ornamental plantings. This neglect also allowed the understory vegetation to become quite dense. Recent cleanup efforts have resulted in clearing the overgrown understory, exposing original terracing, rock fountains, and ponds. Subsequent efforts have been directed to reestablishing garden paths and plantings, based on historic photographs.

### Conservation Treatment

An approved garden restoration plan should be completed prior to removal or addition of any ornamental plants.

Dead plant material or material that poses a direct hazard to public safety should be removed.

Native oaks, as specified by appropriate departmental staff, shall be trimmed or removed to limit stress and encourage growth of historically established species.

Any removal or pruning of existing garden ornamentals, as well as any thinning of oaks in the garden, shall be reviewed by a landscape architect.

### **Octagonal Slab**

An octagonal concrete slab (approximately 458 square feet), southeast of the Burdell frame house, was constructed in 1968 by The Chosen Family (communal group) to support a bakery oven and tables for kneading bread. Over 400 loaves were served sliced with butter and honey to peace marchers in Golden Gate Park. The loaves, baked in two-pound coffee cans, turned out in the shape of mushrooms. The Family had been influenced by Walter Reynolds of Stanford Hospital, who conducted classes in "The Art of Giving Away Bread."

When the Grateful Dead visited Olompali (they lived there before The Chosen Family moved in), they chose the slab as their stage and played for many happy hours improvising with the people dancing in front of them.

#### Recommendation

The octagonal slab shall be retained for interpretation, a picnic table site, and a platform for events, musical groups, etc.

#### **Walnut Orchard**

The existing walnut orchard at Olompali contains both black walnut and English walnut trees. It is uncertain how long the walnut trees have been on site.

#### Recommendations

The grass surrounding and within the orchard area should be removed by mowing and disking to lessen competition for water.

All dead wood in the trees should be removed by cutting the dead limbs back to the branch collar but not flush with the trunk.

If a dead tree is removed, it is recommended that it be replaced with a tree of the same species (e.g. either black walnut or English walnut). These trees should be ungrafted stock to assure historic authenticity.

If necessary, shields 1' to 18" should be placed around the trunk of each tree to protect the orchard from squirrels.

#### **Stone Walls**

A series of stone walls runs along the western, northern, and southern boundaries of the unit. These walls were constructed in the 1870s-80s by Chinese laborers.

#### Recommendations

The stone walls should be maintained as they now exist with any necessary repairs to be reviewed by an archeologist and/or historian. The historic significance of the walls should be interpreted.

**Natural  
Features  
Coast Live  
Oak Forest**

**Trails**

**Stone Reservoir**

A stone-lined reservoir was constructed in the 1870s to provide water for the ranch complex. A deep brick-lined well gives access to the system shut-off valve.

Recommendations

The reservoir spillway and shut-off valve should be secured from public use. Public safety should be assured.

The lower hillslopes with the intermittent creeks, the **Coast Live Oak Forest**, occupy a majority of park acreage. This area offers an entirely different recreational experience than the historic zone: grassy clearings dotted with oaks provide an overview of the historic area and the adjacent wetlands; shaded canyon trails lead to the Deer Camp, the reservoir and Burdell Mountain; and finally on the upper slopes, near the ridge of Burdell Mountain, expansive panoramic views offer a strong impression about the site context and the region itself. In this respect the beauty and attraction of this area is the natural environment, which requires minimal improvement for public enjoyment.

Recommendations

Enhance/upgrade existing facilities:

1. Eliminate Deer Camp buildings.
2. Improve and interpret existing trails.
3. Preserve reservoir and assure safety.

Additions:

1. Provide scenic overlooks with rustic bench.
2. Develop primitive environmental education area with toilet facilities.
3. Make logical trail connections for a looped system.

From the ranch complex, old roads and trails lead upslope to the west and connect to trails of the Marin County Open Space District. The trails are generally in good condition with little erosion repair or clean-up required. Certain improvements would enhance the park's trail system.

- o Maintain trails on a regular basis, provide signs and logical loop connections within the park and to adjacent areas.

## Staff Housing

- o Consider compatibility of joint use by equestrians and hikers. Designate some trails for only one use.
- o Coordinate trail planning with the Marin County Open Space District to connect Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve and Olompali State Historic Park.
- o Monitor development plans for adjacent properties to make appropriate trail connections.
- o Improve existing trail entrances.
- o Test spring water and post signs.
- o Provide informal "park furniture," such as logs, boulders, and segments of large logs, for informal seating for hikers and picnickers. Groupings should be located in areas with good views, summer shade, and proximity to potable water, if possible.
- o Provide lookouts or viewing areas with interpretive maps or supporting information. Thin selective trees to enhance views.

The existing maintenance facilities, and the existing staff housing (if the department allows employee housing at Olompali SHP), should be relocated for the following reasons: current visibility from U.S. 101; some visibility from bordering historic area; and archeological evidence in area. The Worm Farm area (1.5-1.7 acres) provides adequate space for mobile homes, maintenance yard, and a shop building. The site is comparatively level with good drainage.

### Recommendations

Enhance/upgrade existing facilities:

1. Eliminate Worm Farm buildings.
2. Improve and surface Worm Farm Road for access to area (without driving through remainder of site), and mitigate this impact on archeological site CA-Mrn-507.

Additions:

1. Relocate staff housing (if the department allows staff housing at Olompali SHP) and maintenance facilities to Worm Farm area.
2. Site structures (including antennae) to be unobtrusive from historic area.

## Utility Concerns

3. Blend all structures with the natural surroundings.
4. Eliminate existing connecting service road between historic area and Worm Farm; retain as pedestrian trail.
5. Connect Worm Farm maintenance/staff housing area with historic zone by using existing firebreak alignment along U.S. 101 (unpaved, non-cut only). Service vehicles may use existing entrance road for access to historic zone.

The following information provides a general background of the capabilities and problems related to providing utilities for proposed park development. Further studies and negotiations with the City of Novato and Marin County may be required, based on more comprehensive development plans for the park.

A **water** line from the reservoir serves the mansion. If with park development this water does not meet water quality standards it could be used as a secondary source for irrigating the Burdell garden. A pipeline connects the existing employee residences to a North Marin Water District water main along U.S. 101. Future development will most likely require connections to this water main along U.S. 101.

No **septic system** currently functions in the Burdell Ranch complex. Two active septic systems serve the existing employee residences. If soil percolation tests are favorable, a septic system could be used for the entire site. Unfavorable soil percolation tests will require use of chemical toilets or a sewer line connection to the regional system. Toilet facilities will be required for the environmental education area.

Pacific Gas and Electric and Pacific Bell currently provide **telephone** and **electricity** service to the park. State park policy requires undergrounding of all utility lines.

The Burdell mansion is tied into a **gas** line along U.S. 101. The employee residences use propane and will continue to use propane in the Worm Farm area.

**Storm drainage** is under the jurisdiction of the Marin County Public Works Department. Development in this area may require culverts and the use of open ditches.

## Recommendations for Development

The general plan identifies proposed facilities and programs desired or necessary to achieve the goals and objectives established for Olompali State Historic Park. The following general priorities will

guide budget decisions and the preparation of specific development plans acknowledging visitors' safety, resource protection, public access, and enjoyment. This implementation will be carried out over a long period of time, thus some priorities are likely to change. Generally, the department should continue to support and encourage community volunteer programs at the unit, when such proposals are consistent with the general plan.

### **Group 1**

Develop access road and parking south of historic area.  
Work with Caltrans to develop acceleration and deceleration lanes at park entrance.  
Provide potable water to site.  
Restore portions of mansion (as discussed above).  
Preserve adobe (as discussed above).  
Develop outdoor interpretive displays for all structures.  
Improve existing trails for environmental and historical interpretation.  
Remove Deer Camp buildings, clean up debris.  
Remove Worm Farm buildings, clean up debris.  
Remove Dairy Barn, clean up debris.  
Assure safety at Reservoir.  
Improve picnic facilities.  
Maintain rock walls.  
Continue historic research and interpretive planning efforts for the unit.  
Undertake archeological testing during all construction phases.  
Rehabilitate Burdell frame house as visitor center and develop appropriate interpretive, administrative, and public use facilities.

### **Group 2**

Rehabilitate exteriors and use interiors for interpretation: blacksmith shop, barns, house #1 and #2.  
Provide adequate protection devices and surveillance equipment to insure the protection of all cultural resources.  
Develop a loop trail system within park, with scenic overlooks.  
Develop trail connections to Marin County Open Space District.  
Manage walnut orchard.  
Develop landscape construction and management plan for mansion area.  
Restore Burdell garden.

### Group 3

Relocate staff housing (if the department allows staff housing at Olompali SHP) and maintenance facilities to Worm Farm area.

Develop environmental education area.

Restore conservatory.

Consider an expanded museum or visitor facility.

Acquire additional property, develop camping facilities.

## **INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT**

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# INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

## Interpretive Period

## Interpretive Themes

### Coast Miwok

### Camilo Ynitia Adobe

The interpretive period will emphasize the flow of history from geologic time through the contemporary period of site restoration. Particular emphasis will be placed on the 1840 to statehood (c. 1850) transitional period between the earlier Indian village and the later dominance of Euroamericans.

The following interpretive themes are arranged in a time sequence from earliest to most recent, and all natural history interpretation is essentially contemporary.

#### Primary Theme

##### Our Predecessors: Coast Miwok and The Village of Olompali

A general survey of Miwok prehistory, demographics, and culture can set the stage for further historical development. Coast Miwok occupied Olompali from at least 1000 A.D., and by 1400 it was a major trading center.

#### Subtheme

##### Sorting out The Historical Evidence of European Contacts: English, Spanish and Russian Explorers

Artifacts suggest an association between Olompali and the 1579 landfall of Sir Francis Drake. The influence of Franciscans, from as early as 1776, marked the beginning of the end of traditional Miwok life.

#### Subtheme

##### Visiting The Most Ancient Evidence: Petroglyphs and Grinding Rocks

Selected rock art and grinding sites can be interpreted for visitors on portions of an interpretive trail system.

#### Primary Theme

##### Experiencing California in Transition: Camilo Ynitia, The Last Miwok Leader at Olompali

## The Ranch

The life of Camilo Ynitia at Olompali traces the gradual acculturation of one of the last Miwok Indians at Olompali, and his absorption into Euroamerican lifeways.

### Subtheme

#### Visiting a Site of The Bear Flag Revolt: Statehood for California

In 1846, Olompali was the site of the only battle of the Bear Flag Revolt, the transition from Mexican to American control of California. The Camilo Ynitia adobe was the site of the only fatality of that revolt.

### Primary Theme

#### Viewing the Works of The Builders at Olompali: The Ranch, its Decline and Restoration

Olompali gradually becomes a Marin showplace after extensive development by Maria and Dr. Galen Burdell. This treatment should concentrate on the Burdell mansion and garden, along with the use of and eventual encasement of the Camilo Ynitia adobe. The barns and related outbuildings help tell the story of life on the Burdell Ranch, (1870s through the mansion development in 1911).

### Subtheme

#### Discovering Traces of Chinese Artisans: Craftsmen Build at Olompali

Walls, reservoirs, and waterways were developed by stonemasons from the Chinese community.

### Subtheme

#### Seeing The Burdell Barns: Food and Shelter for Livestock

Ranch livestock and their uses should be described along with the related subjects of farm implements and blacksmithing.

### Theme

#### Exploring The Final Chapter: Jesuits, Commune Inhabitants, and Archeological Research

Jesuits,  
Commune  
Inhabitants, and  
Archeological  
Research

## Natural Scene

The uses of the site during the final years before restoration should be explored. The work of Dr. Charles Slaymaker will be interpreted showing how archeologists lived and worked at the site, the significance of the site to history, and how this work played a major role in the State's acquisition of Olompali.

### Secondary Theme

#### Experiencing The Restoration: Enjoying and Preserving Olompali

The story of the restoration should become the final historical footnote.

### Primary Theme

#### Exploring The Natural Scene: Living Things at Olompali

The natural history of Olompali should receive serious attention and interpretation, as should Miwok ethnobotany.

### Subtheme

#### Seeing Life at The Water's Edge: The Riparian Habitat

Revegetated drainage areas and riparian species can be discussed in light of their collective values.

### Subtheme

#### A Visit to The Open Fields: The Bunchgrass Habitat

The history of native bunchgrass in California should be surveyed, including the use of controlled burns for fuel load management, plus the story of bunchgrass reestablishment in Olompali.

### Subtheme

#### Viewing Life Upon The Rocks: The Serpentine Habitat

A unique plant community should be interpreted through description of the ecology of rare endemic serpentine plant species.

## Proposed Interpretive Facilities

Moving northward from the main parking in the relatively less sensitive zone south of the historic area, the visitor passes an area that would be suitable for eventual development of a new visitor center or new special-purpose museum, such as an Indian Museum.

A signage system for guiding visitors throughout the park should blend both with the natural surroundings and with the period buildings, particularly in terms of colors and textures. Individual signs should be kept to minimum usable sizes, and placed as low to the ground as workable, while their siting remains functional as well as relatively unobtrusive. A graphic motif, perhaps a border design, unique to Olompali should be developed, and repeated with each sign. Sandblasted redwood is a medium and technique that might prove workable, perhaps with a silvered gray "barnwood" color as the primary background hue, and a secondary color, perhaps a medium green, for the raised segments.

The Olompali SHP visitor center should be developed in the existing frame house. It will house interpretive exhibits, audio-visual presentations, sales area, storage, and restrooms on the main floor, plus offices and related work areas for staff on the second floor. It will serve as the primary, comprehensive interpretive facility that ties together all outlying interpretive entities in the park.

The exhibition should center around a time-line exhibit of large enough scale to be of value in guiding visitors to different time-related divisions of the overall interpretation within the visitor center. This should also serve as a lucid and graphically dramatic overview of Olompali prehistorical and historical events.

The frame house/interpretive center building can be successfully added to in the event that the need for public meeting space exceeds the available space.

A short walk will lead visitors to stabilized and reconstructed portions of the Burdell mansion and Camilo Ynitia adobe, as well as the adjacent restored historic garden and reconstructed conservatory, all of which are interpretive facilities related to the Burdell and earlier Camilo Ynitia adobe historical periods. Additionally, the associated reconstructed cook's house will serve as a house museum, complete with period artifacts.

Various archeological sites will remain protected and Native American interpretation will be confined to the visitor center, with the

## **Proposed Interpretive Visitor Activities**

exception of an ethnobotanical garden associated with the orchard area, plus various interpretive trail elements.

A short walk from the primary Burdell buildings complex brings visitors to the Burdell-period ranch buildings. The barns will be adapted as an interpretive area/house museum for ranch implements, historic photographs and graphics, interpretive panels on ranch life, and turn-of-the-century technology.

Several related buildings will be restored to facilitate interpretation. The saltbox house will be restored with period items as a house museum. House #2 will be restored and interpreted, but the inside will be an adaptive use meeting area for special-interest groups. The blacksmith shop will be restored to period use and house blacksmithing artifacts. It will be interpreted as an architectural entity through interpretive panels and will be used for blacksmithing and related demonstrations in the tradition of living history.

Nearby restored ranch grounds, including a walnut orchard along with related fruits and vegetables that were raised historically, will illustrate subsistence agriculture. A Native American/Miwok ethnobotanical garden will be developed.

Visitors can hike trail systems through various natural park habitats and cultural history elements, aided by interpretive panels. Unobtrusive benches and shaded areas should be incorporated into the trail system. Possible future acquisition of Burdell Island property will necessitate expansion of the trail interpretive effort primarily for marsh natural history and partially for the train station.

All outdoor interpretive panels should be executed as fiberglass embeddments and be, if possible, placed in metal frames, preferrably of aluminum construction.

Park staff and volunteers can significantly embellish interpretive values and add a uniquely valuable dimension to the park experience through personal contact. Trained docents can greet visiting groups and individuals, provide information, present organized audio-visual shows, give tours, and participate in living history programs and demonstrations at the ranch complex. They can gather produce from the garden, do ranching chores, dress in historic clothing and use historic tools, and demonstrate technology to provide a rich interpretive experience in authentic period settings. Staff and docents can lead interpretive trail programs with both cultural and natural history inter-

pretations. Local species of live animals could be incorporated into natural history demonstrations.

Native American volunteers could demonstrate Miwok crafts, and special ceremonial days can bring a variety of Native American groups to the park to share their cultures and ceremonies with visitors in an authentic setting.

Ranch livestock can be used to embellish the ranch setting with live farm animals, some of which are periodically used for horse-drawn wagon and buggy rides. When not in use, the wagons would be put in the barns area.

Seasonal activities such as spring flower shows, plant sales and sales of walnuts and pomegranates could be aided by volunteers and staff. Bird and other wildlife checklists could be assembled from the Resource Inventory and embellished with maps identifying good animal watching seasons and areas within the park. Special pamphlets could be produced to address rare and endangered species of plants and animals

A potentially large number and variety of special-interest groups should be encouraged to participate at Olompali. Extensive direct involvement of people is an important key to the ultimate success of this park.

Disabled access and provisions for the visually impaired should be developed wherever feasible throughout the park.

The interpretive trails system should be designed for both guided and self-guided use.

The visitor center shop should provide, at a minimum, book sales and detailed information regarding visitor activities and services, as well as descriptions of the area's cultural and natural resources.

Staff should develop either staff or volunteer-directed programs to serve area school districts to encourage use of the park in conjunction with social studies and science curricula.

The primary support organization associated with the park is The Olompali People. This is a private group of volunteers dedicated to the restoration of Olompali historical features and promoting and improving Olompali for public enjoyment and enlightenment. They

## **Interpretive Associations**

## Interpretive Collections

are a committee of the California State Parks Foundation, and have worked with the California Department of Parks and Recreation toward achieving the objectives of this plan.

Elizabeth Terwilliger of the Terwilliger Nature Education Center, Corte Madera, CA, has guided many groups around Olompali using her unique teaching approach to the environment.

The Marin Museum of the American Indian in Novato, has not directly participated in Olompali programs to date, but has expressed a real interest in being significantly associated with the park project.

Other groups with an interest in Olompali include:

Marin Audubon Society	Marin Heritage
Marin Conservation League	Marin Horse Council
Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin	Marin Wildlife Association
Los Californianos	Novato Historic Museum
The Chinese Historical Society of America	Marin County Historical Society
The California Native Plant Society Marin Chapter	Society for Mayflower Descendents
	The Sierra Club
	Novato Horsemen Association

Plus garden clubs and historic societies and youth organizations in Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Dr. Charles Slaymaker, an archeologist who has done extensive and significant excavations at Olompali, has a collection of Coast Miwok archeological materials of fundamental importance to the interpretive exhibition. The collection is probably the single most important assemblage of interpretive materials available to the project, and it is available for use at the park. If appropriate, Dr. Slaymaker may prepare an artifact collection for display when display facilities are available.

Charmaine Burdell of Petaluma, CA, has a collection of Burdell period artifacts and related materials including, but not limited to, farm equipment, blacksmith shop tools, Indian mortars and pestles, cuttings from the Burdell garden, archival materials, and personal items, including photographs.



Dr. Robert C. Thomas, in response to The Olompali People and their search for Olompali artifacts, has indicated a potential interest in the park project. His collection consists of a significant library of reference books and archival materials relevant to Marin County, Marin and California Indians, Drake, and related history. He also possesses Olompali artifacts of note, including Camilo Ynitia items.

Donald McCoy of San Rafael, CA is a potential source of a photo album from the period of The Chosen Family commune at Olompali as well as related materials from The Grateful Dead rock group.

Craig Bates of Yosemite National Park has a slide collection of Miwok Indian artifacts housed in Soviet museums, (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography in Leningrad), some of which might be returned to California if appropriate negotiations were instituted.

## **OPERATIONS ELEMENT**

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## **OPERATIONS ELEMENT**

Operation of Olompali State Historic Park has been and will continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation's northern regional office located in Santa Rosa. The Marin district office currently administrates operations of Olompali and China Camp State Historic Parks as a sector operation, with the sector office located at China Camp SHP.

The scope of operations activity will be tailored to the resource protection needs, facility improvements, various visitor activities, level of visitation, and other management responsibilities identified in this general plan. It is not expected that significant operations problems will be created by any of the proposed planning elements unless support budget (operations and maintenance) augmentation requests for additional manpower, equipment, and operating expenses are severely curtailed or denied. As existing facilities are upgraded and as new facilities are developed, additional operations and maintenance budget support funds will be needed to handle the increased workload. The existing operations plan summarizing the level of service will be revised to cover any additional services required by new development or programs.

This unit is combined with China Camp State Historic Park, and maintenance and visitor services at each unit are provided daily by assigned unit staff. Special program needs and/or events at either unit may require temporary staff redirection. Volunteers and other state personnel may be incorporated in any operations program, but their participation should be focused on the support of interpretive, resource protection, and management programs.

### **Staff Housing/ Maintenance Area**

The present primary park service and housing area is located north of the walnut orchard approximately 1,000 feet northerly of the primary historic zone of the park. Ideally, all maintenance and storage facilities should continue to be accommodated in the unit. The maintenance facilities shall be upgraded and expanded as necessary in concert with the development of the unit. The housing area, if the department allows housing at Olompali SHP, shall be moved to the Worm Farm area. All maintenance facilities shall also be moved to the Worm Farm area.

### **Fees**

When sufficient visitor-serving facilities have been developed at the unit, use fees should be instituted. These would be beneficial in

## Staffing

managing the park, as well as producing revenues to support park operations.

To insure the necessary maintenance and operation of Olompali State Historic Park, as proposed to be developed, the following skills are needed by park personnel (some of whom may perform more than one skill):

1. Park ranger skills
2. Groundskeeping
3. Tour conducting, interpretation of historic features, and natural history interpretation
4. Resource ecology, protection and management
5. Park maintenance
6. Fee collection
7. Volunteer coordination
8. Community relations
9. Supervision and management of the above
10. Archeological skills
11. Historical skills
12. Historic building maintenance skills

Implementation of the general plan with facilities development, resource management and protection programs, and interpretive programs and events will correspondingly result in greater visitation and staff load. In meeting the needs at the maturing unit, further staff increases to the park may be expected. The district superintendent shall recommend to the department appropriate increases in staffing, equipment, and operational expenses as may be required to fulfill operational responsibilities at Olompali State Historic Park.

## Maintenance

Facility maintenance and housekeeping shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to meet standards for public health and safety, to maintain public and departmental expectations for cleanliness and appearances, to meet security requirements, and to extend the lifespan of facilities, tools, and equipment. Facilities and other structures identified as historically significant, or which lend to the historic sense of time and place, will be repaired and maintained utilizing aged or similar materials to the extent practical. Significant repairs of proposed alterations to such facilities are to be described in writing, reviewed by the district superintendent, and forwarded for reviews if

## Volunteers

required by the California Environmental Quality Act or other provisions of law.

The involvement and support of The Olompali People and the various citizens groups they represent, along with other volunteers, help the park meet several objectives. These include increasing public awareness of park values and features and developing ways to make those features and resources more accessible to the public. This public service is to be fully supported by the district. To encourage volunteer support, the department should assist in the formation of an Olompali Interpretive Association. In addition, park and district staff shall work closely with the association, individuals, and other non-profit organizations to assist with training and to provide the direction and supervision necessary to ensure efficient and effective interpretive programs and public service.



## CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

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# CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

## Background

This Concessions Element consists of an evaluation for visitor services and revenues, and appropriate concession policies and guidelines consistent with the classification for Olompali State Historic Park.

Under legislation effective September 1982, a Concessions Element is required in the general plan in support of future concessions considerations. The Public Resources Code, Section 5080.02 et seq., describes the manner in which concessions can be operated in the State Park System.

## Definition

A concession is defined as authority to permit specific use of State Park System lands and/or facilities for a specified period of time. The intent of the grant is to provide the public with goods, services, or facilities that the department cannot provide as conveniently or efficiently, or to permit a second party to make limited use of State Park System lands for its own purposes, when such uses are not incompatible with the unit classification.

## Purpose

It is the department's policy to enter into concession contracts for the provision of products, facilities, programs, and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of visitor use and enjoyment as well as visitor safety and convenience. Such concessions should not create added financial burden on the state and, wherever possible, shall either reduce costs or generate revenues that aid in maintaining and expanding the State Park System. In carrying out this policy, the department must observe and adhere to the provisions of the Public Resources Code that forbid commercial exploitation of resources in units of the State Park System and that limit the kinds of improvements and activities that are allowed in certain types of units.

## Compatibility with Classification

Concession developments, programs, or services must be compatible with a unit's classification and general plan provisions. Since Olompali is classified as a state historic park, the management should emphasize preservation and interpretation. Department policy limits the size, variety, and type of permitted concessions.

## **General Concession Policies**

Feasibility analysis shall be conducted by the Concession Programs Division, with compliance reviews by Resource Protection, Interpretive Services, Development, Field Services, Acquisition, and State-wide Planning. Final approval will be given by the director.

It is the policy of the department to cultivate and encourage small businesses and ethnic and racial minority-owned/operated businesses as concessionaires in the State Park System.

It is the department's policy to generally avoid entering into convenience-type concession agreements for facilities, products, or programs that are adequately provided a short distance outside unit boundaries, as long as travel to them will not unduly endanger or inconvenience visitors or lead to unreasonable consumption of transportation fuels.

It is the policy of the department that concessions shall provide facilities, products, programs, or services at prices competitive with similar businesses outside State Park System units.

## **Current Conditions**

There are neither regular visitors nor any concessions at Olompali State Historic Park.

There is an existing small walnut orchard on the property, as well as various historical structures, all of which are vacant.

## **Potential Concessions**

According to policy, concessions could be provided at Olompali State Historic Park for the following purposes.

1. Activities that are interpretive or historic in nature, and that reflect the established periods and themes of the unit.
2. Appropriate mercantile and other commercial activities or structures in historical units, in furtherance of the "living history" concept.
3. Special events sponsored by nonprofit associations to produce revenue for planned development, programs, interpretation, and maintenance of the unit.
4. Transportation to and within the unit.
5. Rental/sale of recreational equipment and facilities relating to the historic eras at the unit.

## **Recom- mended Concessions**

6. Sale of food, beverages, and sundries.
7. Specialized administrative and resource management activities.

The concession potential during the first 5 to 10 years at Olompali State Historic Park is considerably limited. The plan does not recommend any concessions because at present there is no recognized need; however, it is not possible to predict all potential and compatible concession activities at this time.

After the park is established, it may be possible to provide certain products and services through concessionaires or the use of the park's nonprofit association. The focus of any such products and services should be interpretive in nature and based at the proposed interpretive facility at Olompali. Specific proposals for new concessions shall be studied on a case-by-case basis.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT**

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT**

The Environmental Impact Element (EIE) predicts the environmental effects that would result from implementation of the general plan. Together with the other elements of the general plan, it constitutes an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

As its name suggests, a general plan for a State Park System unit describes the department's long-term proposals and policies for that unit in what must necessarily be a generalized fashion. The Environmental Impact Element focuses on the likely effects of these generalized proposals and policies, suggests mitigation measures, and considers alternative actions.

As specific development proposals carrying out the general plan are included in the department's annual budget, the department will document their environmental effects as required by the CEQA and the state CEQA guidelines.

For a description of the general plan, see the Summary. More detailed information is found in the following sections of the general plan: the Resource Element for descriptions and policies dealing with the natural and cultural resources of the park, and the Facilities Element for facility development plans. For additional descriptions of the existing conditions at Olompali State Historic Park, see the Resource Inventory on file with the department.

## **Environ- mental Impacts And Mitigations**

The general plan in effect divides the park into three major use categories or zones: the historic zone, the staff housing/maintenance area, and the natural zone. Siting of new roads and the restoration or renovation of existing facilities and thus general visitor use are concentrated in the historic zone. Staff housing and park maintenance facilities will be relocated to the Worm Farm area. Development in the natural zone includes the trail system, an environmental education area, and potential reconstructed Indian Village site. Otherwise, little changes are planned in the natural zone. The following analysis discusses impacts and mitigations in terms of the three major use zone categories in the park.

The following sections contain analyses of the potential impacts and proposed mitigations for the various environmental resource categories.



## **Geology, Soils And Hydrology**

### **Impacts**

The park will be subject to strong ground shaking from a major earthquake in the Bay Area. Only minor seismic activity associated with the Burdell Mountain fault zone is expected. The dam at the reservoir is especially vulnerable to failure due to seismic activity. Ground shaking could affect the structural integrity of historic structures.

The Soil Conservation Service soil survey has indicated that soils in the vicinity of the ranch complex and Worm Farm are poorly suited for septic systems due to slow percolation, saturated soils, depth to bedrock, and clay content. Also, archeological sites are extensive in these areas and should be avoided for septic system use.

The alignment of the main access road around the base of the central grassland area could disrupt existing drainage patterns. The alignment passes by a seep, parallels a small drainage channel, and crosses over this same drainage channel, presenting the potential for impacts including sedimentation into the creek and erosion of the creek bed. The northeast end of the main access road will cross the central creek, presenting the potential for similar impacts.

The proposed access road to the staff residences crosses a drainage at the park boundary, parallels a reach of this drainage, and then re-crosses it. The proposed main parking area is adjacent to an approximate 600-foot reach of a minor drainage that carries water in the winter, also posing potential sedimentation and erosion impacts.

Pedestrian traffic on the trails will cause increased erosion and soil instability. New trail construction can potentially result in increased erosion, especially in steep areas with unstable soils.

### **Mitigation**

Percolation tests will be conducted in all areas proposed for septic systems to identify suitable locations. Depending on the results of the percolation tests, chemical toilets or connection to a regional sewer system will be used if adequate septic tank absorption fields cannot be constructed.

New structures should be built to state earthquake safety standards. Existing structures should be upgraded to earthquake safety standards

## Vegetation

or should have access to them restricted. An engineer should inspect the reservoir dam and make recommendations as to its stability in case of an earthquake.

The access roads and main parking area should be paved with an all-weather surface to decrease erosion potential. The siting of the staff residence access road and the portion of the main access road that parallels the drainage should use the existing road alignments and creek crossings. Best management practices should be incorporated into the design of necessary creek crossings. The alignment of the main access road should avoid the seep at the bottom of the field. Siting of the parking lot should avoid encroachment on the minor drainage to the north.

Siting of new trails should be designed to avoid steep and unstable areas to the extent possible to minimize the potential for erosion hazard. Existing portions of trails with high erosion hazard should be retired and restored to a natural state, and alternative routes created. Standard erosion control features such as waterbars should be installed where needed in all existing and new trails.

### Impacts

The impacts on vegetation of implementing the general plan are largely associated with the placement of access roads. These impacts are potentially harmful to the blue and coast live oak trees (*Quercus douglas*, *Q. agrifolia*) and California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) trees growing along the access road to the staff housing. They could also cause degradation or the removal of native plants within or adjacent to the seep at the eastern end of the property and in drainages within the historic zone.

The access road to the staff residences in the Worm Farm area is located among the oak and California bay trees growing along a drainage. The alignment is an existing dirt road, the paving of which could affect the vigor of the trees growing adjacent to it.

The access road to the main parking lot will pass near a seep, run parallel to Drainage 3, and then cross Drainage 3 before ending in the main parking area. There is an existing crossing of Drainage 3 at this location but it is only large enough for one car to pass at a time. This crossing may need to be enlarged.

**Wildlife And  
Threatened/  
Endangered  
Species**

Removal of or damage to the native vegetation growing in the vicinity of the crossings of the drainages or along the edge of Drainage 3 may occur. The proposed alignment of the main access road could destroy the seep at the eastern end of the property. The main parking area may intrude into the upper portion of Drainage 3.

A Streambed Alteration Agreement, pursuant to Section 1601 of the State Fish and Game Code, from the California Department of Fish and Game may be necessary to build any creek crossings. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is likely to have 404 jurisdiction over several of the creeks on the Olompali property.

**Mitigation**

The access road to the ranger's residences (Worm Farm) should use the existing road alignment and creek crossings.

The road crossings of the mainstem of Drainage 3 should avoid native trees.

The main access road should be located to avoid the seep at the eastern end of the property. A 50-foot buffer between this seep and the road is sufficient to maintain the value of this seep to wildlife and protect associated vegetation.

The main parking area should be located so it does not intrude into the herbaceous riparian vegetation of the upper part of Drainage 3. The main parking area is located adjacent to Coastal Terrace Prairie Valley Needlegrass Grassland and should not encroach onto this vegetation type.

The Department of Fish and Game should be contacted at the time the proposed road crossings are planned to be constructed to determine if a Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601) is necessary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted prior to any work affecting a creek to determine if they have jurisdiction.

**Impacts**

Although human use is expected to increase, the park design will concentrate activities in the historic zone, which contains little in the form of wildlife resources. Those wildlife species associated with the

existing human-made structures will continue to co-exist with the expected heavier volumes of visitors. Impacts to wildlife in the historic zone are not expected to be significant. However, some sensitive species in the historic zone could move away with increased human visitation and construction activity. In particular, this could affect the barn owls that now roost in the buildings.

The natural zone is currently relatively undisturbed and will likely remain so with a few exceptions. The environmental education area adds a new disturbance factor into an otherwise relatively unaffected portion of wildland. Visitor use of the trails should increase but not have significant impacts on most commonly occurring wildlife species.

Golden eagles nested in the park as recently as 1984 and continue to use the park year-round for foraging and presumably roosting. It is possible that the birds would not return to their nest site overlooking the historic zone due to increased use of the park. Golden eagles are relatively intolerant to human presence and would be expected to retreat to the less-visited areas of Burdell Mountain and vicinity. However, they would not be expected to be extirpated from the park and would probably continue to nest on the mountain.

Feral animals or uncontrolled domestic animals such as dogs and cats can seriously threaten wildlife and wildlife habitat. Although feral pigs are not currently known in the park, they are spreading in the county and may eventually reach the park, significantly degrading wetlands and other wildlife habitats. Visitors may bring their pets with them, and some visitors might abandon pets, especially cats, at the park.

### **Mitigation**

Although the golden eagles may not reuse their historic nest site, the Monterey pine snags above the historic zone should be maintained undisturbed. Elsewhere on the property, snags should be maintained undisturbed because of their substantial wildlife habitat value as nest, den, roost, and foraging sites. The only exception to the maintenance of snags should be in areas where windfall could potentially threaten human safety or property. The department will strictly enforce rules and regulations regarding feral animals or uncontrolled domestic animals. Feral cats should be removed as humanely as possible, and a continuing program of population management should be designed and implemented.

## Noise

The park should be monitored for evidence of colonization by wild pigs. If signs of pigs are detected, a specific management program should be developed and implemented. It is recommended that the eradication program be coordinated with adjacent landowners.

### Impacts

Olompali State Historic Park is located adjacent to and receives traffic noise from Highway 101 and the local airport. Noise directly associated with the operation of the park will result from the limited amount of construction proposed under the general plan and from vehicles entering and leaving the park.

### Mitigation

The location of the main portion of Olompali's historic zone is sufficiently distant from Highway 101 that highway noise will not disturb visitors. The sound generated by construction equipment would not be of sufficient duration to be a disrupting factor in the operation of the park.

Reducing the speed of the vehicles of visitors to a maximum of 20 mph along the access road will sufficiently mitigate impacts associated with this source of noise.

## Light/Glare

### Impacts

Impacts associated with glare could result from the light shining from the windows of the rebuilt conservatory and from the windows of the vehicles in the main parking area.

No impacts are anticipated to result from lighting. Light at night would not be sufficient to disrupt the activity of the wildlife in the area.

### Mitigation

Existing plantings will shield glare from the rebuilt conservatory. In the event a glare problem develops that is not mitigated by existing plantings, new plantings consistent with the historic garden plan should be made to reduce the glare problem.

## Traffic

Native trees should be planted around the main parking area to mitigate the effects of glare from the windshields of vehicles. Riparian trees should be planted on the downhill side of the main parking area because of its proximity to a drainage, and oaks or bays should be planted on the drier uphill areas.

### Impacts

The principal traffic/circulation impact of the proposed general plan development will be to increase the number of vehicles entering and exiting Highway 101 at the entrance to the park. (The current entrance does not meet Caltrans public intersection standards.) The extent of this impact will depend on when the park is opened to the general public, the level of public use, and the schedule for road improvements along Highway 101.

The proposed park access, which will be located south of the existing main entrance, and the old Worm Farm road access onto U.S. 101, will require current public intersection engineering design standards if and when they are developed into park access roads, or if Caltrans moves U.S. 101 east and the current southbound lines become frontage road.

The proposed internal circulation system has no associated safety hazards and the amount of parking is adequate to accommodate park visitors.

### Mitigation

#### Immediate Measures

Traffic control signs could be posted on the highway to warn approaching motorists of the park entrance and advise them of the possibility of vehicles turning immediately ahead. Installing these signs would require the approval of Caltrans.

#### Short-Term Measures

Close the median break on the highway at the park entrance to prevent vehicles from turning left into the park. This would require vehicles to make a U-turn elsewhere. Install acceleration and deceleration lanes southbound on the highway at the proposed park entrance for vehicles entering and exiting the park.

## Air Quality

### Long-Term Measures

Caltrans proposes to realign the highway at this location, shifting the main highway to the east and leaving the existing southbound lanes as a frontage road. A freeway interchange might be built at the entrance to the Redwood Sanitary Landfill. If built, this design would eliminate most remaining access problems for the park entrance.

### Impacts

The majority of visitors to Olompali State Historic Park will come by private automobile. The amount of visitors anticipated to the park is not sufficient to have an adverse impact on the park's air quality or the surrounding air basin.

Prescribed burning of vegetation may occur under the general plan and will generate smoke (particulate matter, carbon monoxide, etc.).

### Mitigation

No measures are necessary to mitigate increased motor vehicle emissions at Olompali or impacts to air quality of the general area.

To conduct a prescribed burn, a permit will be necessary from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Prescribed burns shall be conducted during weather conditions that minimize the impact of smoke on Highway 101 and other areas.

## Water And Sewage

### Existing Conditions

Water to the Burdell mansion and surrounding structures is supplied from the stone-lined reservoir located to the west. It is carried to the ranch complex in underground pipes. Water to the staff residences is supplied from a service connection with the North Marin Water District water line, which is located east of the park, paralleling Highway 101.

There are no sewage disposal facilities currently in use in the Burdell Ranch complex. Previously septic systems were used and old septic tanks and leach lines exist. The staff residences have two operating septic systems.

**Cultural  
Resources**

**Impacts**

The improvements proposed for the Burdell Ranch complex will require additional water and either new or rehabilitated septic systems. The trenching work necessary for installation of water and sewage lines could impact archeological site Mrn-193 by digging through existing midden soil. Questions regarding water rights to the reservoir may result in not enough water from this source to provide irrigation water to the rehabilitated formal garden and for domestic use.

The relocation of the staff residences to the Worm Farm area will require extending the existing water line and installing one or more new septic systems. Installation of septic systems at both the Burdell Ranch complex and Worm Farm will require percolation tests to determine areas of suitable soil.

**Mitigation**

Mitigation measures are proposed in the policy section of the Resource Element to protect Mrn-193. Consistent with these measures, any trenching that takes place within the boundaries of Mrn-193 will be monitored by a state archeologist. Percolation tests will be conducted to determine areas suitable for sewage disposal.

Extension of water lines from the water district service connection may be necessary to supply water to the ranch complex if sufficient water is not available from the reservoir.

**Impacts**

Past land uses have adversely affected both prehistoric and historic cultural resources of the park. Their current condition and impacts on them are described in the Resource Element. Implementation of the general plan will generally improve the condition of these resources. This will include replacing previously excavated midden soil and restoring the historic structures. Impacts to prehistoric resources could occur from collection of surface artifacts by visitors, widening existing roads that cross midden areas, trenching for new utility lines, construction of the parking lot, and installing foundations for new buildings.



## Aesthetics

## Effects Found Not To Be Significant

### Mitigation

Mitigation measures are proposed in the policy section of the Resource Element. These include filling previous excavations with the excavated material, supervision by a state archeologist of all work that requires any type of soil disturbance, designating many archeological sites "limited use areas," and the restoration and protection of historic structures. The Resource Element also proposes the preparation of an Archeological Management Plan that will provide for the long-term management of the park's archeological resources. This plan will develop specific mitigation measures for any adverse impacts not addressed in the Resource Element.

The construction of the proposed parking lot could disturb midden deposits at this location. The entire parking lot should be capped with a layer of clean fill prior to constructing the parking lot to prevent disturbance to the midden area.

### Impacts

Olompali State Historic Park is part of Marin County's Inland Rural Corridor, a predominantly rural-agricultural zone. The proposed work in the historic zone, rehabilitation of historic structures, reestablishment of some agricultural use, rehabilitation of the garden, and retaining the fields adjacent to Highway 101 will all contribute to maintaining and in some cases enhancing the rural character of the area. Staff housing would be relocated to an area screened from general view. Improvements in the natural zone would have a very minor visual effect limited to their immediate vicinity and would not impact the parks overall visual quality.

### Mitigation

No measures are necessary to mitigate for aesthetic impacts. Project implementation is a form of mitigation.

Should the proposed general plan be carried out along with the mitigation measures recommended in the policy sections of the plan, there should not be any significant adverse impacts involving the following aspects of the local environment: hydrology, threatened/endangered species, noise, light, and air quality.

**Significant  
Effects That  
Cannot Be  
Avoided**

**Relationship  
Between  
Short-Term  
Uses And  
Long-Term  
Productivity**

**Growth  
Inducing  
Impacts**

**Cumulative  
Impacts**

With the additional mitigation measures recommended in the Environmental Impact Element, the proposed general plan should not cause significant adverse effects on the following elements of the local environment: geology, soils, vegetation, wildlife, glare, traffic, water and sewage, and cultural resources.

There are no unavoidable significant environmental effects that would result from implementation of the proposed general plan for Olompali State Historic Park.

The long-term management of Olompali State Historic Park has been determined to a large extent by previous classification actions. The majority of the park is classified a natural zone and the area of historic and archeological interest is in a designated historic zone. The specific purposes and restraints of these classifications are found in the Resource Element. These classifications require the protection of the primary natural and cultural resources found in the park.

The general plan, under which the park will be managed for both the short and long term, recognizes the importance of the natural and cultural resources of Olompali. The recommendations of the general plan are consistent with the natural and historic zone classifications. The Declaration of Purpose in the Resource Element briefly mentions that the general plan enhances the natural and cultural resources of Olompali.

The general plan is written to direct the short-term uses of the park's environment toward the long-term protection and maintenance of the natural and cultural resources of Olompali State Historic Park.

The development of Olompali State Historic Park as outlined in the proposed general plan will not induce new growth in the area. The primary function of the park is to preserve natural and cultural resources and provide for the enjoyment of those resources.

The increase in visitors to the park will result in a minor increase in traffic on Highway 101. Traffic will occur primarily in non-peak periods and will not aggravate existing peak period congestion on the highway.

## Alternatives

The following discussion concerns the no project alternative, the three alternatives presented in the park planning public hearings, and a fourth alternative, which is the general plan that includes parts of the three alternatives.

### No Project

The no project alternative would result in a continuation of the existing "caretaker" management of Olompali by the State Department of Parks and Recreation. Restoration of historic facilities would occur sporadically with no overall objective, and the deterioration of certain resources, such as Camilo Ynitia's adobe, would continue. The current pattern of informal visitor use would continue with no established visitor facilities or programs. Existing facilities, such as the ranger residences, would remain in their current location.

The impacts associated with park development would not occur. The protection and restoration of archeological and historical resources would also not occur.

### Access Road

Alternative 1 - Worm Farm entry as main access

Alternative 2 - Main Entry across meadow to parking

Alternative 3 - Existing entrance road as main access

#### Alternative 1

The use of the Worm Farm Road as the main entrance to the park would require a creek crossing and extending the access road adjacent to Highway 101 where it would connect with the proposed access road. The Worm Farm Road entrance is more hazardous than the proposed main entry due to its location closer to the curve in Highway 101 north of the park that restricts sight distances. Increasing traffic at this location, particularly for people who are unaware of the hazard, increases the safety hazard in comparison to the proposed entry.

#### Alternative 2

This alternative would locate the access road across the center of the southern meadow, going directly to the parking lot. This would cross an area of archeological sensitivity, be visible from

the highway, and would detract from the visual setting of the ranch complex.

### **Alternative 3**

This alternative would continue using the existing entrance as the permanent entrance and direct traffic south paralleling Highway 101 to the existing fire road. This alternative would (1) not provide adequate distance for merging into southbound traffic after making a U-turn at the existing landfill; (2) would detract from the visual setting of the ranch complex; and (3) would impact the southern meadow area.

### **Parking**

Three alternative locations for the parking lot have been proposed:

Alternative 1 - North of main entrance road, adjacent to freeway

Alternative 2 - Existing site of staff housing

Alternative 3 - West of existing staff housing

#### **Alternative 1**

Locating the parking lot adjacent to Highway 101 on the north side of the main entrance road eliminates the need for a creek crossing and is not adjacent to a drainage. It has the same potential for disturbance of archeological resources. The major impact associated with this site is visual. Mounding and planting would be needed to screen the parking lot.

#### **Alternative 2**

This location uses the previously disturbed ranger residence site and Worm Farm access road. A creek crossing would be necessary. The parking lot would be located among a scattered grove of oaks, and grading and paving of the lot would result in some damage to the root systems of these trees. This site is screened from the highway and separate from the historic zone.

#### **Alternative 3**

This alternative location would require grading a previously undisturbed area of grassland. Access would be from the Worm Farm Road and would require a creek crossing. The site is

screened from the highway and distant from the historic zone.

### **Interpretive Center**

Alternative 1 - New structure at existing parking

Alternative 2 - Use existing barns

Alternative 3 - New structure between ranch complex and existing staff housing.

These alternatives fall into two categories: 1) build a new structure or 2) use an existing structure. They are discussed in this manner:

#### **Build New Structure**

Alternatives 1 and 3 would require construction of a new structure. At each location there would be the potential of disturbing archeological resources due to necessary grading and trenching. Alternative 1 would add a new structure to the historic zone that would be out of context with the other structures. Alternative 3 would place a new structure in a previously undisturbed portion of the historic zone.

#### **Use Existing Structure**

The use of the existing barns would have no associated environmental impact.

### **Environmental Education Area**

Alternative: Locate on knoll above Worm Farm

Development at this site would adversely affect locally unique vegetation and wildlife associated with the blue oak woodland, chaparral, and serpentine outcrop adjacent to this site. This site would present compatibility problems with the adjacent staff housing at the Worm Farm.

### **Reconstructed Indian Village Site**

Alternative: Locate on flat area south of the first creek crossing on the existing old road up to the reservoir from the historic core area. Final designation of the interpretive, reconstructed Indian village site is subject to an assessment of potential adverse impacts to cultural and natural resources.

Comments and Responses  
General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Olompali State Historic Park  
SCH #87041425

Review copies were provided to the following on or after April 1, 1988. The review period ended May 16, 1988.

State Clearinghouse (10 copies)  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
Office of Assemblyman Wm. Filante, M.D.  
Office of Senator Milton Marks  
Marin County Planning Director  
Marin County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services  
City of Novato  
Wayne Guthrie, California State Parks Foundation  
Richard Parmer, President, California State Park Rangers Association  
June Gardner, The Olompali People (30 copies)  
Pierre Joske  
Tony Georges  
Beth Machado  
Dr. Robert Mark, Sierra Club State Park Task Force  
Robert H. Powers  
Mrs. Elizabeth Terwilliger  
Gail Wilhelm  
Dr. Charles Slaymaker

A notice announcing locations of copies of document for public review was published in the following newspaper:

The Novato Advance  
The Independent Journal

Documents were available at the following locations for public review:

Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Region  
3033 Cleveland Avenue, Suite #110  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2186

Department of Parks and Recreation  
Marin District  
1455-A East Francisco Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Marin County Library  
Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Marin County Library  
1720 Novato Boulevard  
Novato, CA 94947

Petaluma Public Library  
100 Fairgrounds Drive  
Petaluma, CA 94952

San Rafael City Library  
1100 E Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Corte Madera Library  
707 Meadowsweet Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Fairfax Library  
2097 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard  
Fairfax, CA 94930

Mill Valley City Library  
375 Throckmorton Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Comments were received from the following agencies, organizations, and individuals:

California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Fish and Game  
The Olompali People, June Gardner, Chairperson  
Marin Conservation League, Charles H. Wray, President  
Marin Audubon Society, Barbara Salzman, Chair, Conservation Committee  
Jean M. Vandervort  
Willis A. Evans  
Tom Nolan

## Comments and Response to Comments

Following are comments and our response to each comment. Each comment and response is numbered to correspond with each other.

### Responses to Comments

#### Caltrans

1. DPR will continue to work with Caltrans on the access to the SHP. DPR will apply for an encroachment permit. A safe access will be provided into Olompali SHP.

#### California Department of Fish and Game

2. Comment noted.
3. DPR will consult with and notify DF&G as per DF&G Code Section 1601-3 prior to starting any stream channel diversion project.
4. DPR will contact the U.S. Corps of Engineers regarding possible permits.

#### The Olompali People - June Gardner

5. The spelling of Camilo Ynitia will be corrected in the final plan.
6. This date is noted.
7. The caption will be changed on page 18.
8. Noted. The final plan will be corrected.
9. Noted. The final plan will keep the same caption in order to be consistent with the Facilities Element Map.
10. Noted. The final plan will reflect this correction.
11. The General Policy will be modified to reflect the intent that all buildings be dealt with according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects.
12. The correct maximum number of parking spaces for equestrian use is 25. The final plan will be corrected.
13. Noted. The General Plan recommends that the "flow of history" be interpreted. Emphasis will be placed on the time period when control of the land passed from the Indians to the Euroamericans as reflected in the remaining structures in the historic core area.

In the final plan, the word "include" will be changed to "emphasize".

14. Noted. The word "abuses" will be removed in the final plan.



15. Noted. The sentence on page 28, paragraph 1, should read, "There has not been a complete archeological survey conducted for this unit".
16. Noted. The final plan will reflect this correction.
17. Noted. The final plan will be corrected.
18. Noted.

Marin Conservation League

19. Noted.
20. Equestrian use at Olompali SHP was one of the recreation activities mentioned by the public during the course of public involvement meetings for this unit. Adequate access from U.S. 101 to the equestrian staging area will be installed as part of a public access project.

Relocation of the existing entrance off U.S. 101 will necessitate removing some of the trees along the highway. The new access for ingress and egress to the SHP will be discussed in a separate environmental document (see Response #1).

21. Noted. Camping will not be considered at Olompali SHP unless future acquisitions occur that would provide appropriate space for such facilities.
22. Noted.
23. Noted.
24. Noted.
25. Noted.

Marin Audubon Society

26. Noted.
27. The General Plan is a flexible document that presents recommended maximum uses of various facilities and resources in the SHP. The prepared equestrian staging area and trail as well as other proposed facilities will be monitored for resource degradation, and uses will be modified based on those studies.
28. Noted.
29. Noted.
30. Noted.
31. Noted. These species will be protected.

32. Management of habitat communities is geared toward restoring the habitat to its pre-Euroamerican contact state. The proposed steps should not be viewed as drastic since it is believed that the natural environment can be enhanced by these "management steps".
33. Extensive clearing and cutting of oaks are not contemplated. The removal of cattle has been an important step in restoring young oaks. Page 60 talks about a monitoring program.
34. The policies should be viewed as a whole and not isolated from each other. There is no significant example of a species out of balance, but the Department plans to control a problem if it occurs. For example, wild pigs have become a problem in several units.
35. The following policy replaces the original Golden Eagle Nest Site shown on page 64:

#### GOLDEN EAGLE NEST SITE

The last recorded nesting of golden eagles at Olompali State Historic Park was in 1984 in a Monterey pine snag. Although golden eagles have not nested recently at the site, these birds are known to return to former nest sites after intervening use of alternative nest sites. Since golden eagles are especially sensitive to human use and activity in a nest site area, utilization is dependent on favorable conditions. Golden eagles, which are unusual in Marin, continue to frequent the unit and can be seen regularly over the grasslands throughout the year.

#### Policy

The department shall protect nesting habitat of the golden eagle at Olompali State Historic Park. The 1984 nesting site shall be protected from disturbance. Human use in and around the area shall be minimized during the nesting period from February through May. Monitoring for golden eagle nesting activity shall continue to be conducted annually. Monterey pine snags shall be maintained as potential golden eagle nest sites.

36. Comment noted.
37. Comment noted.
38. Any prescribed burn plan would be done with a great deal of research, preparation, and caution.
39. Noted.
40. Noted.
41. Noted.
42. Comment noted.

43. Comment noted.
44. Comment noted.
45. The historic zone has fewer wildlife resources than other areas. These will be protected as much as possible.
46. See Response #35.
47. Comment noted.
48. Comment noted.
49. The proposed relocation of U.S. 101 would be a project of the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and not the Department of Parks and Recreation.
50. Noted.

Jean M. Vandervort

51. The plan proposes to have limited equestrian use as a recreation activity (see #27).
52. Comment noted.
53. Future concessions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and as to appropriateness to a historic unit.
54. Staff residences and maintenance facilities will be relocated to the Worm Farm area to increase privacy and reduce visual and aural impacts to the core of the historic area.

Willis Evans

55. Comment noted. The Department will manage soil erosion problems where they occur.
56. At this time, the General Plan process does not include estimates of funding of various proposed facilities, due partly to the fact that such estimates would change yearly and the life of a typical General Plan extends some 20 years.

Tom Nolan

57. The Resource Element, page 54, acknowledges the noise from U.S. 101 and Gness Field. The Environmental Impact Element on page 135 states that the noise level in the historic zone will not disturb visitors. Noise is an issue that should be quantified, and methods should be examined to reduce noise.

58. The Department has been coordinating with Caltrans over better and safer access to Olompali SHP from U.S. 101 (see #1). Your comments regarding highway designs are worthwhile. A paragraph will be added to the Land Use Element addressing the future Caltrans plan.
59. We agree that trails should be carefully designed, especially on steep slopes. The soil is easily erodible so slope gradients are important.
60. Activities such as group picnics or weddings do not have areas especially designed for them. These activities should be coordinated with the operations staff at Olompali SHP ahead of time.

Both of these items could be important interpretive additions to Olompali SHP.



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BOX 7310  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94120  
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May 16, 1988

MRN-101-PM-22.00  
SCH# 87041425  
MRN101093

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: DEIR-Olompali State Historic Park General Plan (700 Acres)

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Thank you for including the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process. Caltrans has reviewed the above-referenced document and forwards the following comments:

Caltrans has already reviewed preliminary site plans regarding the recommended location of the new park access road and the addition of the acceleration/deceleration tapers on the southbound lane of Route 101. Both of these projects will be provided by the developer as a means to mitigate the project's impact as well as to provide a safe and convenient access for park users.

It should be noted, however, that the issuance of an encroachment permit by Caltrans for the implementation of the new access road and the tapers will be contingent upon the closure of existing access roads that infringe on the state facility, including Worm Farm Road and service roads. This stipulation is required in order to maintain existing traffic flow conditions and to eliminate any traffic conflict that could occur on Route 101. If the proposed realignment of Route 101 to the east occurs (page 137), then any existing access roads, as well as any proposed access roads, could be utilized from the frontage road, which would be the existing southbound lanes of Route 101.

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MAY 18 1988

MRN101093

Page Two

May 16, 1988

Any work performed within the State right-of-way will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans. A completed application, environmental documentation, and five sets of plans should be submitted to the permit engineer at the following address:


Permit Engineer  
P. O. Box 7310  
San Francisco, CA 94120  
(415) 557-1984

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project and wish to continue close correspondence on its development. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Phillip Badal of my staff at (415) 557-9139.

Sincerely yours,

BURCH C. BACHTOLD  
District Director

by

*for*   
GARY F. ADAMS  
District CEQA Coordinator

cc: Loreen McMahon, State Clearinghouse  
Jeff Georgevich, MTC  
Sally Germain, ABAG

5/16

# Memorandum

To : 1. Projects Coordinator  
Resources Agency

2. Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date: May 3, 1988

Attn: James Doyle

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Preliminary General Plan, Olompali State Park, SCH 87041425,  
Marin County

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the Preliminary General Plan for Olompali State Park in Marin County, and we have the following comments.

The mitigation measures described on pages 133-135, if included as part of the General Plan, would adequately protect fish and wildlife resource values. The mitigation measures include using existing roads and stream crossings; avoiding native trees, seeps, riparian areas, and needlegrass vegetation; maintenance of buffer zones between roads and sensitive habitat types; and lastly, maintenance of snags, particularly the Monterey pine snags above the historic zone.

2

The Department has direct jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1601-03 in regard to any proposed activities that would divert or obstruct the natural flow or change the bed, channel, or bank of any stream. We recommend early consultation since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Formal notification under Fish and Game Code Section 1603 should be made after all other permits and certifications have been obtained. Work cannot be initiated until a streambed alteration agreement is executed.

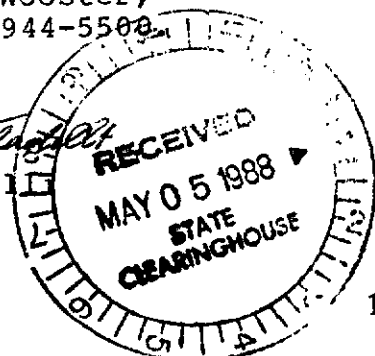
3

The U.S. Corps of Engineers also have jurisdiction over the discharge of fill to streams and wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. We recommend that the Corps be contacted to determine if they have jurisdiction and if they require a permit.

4

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Fred Botti, Wildlife Biologist; or Theodore Wooster, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (707) 944-5500.

*Pete Bontadelli*  
Pete Bontadelli  
Director







# THE OLOMPALI PEOPLE

P.O. Box 1400 Novato, CA 94948

The Olompali People wish the following corrections made in the final draft of the General Plan:

Please note that throughout the text there is a misspelling of CAMILO YNITIA ( one L not two ) For one reference see Plat of U.S. Surveyor General. ] 5

Also throughout the text it should report a consistent date of speculated Indian occupation. Dr. Charles Slaymaker states it as at least 1,000 A.D. ] 6

On Page 18  
Caption under picture should read VIEW FROM OLOMPALI TO EAST  
( not West ) ] 7

On Page 29 Paragraph Two  
Dr. Slaymaker worked at Olompali from June 1972 to October 1977. ] 8

On Page 45  
( check page 51 paragraph three )  
The Caption for the pictures should read HISTORIC PHOTOS OF THE  
CHICKEN RANCH HEADQUARTERS ( later referred to as the Worm Farm ) ] 9

On Page 52  
Caption under picture should read VIEW NORTH EAST FROM MOUNT BURDELL ] 10

On Page 68  
The third paragraph concerning General Policy is garbled. Pay particular attention to the last sentence. ---these buildings SHALL NOT BE scheduled for removal without prior consultation--- we believe is the proper intent. ] 11

On Page 86  
Equestrian Staging Area\*says\*  
Provide adequate space for 20 vehicles with trailers. However  
On Page 100  
under Additions No. 3  
25-vehicle capacity at equestrian staging area-----  
( Which is correct? ) ] 12

On Page 116  
The Olompali People recommends that in the first paragraph there be an emphasis on the "flow of history" at Olompali rather than as worded in this paragraph. ] 13

On Page 118  
Please remove the word abuses from the first sentence on the page.  
It is judgmental. ] 14

# THE OLOMPALI PEOPLE

P.O. Box 1400 Novato, CA 94948

## Suggested Corrections Continued:

### Page 28 First Paragraph

This statment should be revised. There has never been a complete archaeological survey of this unit. The most comprehensive survey was done by Dr. Charles Slaymaker. His work was confined to certain areas by the tenants at Olompali during this period. 15

### Page 122 First Paragraph

Elizabeth Terwilliger of the Terwilliger NATURE ( not national ) Education Center, Corte Madera, Ca. has guided many groups around Olompali using her unique teaching approach to the environment. ( SHE DOES NOT TEACH THE INDIAN USE OF PLANTS ALTHOUGH SOME OF HER DOCENTS DO ) 16

### Page 122

Please add to the list of groups who have shown an interest in Olompali: 17

The Chinese Historical Society of America  
The Sierra Club  
The California Native Plant Society Marin Chapter

Please add to this sentence " Plus Garden clubs, historic societies AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS in Marin and Sonoma Counties. 18

### Page 123

Dr. Frank Ritz of Healdsburg Ca. has donated two antique bottles to The Olompali People to be displayed at the Park in the future. The main artifact is the bottle which reads  
Burdell's Oriental Toothwash  
H.P. Wakelee sole agent  
Dr. Galen Burdell at one time the only dentist in San Francisco also gave or sold his patients Burdell Toothpowder and Burdell Toothbrushes.

See Enclosed Photograph



# MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

A non-profit corporation founded in 1954

35 Mitchell Boulevard, Suite 11  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Office telephone: 472-6170

## Past and Present

Angel Island  
Mt. Tamalpais  
Samuel Taylor Park  
Bolinas Lagoon/Kent Island  
Stinson Beach  
Drakes Bay Beach  
Tomales Bay  
Pt. Reyes National  
Seashore  
Richardson Bay Sanctuary  
Corte Madera Tidelands  
Strawberry Tidelands  
Bolton Marsh  
Heerdt Marsh  
The Northridge  
Rancho Olompali  
Marin's Agricultural Lands  
Marin's Dairy Farms  
Coastal Protection  
Golden Gate National  
Recreation Area  
Offshore Oil Drilling  
Marin Planning Issues  
Wild and Scenic Rivers  
S. F. Bay Protection

**President**  
Chip Wray

**Executive Director**  
Karin Urquhart

**Public Education Coordinator**  
Kay Siagle

**Financial Development Coordinator**  
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Nancy Wray  
Chip Wray  
Patricia Yates

Director Emeritus  
Gordon Strawbridge

May 11, 1988

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
Calif. Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: Draft EIR for Olompali State Historic Park

Dear Mr. Doyle:

We appreciate this opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Report for the Olompali State Historic Park General Plan. Our review is primarily in relation to the archeological, historic and natural values of the area.

Resource Element: We recognize that there are natural problems with the soils in the area. They are as important as your planning for more adequate erosion control on trails and roads. The termination of grazing should be helpful for plant restoration. The preservation and restoration of the Burdell Garden and Walnut Orchard can add to the historic interest in the Park.

Land Use Element: Since extensive and varied recreation facilities are available at many close-by spots, we hope there will be no duplication of such facilities within the Park. This is a very delicate site and its preservation would be severely threatened by any high intensity recreational use. Those items you have listed (pg. 92) fit the category of passive recreation. In our opinion the area is not suitable for equestrian staging. Since there are plans for a trail connection between the bordering open space lands and O'Hair Park in Novato, we urge the use of that park for a staging area. It would be a much safer access for horses and trailers. If the relocation of the entrance from Highway 101 necessitates the removal of any of the present trees, we urge that the replanting include additional trees for screening and that this be done as soon as the need is known.

Facilities Element: Since the top priorities for Olompali are archeological and historic, the development of facilities must be kept to the minimum essential for visitor safety and use. Extreme care must be taken to protect the archeological sites. If O'Hair Park can be used as the staging area for equestrians, there will

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be no need for a 25-vehicle parking area. Your Priorities for Development (pg. 114) are worthy, if ambitious. We feel, however, that the last item under Priority 3, ". . .develop camping facilities" is unnecessary, particularly since in your Land Use Element, under Physical Factors, Pg. 83, you state, "For these reasons, certain recreational development will not be feasible within the present configuration of the unit (for example, overnight camping)." Your opposition to camping was based on lack of potable water, problems of garbage and sewage, access, etc. Again, on pg. 91, you state that overnight camping is not recommended for the Olompali site because there is no suitable location. We agree completely with this last statement.

21

Interpretive Element: Olompali Village obviously was the hub of Indian activity; thus, the interpretation of the historic and cultural resources should take priority over any other of the so-called passive recreational activities. The protection and preservation of the archeological and historic ruins and artifacts must be given great care and attention. In addition to the interpretive sites planned, particularly at the Visitor Center, your subtheme for an interpretive trail system is excellent. We agree that the Visitor Center shop should only provide books, pamphlets, etc., about the history, cultural and natural resources of the area. Volunteerism should be encouraged. Volunteers could serve as adjuncts to staff, as P.R. representatives to encourage use of the Park for its unique qualities, and to staff the Visitor Center.

22

Operations Element: We realize that financial constraints will probably limit greatly the scope of your Operations Element; we hope that volunteer help will augment staff services. Because of the proximity of the Park to Highway 101 there can be a real problem of security. We hope that means will be found to hire the necessary extra personnel without expecting the cost to come from concessions, but rather be part of the overall operations expense.

23

Concessions Element: The Marin Conservation League has a policy of opposing the use of a public facility for private gain. There should not be food or drink available, even in machines, since both are available close by. Any concession proposal should be studied on an individual basis to ensure that there is no exploitation.

24

Environmental Impact Element: We are gratified at the consideration demonstrated throughout the Plan for the environmental effects of your proposed developments. Because of the physical nature of the Park, plus the extensive archeological sites, the possibilities of over-development must be carefully guarded against. In our opinion your plan will not adversely affect either the historic, cultural or natural resources of the Park.

25

We hope you will consider our comments when you are working on your final draft and we also would like to be notified of the public hearings which we assume will be part of the process.

Yours very truly,

*Chip Wray*  
Charles H. Wray, President



*Marin Audubon Society*      *Box 599*      *Mill Valley, California 94942-0599*  
May 13, 1988

Ken Pierce  
Environmental Review Section  
California Dept of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: OLOMPALI STATE PARK, PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN

Dear Mr. Pierce:

We commend the Preliminary Olompali Plan for its emphasis on resource protection, limitation on development, uses and levels of use as compatible with the environment, and recommendations concerning restoration. We agree that "nature appreciation" is a recreational activity that is increasing in popularity, particularly bird watching. The State has the responsibility of ensuring that the Park's diverse and important natural resources are not degraded or destroyed, but are enhanced restored to the maximum extent. We specifically support limiting recreational opportunities for the purpose of protecting these resources.

Given the laudable protection objectives, we are concerned that the list of potential attractions is numerous and would lead to levels of use and demand for user services (more parking lots, concessions etc.) that are incompatible with the goals of resource protection. Eliminating and limiting the following uses would help to avoid future overuse and demands for expansion of development within the Park. Given the rich archaeological and natural habitat attractions, we recommend that camping, biking, concessions, barnyard animals and special events - uses that are not essential to the nature of the Park - be eliminated. Bicycles would contribute to safety, congestion and resource protection problems in both the natural and historic areas. Barnyard animals will attract predators and lead to the possible need to regulate native wildlife populations (see Wildlife Management Policy, page 64). Allowing special events could open the door to all sorts of activities, such as organized runs, that would increase the need for resource maintenance and detract from the enjoyment of the park by users who are there for the historic and natural resources. We also recommend reducing the number of parking spaces for horse-trailers. We are not opposed to horse use, but providing parking for 25 horse trailers - compared to 55

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*A Chapter of National Audubon Society*

187

8-3476

spaces for other users seems lopsided. The Park should not be a major staging area for horsemen. We recommend that the horse trailer spaces be reduced to about 10.

The Park cannot be all things to all people. The focus should be on passive activities that require minimum 'improvement' or 'management' of resources.

During 1983 and 1984, several volunteers from our Society conducted regular bird censuses of the Park. This data was submitted to the Park. We observed 84 species during our censuses; a number which should be considered a minimum because we did not include the ridge lines. Unfortunately our censusing did not continue at the request of a new resident ranger. Since that time, Marin Audubon has not used the Park for field trips or any other purpose.

During visits earlier than 1983, there was a great abundance of nesting landbirds in the lowlands, particularly along the entrance road where a number of old growth and dead oaks, and other trees provided extensive cavity and other nesting habitat. By the beginning of our censusing period, many of these trees had been removed or drastically trimmed, greatly reducing the nesting habitat. During our regular visits, a gray fox had a den in the stucco mansion structure, a barn owl lived in the old barn, and a colony of turkey vultures roosted in the trees along the entry road. In brief, the developed area still retained importance as bird habitat and a number of species, such as lazuli bunting and house wren, were found within this area.

Three species we observed, golden eagle, sharp-shinned hawk and Cooper's hawk are listed on the California Department of Fish and Game's Species of Special Concern list. Species are included on this list because of concern about their breeding populations in California. Therefore, serious effort should be made by the park to protect nesting habitat and encourage breeding by these species. The Animal Life section should discuss this issue, and measures should be recommended to preserve the nesting sites historically used by these species.

The Plan appears to place a great emphasis on 'management' of habitat communities. Although general policies support leaving areas outside of the primary historic zone in a natural state, specific policies appear to allow some rather drastic interference. Certainly some management is necessary but this should be confined to the already developed areas. Unless there is some potential major disaster in the oak woodland/forest, this area should remain as is.

There appears to be a conflict between the Vegetative Management policy (p. 60) which indicates that the native plant communities outside of the primary historic zone will be managed with a minimum of disruption to natural processes, and the policy (same page) on oak management. The Oak Management policy states that

these communities shall be managed to promote an increased representation of younger age oaks. We are concerned about what the policy on management of these oak communities means. It sounds as though there is potential for extensive clearing and cutting. Nature does quite well on its own, of this Olompali provides substantial evidence, without active management by man. On the other hand, if the policy is intended to rejuvenate the community by planting and protecting young oaks thereby assuring a continuing population in different stages of growth and age, it would be acceptable to us. In any event, the intent of this policy should be clarified.

A major concern in the consideration of Management, is that the Plan does not reflect a comprehensive view that integrates both the protection of plant and habitats important for wildlife. The Wildlife Management Policy (p. 64) is vague and unclear, and does not set forth a clear perspective for the protection of wildlife. It speaks to the restoration of natural habitats, yet there is no discussion about specific habitats to which this policy is referring. We could find no reference to altered natural habitats that are of specific concern. It is also unclear how the habitat restoration provision is compatible with the fire management and other policies. What are the significant imbalances that are anticipated in the second sentence of the Wildlife policy? We have great concern about the statement concerning potential regulation of animal populations. What are the animal populations the Park is anticipating the need to control and what are the human caused imbalances that would cause this problem? Why would not attempts be made to control human influences first? This should be clarified and the Policy should contain provision to avoid uses (such as barnyard animals) that have the potential to draw native wildlife into the historic use zone thereby increasing the potential for conflicts with native wildlife.

As noted above, policies should be included to protect nesting habitats, particularly for species of Special Concern and for species unusual to Marin. The policy on the Golden Eagle nesting site is not adequate because it only addresses monitoring and minimizing or restricting human access should nesting reoccur. It is unlikely that any nesting will reoccur with this limited policy, because the critical time for raptors and all nesting species is early in the breeding season, when pairs are establishing nesting sites, setting up nests and when the offspring are young. If the Park has as a serious goal to protect rare nesting species, it will be necessary to initiate an active program of preventing human disturbance beginning at time the adults begin to set up nests. Eagles could be selecting a nest site and beginning incubation any time from February to late May. The eagle nesting site has already been subject to considerable human intrusion from fire, recent tree clearing and other increased human uses. Relocation of the access road and location of trails near the nest site present potential disturbances that reduce the possibility of future nesting. People should be prohibited from entering the area near the eagle nesting tree

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beginning in February. Should there be indication of nesting, no people should be allowed in the vicinity until the young birds fledge. We recommend also that you consult with the raptor biologist, Alan Fish, at GGNRA for additional information on raptor behavior. Similar restrictions should be placed on known nesting sites of other species of concern and raptors.

35

We would also encourage preservation of some structure as barn owl habitat. Any building off the beaten-track with no crowds, lots of holes and a fairly good roof would be fine. Such structures might also attract swallows. We agree that the barn should remain in an unimproved state, with limited use and oppose its use for overnight dormitory purposes. It should be left for the barn owl.

36

We fully concur that feral animals as well as domestic pets are a threat to wildlife. This policy should be strengthened by prohibiting cats and dogs in the park and include a program to remove all cats and dogs that are found in the Park.

37

While a management plan to suppress fires certainly seems in order, we have great concern about development of a Prescribed Management Plan. Some of the assumptions on page 61 (eg. that ecological imbalances have resulted from the disruption of fire processes, the frequency of historic natural fires and their importance in the perpetuation of natural ecosystems) are exactly those being now questioned on Mt. Tam. Until conclusive data exists to support these assumptions, we recommend against any such policy. Making any decision on what areas to save or to destroy by burning requires judgments about the value of one habitat type over another. It is unlikely the Park or anyone has the scientific knowledge to make at this time.

38

Some additional specific measures we recommend to protect species and habitats are:

- in addition to no diversion of water (p. 58), the policy should prohibit degradation of any wet area including streams, creeks, wetlands, seasonally wet area.
- because of their importance as wildlife habitat, no snags, dead tree branches or limbs should be removed unless located in the developed area and unless they pose an immediate threat to human life.
- specific policies that would allow removal or thinning of trees for views should be deleted. Such policies are not compatible with resource protection objectives. Views exist from a multitude of areas and there is no reason people cannot walk around a few trees along trails to get a better view.
- careful evaluation should be made of impacts of parking lots and any new buildings, including the increased uses these

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facilities would bring, on the surrounding habitat communities. Such impacts should also be carefully considered when locating and designing the environmental area and scenic overlooks along trails. These areas should be as small and unobtrusive as possible, in keeping with conveying the message of environmental protection. We recommend that the environmental education facility be located within an existing building.

42

We support Park efforts to ensure that adjacent lands be protected and encourage higher placement of acquisition of these lands so that they can be acquired if or when they become available. We are very concerned, however, about potential impacts of the potential 101 improvements (see below).

43

We recommend that the following mitigation measures be included in the EIR:

- Impacts on wetlands associated with access roads should be avoided by relocation of roadways out of wetlands or drainage channels. The EIR should also note that it is state policy (CDFG) that there be no net loss of wetlands, therefore, any unavoidable loss of wetlands needs to be mitigated by creation of new wetlands of the same type lost.

44

- We do not agree that the historic zone contains little in the form of wildlife resources. We recall this area as being rich with wildlife. Perhaps there has been more extensive disruption since then which has caused them all to leave.

45

- Mitigation for the golden eagle and other species of concern should include prohibiting human activities near the site during courtship and breeding seasons. A raptor biologist should be consulted about possible impacts from relocation of the access road to the vicinity of the nest site.

46

- In order to minimize impacts on the oak/woodland, the number of overlooks should be minimized and they should be located in areas that would not require destruction of trees.

47

- Impacts of the environmental education area could be avoided locating it out in the wildland area.

48

- A discussion should be included of impacts of any improvements to 101. Relocating 101 to the east would necessitate filling of wetlands. For this reason, opposition to this proposal from our organization and well as other environmental organizations can be anticipated. Also, this relocation and possibly other improvements have the potential to be growth inducing.

49

We did not receive notice of any of the meetings that have been held on this Plan. We are interested in participating in the continued planning, and in any other way we can be helpful, so would appreciate being added to the mailing list. To avoid

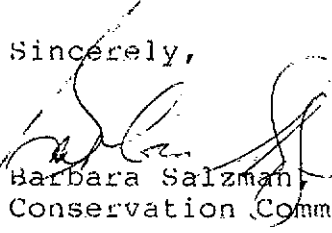
50

delays in forwarding from our P.O. Box, please send mailings to  
48 Ardmore Road, Larkspur, CA 94939.

50

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Salzman, Chair  
Conservation Committee

13 May 1988

Ken Pierce  
Environmental Rev. Sec.  
Calif. Dept. of Parks + Rec.  
Sacramento CA

Dear Mr. Pierce

RE: Olompali Master Plan

Without preamble of whys  
and wherefores here are my  
reactions/comments on the  
development and future use of  
Olompali SHP.

1. Keep horses out - leave the  
space for hikers, bird watchers,  
photographers.
  - trucks or vans with horse  
trailers take up more parking  
space
  - who wants to hike where horses  
have been!
  - there is provision for horse-  
back riding on Mt Suddell  
open space

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2. Concessions - fast food +  
beverage sales

- let people plan a picnic
- with the park so close to  
the highway it could become  
"a place to stop and get  
something to eat"

53

3. What is so bad about  
seeing where the rangers  
live

- in this case the residences  
are not glaringly obvious
- there are noticeably  
visible residences of rangers  
in most state parks
- plant trees or hedge
- seeing that there are people  
near by could be a  
protection for the park

54

For what they are worth there  
are my thoughts.

I have seen and used many  
of our state parks. I find them  
very informative as well as  
enjoyable. I have no doubt  
the same discoveries will be  
used to make Olompole a  
place of enjoyment for the  
greatest number of people.

Very truly yours  
Jean M Vandevort

J.M. VANDEVORT  
44 JADE CT. #16  
NOVATO, CA 94945-2361



May 9, 1988

State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Marin District Headquarters  
1455A Francisco Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 95904  
Att: Mr. Ron Brean

MAY 10 1988  
Dist. Supt. \_\_\_\_\_  
A.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
M.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
V.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
File \_\_\_\_\_  
cc's \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Brean:

The following comments are submitted in relation to the "Interim Report on Draft Environmental Report for the Olompali State Historic General Plan. Please enter them in the official comments on that plan.

Over a period of many years it has been my responsibility to review many land use plans prepared by both state and federal agencies. I found this one a pleasure to read, quite coherent and in general covered well most of the requirements of a good plan.

However, there were two subjects that appeared to be omitted that seemed most appropriate to include in a report of this type. These are:

1. Land stewardship

Every public agency that owns or controls land in the name of the public, has, in my opinion a responsibility for the protection and maintenance of that land and the public trust resources thereon. I speak of the basic resources of air, water, soil, vegetation and wildlife. If such lands are below the required standard of acceptable condition it becomes the responsibility of the public agency in control to see that the land and its resources are restored to at least this acceptable minimum standard. It makes no difference whether the damage was incurred prior to or during the ownership period of the public agency, the responsibility still remains.

In the present report, you indicate the presence of some serious soil erosion problems, which may have existed prior to your ownership. I found no proposed plan for correction of this problem. You were careful to assess the environmental impacts of the activities and facilities which you currently are planning to construct and operate and the mitigation of these problems.

It appears essential to give more details on the soil instability and erosion problem and how you plan to carry out corrective action until the minimum required standard has been met.

2. In carrying out the protection, maintenance and restoration of the natural environment, (and with particular emphasis upon soil protection) there should be more specific data provided on the magnitude of the problem, the methods that would be employed and some estimate of the general time and expense involved.

Realizing that funding for activities in such a situation may require the completion of progressive increments of soil protection until the task is completed, it might be well to include overall planning for such an endeavor.

In fact it would seem quite practical and realistic to establish priorities for the various aspects of the plan, and the required amount of funding necessary annually for a given period of years to see these projects through to completion.

These are some thoughts you might take into consideration on the final draft of the report. This would establish a more direct relationship between the plan proposals and what may be required to implement the plan.

Sincerely:

*Willis A. Evans*  
WILLIS A. EVANS

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April 30, 1988

James M. Doyle, Supervisor.  
Environmental Review Section  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Subject: Olompali State Historic Park General Plan  
Draft Environmental Impact Report  
SCH# 87041425

Please consider the following remarks in the continuing planning process for this park:

A.Noise assessment and mitigations.

The draft environmental impact report does not contain a quantitative analysis of noise generation from sources external to the park boundaries. The two primary sources of the external noise impact are 1) Highway 101 and 2) Marin County Airport - Gness Field. The magnitude of the present and estimated future noise conditions should be quantified, discussed in terms of the practical effect on the visitor experience and any potential mitigations identified for possible incorporation into the park's goal statements.

57

B.Relationship of the park to future Hwy. 101 improvements.

The DEIR discusses potential near term access improvements and the future interchange northerly of the park. Perhaps the text could also state that as a goal, "The Departments of Parks and Recreation and Transportation shall endeavor to enter into an interagency agreement to cooperate in the future detailed planning of the improvements to Highway 101. One of the key provisions of the agreement shall provide for development of alternative horizontal and vertical alignments of the future freeway adjacent to the park. The alternatives shall attempt to identify costs and benefits of, for example, increased horizontal separation of the freeway from the park, depressed or bermed freeway right of way, and the special landscape considerations appropriate to the freeway/park corridor."

58

C.General Plan - Facilities Element.

1. Trails. New (proposed) and existing trails along the most southerly and the most northerly portions of the park traverse very steep terrain. It should be a goal to maintain maximum trail gradients of 20%-25% in order to promote use, safety and enjoyment of the trail system.

59

2. Group picnic area. It is not clear if a group picnic area that provides privacy from general visitor use is to be included in the development.

3. Wedding site provision. Historical parks with elegant reminders of the past and quiet places are a source of park revenue and a service to the community. The goal statements might perhaps recognize this potential.

60

D.Interpretive element.

1. Relationship to other "Bear Flag Revolt" State Parks. I enclose a copy of the Park brochure for the William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park in Red Bluff. Olompali would seem to be a candidate "companion park" to the

61

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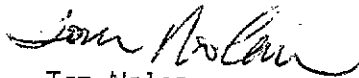
Ide park. Displays at both parks could call attention to the other and to the other related State Historic Parks.

2. Relationship of transportation methods and facilities to the Olompali site. The park history has spanned several cultural periods. The methods by which travel to the site has changed are easily visualized at this park. Perhaps this is because the view easterly from the park includes as the only conflicts with the natural scene: freeway, rail, air and waterway transportation elements. Also, the original El Camino Real passed through the park site proper.

-61  
cont'd

In closing, I want to congratulate all who were involved in the excellent park planning process to date. Thanks for this opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,



Tom Nolan  
174 San Felipe Way  
Novato, Calif. 94945

Enclosure

## **APPENDIX**

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203	<b>Appendix A. Newsletters</b>
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# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## The First Public Meeting

Please join us in planning the future of the Olompali State Historic Park. Our first public meeting will be held:

May 14, 1987, 7 p.m.

Novato Community House Council Chambers  
DeLong & Machin Avenues  
Novato

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, park planners will explain the general plan process and the role of public involvement in developing the plan. A presentation of the draft Resource Element, highlighting the significant cultural and natural resources of the park, will include policies recommended by the Department staff for protection and management of these resources. An "issues and concerns" workshop will be held followed by a question and comment period.

At that time, you will be asked to evaluate the alternatives and help formulate a single plan. The Planning Team will then refine the single plan into a draft general plan for your review at a third public meeting in December 1987. The final document will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission in the Summer 1988. There, too, you will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

For information call Laura Lafier, Project Manager with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, (415) 383-7900.

## General Plan Underway

The California State Parks Foundation has contracted Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey to prepare a General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park to be presented as a gift to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The purpose of the plan will be to provide general guidelines for management of the resources and development of facilities at the park. The general plan for this unit will serve as a flexible, comprehensive and long-range planning document. To do this effectively the general plan must:

- o identify the cultural and natural resources of the park.
- o identify existing and future problems and provide solutions.
- o determine land use, park development and visitor activities which are compatible with the park and surrounding areas.

- o determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities.
- o establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation of the resources, development of facilities and interpretation of resource values.

Throughout the general plan process, the public is a vital member of the planning team. Your participation is requested at the public workshops to be held during the next year. At our first meeting we need your help in identifying issues and concerns: what recreation opportunities are needed, what facilities you would like developed, what lands should remain in their natural condition, and which natural, historical and cultural values should be enhanced or interpreted.

Park planners will use this information to develop several alternative plans to be presented to you at a second workshop in July 1987.

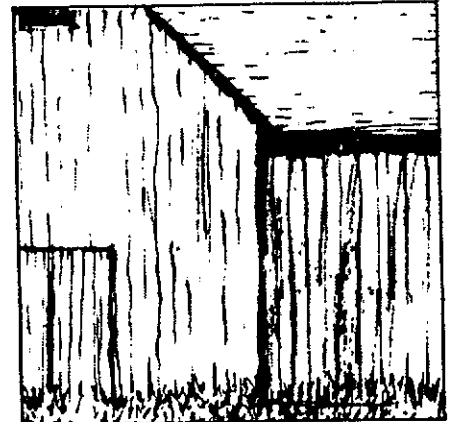
## OPEN HOUSE

Olompali State  
Historic Park  
Sunday June 21, 1987  
(Father's Day)  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Gates Unlocked

Bring a picnic and enjoy: Elizabeth Terwilliger (and her Nature Van), a Docent led History and Nature Hike, and the Traditional Pomo Indian Youth Dancers. For sale: soft drinks, Olompali shirts, and tickets for special prizes.

For information call:  
(415) 456-1286 or  
479-4654.

Fund Raiser Sponsored by the Olompali People, a committee of the California State Parks Foundation.



# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## For Your Information

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, under contract to the California State Parks Foundation, is preparing a General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park to be presented as a gift to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. On May 14, 1987, the planning team held the first in a series of local public involvement workshops. This newsletter is published to inform you of the identified issues and concerns, the progress of the planning process and of upcoming events.

## First Public Meeting

Thirty people attended our first public meeting. We would like to thank each of you for your participation and for sharing your ideas with the planning team.

Pierre Joske, Foundation Project Manager, introduced the planning team and the purpose and content of the General Plan. June Gardner, President of The Olompali People, presented a slide narrative on the State Park's flow of history from Miwok Indians to the Burdell Mansion. Asa Hanamoto and Laura Lafler from Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, along with Malcolm Sproul from LSA, summarized the Resource Inventory highlighting significant natural resources of the unit.

Dr. Paul Nesbitt, State Historian, presented the draft Resource Element including policies recommended by State Departmental Staff for protection and management of the cultural and natural resources. (The Draft Resource Element can be obtained by contacting Gudrun Baxter, Development Division, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA. 94296-0001 or call 916/322-7088.)

The following summary outlines comments, concerns and ideas expressed by people at the public meeting as well as others who have contacted us. These comments are not intended to represent a public consensus on any particular issue, but indicate the variety of issues and concerns expressed. 204

## Interpretation

- o Provide history on Sir Francis Drake
- o Work with Marin Museum of American Indians in preparing Interpretive Element
- o Recommend Governor to request Miwok artifacts from Russian museums
- o Emphasize continuum of history, not just one period
- o Highlight visual graphics for interpretation
- o Include Jesuits and commune era in interpretation
- o Preserve adobe and mansion as relics rather than complete restoration
- o Seek input from Chinese community
- o Check with Mosquito Abatement District for evidence of historic rice paddies
- o Restore design intent of Burdell Gardens

## Access

- o Resolve site access with CALTRANS and adjacent property owners
- o Connect Olompali SHP to Burdell Island with trails
- o Remove proposed Open Space District trail crossing property to south of Olompali SHP from Resource Inventory Recreative Resources Map
- o Work with Marin County Highway 101 study in resolving access to site
- o Design access for the handicapped

## Day Use Facilities

- o Provide picnic tables and lawn area near Mansion/Adobe complex
- o Encourage use of site for contemporary Indian gatherings (e.g. Kule Loklo at Pt. Reyes)

## Resource Issues

- o Maintain walnut orchard
- o Perform controlled grass burning without jeopardizing Highway 101

## Other Issues

- o Involve local groups (e.g. Scouts) in site development and maintenance
- o Restrict mountain bikes
- o Screen ranger residences and operations from public view

## Upcoming Public Workshop

The results of the first public workshop will help us to develop land use alternatives. These alternatives will contain specific proposals regarding such things as road alignments, parking improvements, trail circulation, day-use improvements and interpretive facilities. We will present the proposed alternatives for your evaluation and discussion at the next public workshop:

**July 22, 1987, 7 p.m.  
Novato Community House  
Council Chambers**

If you wish to communicate with us before then, write Laura Lafler, Project Manager with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, 225 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA. 94942-0937 or call 415/383-7900.

## OPEN HOUSE

**Olompali State  
Historic Park  
Sunday June 21, 1987  
(Father's Day)  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Gate Unlocked**

Bring a picnic and enjoy: Elizabeth Terwilliger (and her Nature Van), a Docent led History and Nature Hike, and the Traditional Pomo Indian Youth Dancers. For sale: soft drinks, Olompali shirts, and tickets for special prizes.

For information call:  
(415) 456-1286 or  
479-4654.



# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us in planning the future of the Olompali State Historic Park. Our second public meeting will be held:

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1987, 7 p.m.**  
**NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**  
**OFFICE BUILDING**  
**1015 7th STREET**  
**7th STREET AND GRANT AVENUE**  
**NOVATO**

(parking in rear from 7th St. access)

## GENERAL PLAN IN PROGRESS

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, under contract to the California State Parks Foundation, is preparing a General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park to be presented as a gift to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. On May 14, 1987, the planning team held the first in a series of local public involvement workshops.

Major concerns expressed at the public hearing addressed issues related to interpretation, access, day use facilities and site resources.

In order to assemble a comprehensive understanding

of site and program alternatives, we then met with the other planning team members: Pete Dangermond, parks/recreation consultant; Howard Schureman, interpretive/theme; and Bill Sugaya, architectural preservation. As a result of these meetings we have developed alternatives addressing **Land Use** (access, parking, interpretation center, day camps, etc.), **Interpretive Programs** (periods, themes facilities); **Facilities** (historic buildings, administration); and **Operations** (program, concessions). These alternatives are interrelated and decisions about one issue may have resulting impacts on several alternatives. At our second public meeting we need your help in evaluating and discussing these alternatives in order to reach a consensus and

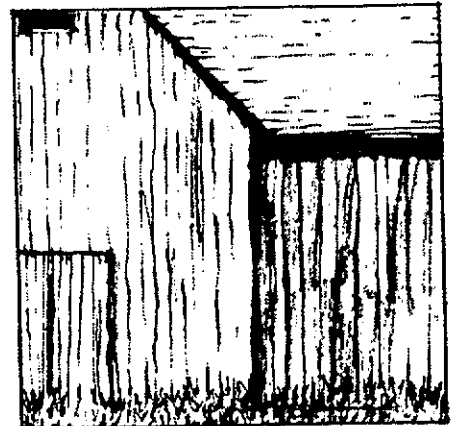
help formulate a single plan. The Planning Team will then refine the single plan into a draft general plan for your review at a third public meeting in December 1987. The final document will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission in the Summer 1988. There, too, you will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

For information call Laura Lafler, with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, (415) 383-7900.

## OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

The Olompali People were extremely pleased with an estimated 450 people attending the Open House at the park on June 21st, Father's Day. It was wonderful to see families bring a blanket and a picnic and settle down under a tree in the garden as though this were a normal everyday occasion at Olompali. We all enjoyed Elizabeth Terwilliger and her nature van. With such a big crowd I gave my history talk three times during the day. Toward the end of the day, the young Pomo Dancers, in authentic replicas of Miwok costumes, were in a perfect setting to show their art. We look forward to another open house this fall, perhaps on an equestrian theme.

June Gardner, President  
Olompali People





# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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On July 22, 1987, the Planning Team held the second local involvement workshop to discuss site and program alternatives. This newsletter is published to inform you about the discussion of these alternatives, and the progress of the planning process.

## SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

Over forty people attended our second meeting. We would like to thank each of you for your participation and for sharing your ideas with the Planning Team.

Pierre Joske, Foundation Project Manager, introduced the planning team and the purpose and content of the General Plan.

**LAND USE** - Asa Hanamoto and Laura Lafler from Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, presented land use alternatives: access at the existing entry or from the Northern property line along a frontage road; parking along U.S. 101 or within the park site; an interpretive center within existing buildings or in a new structure near parking areas; and other alternatives related to trail connections, day camps, equestrian staging, restoring the Burdell Gardens, managing the walnut orchard and acquiring additional land.

**INTERPRETATION** - Howard Schureman, interpretive consultant, presented alternatives for the interpretive program: interpreting a "flow of history" from Indian occupation to present day restoration or a "window of history" highlighting one period of history (e.g. Burdell Family); a new interpretive center or within renovated historic buildings like the barns; and other alternatives related to outdoor exhibits and interpretive trails.

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS** - Bill Sugaya from Architectural Resources Group summarized the Site Inspection Report, a visual inspection of building exteriors, and presented restoration-renovation alternatives for the Burdell Mansion / Camillo Ynitia Adobe and other buildings throughout the park site.

**PROGRAMS - CONCESSIONS** - Laura Lafler concluded the Planning Team presentation with a discussion

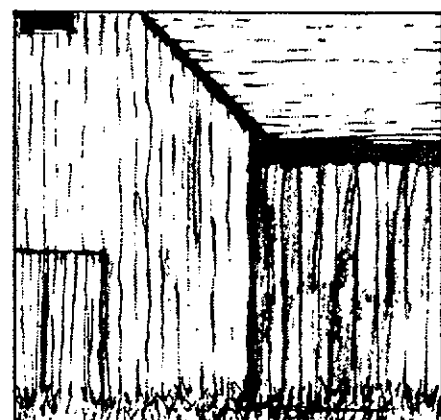
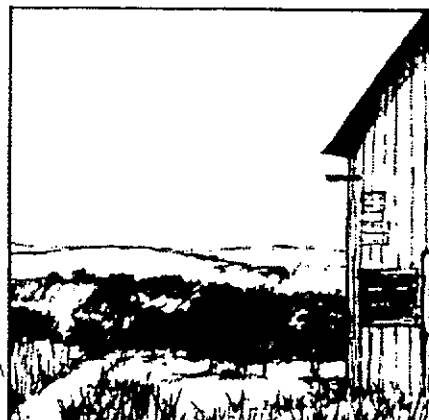
of program and concession alternatives which emphasize public involvement such as: a restored walnut orchard, live farm animals, a sample archaeological dig, Indian ceremonies, historic reenactments, living history camps, buggy rides, etc. (The Olompali State Historic Park Alternatives Report, can be obtained by contacting Gudrun Baxter, Development Division, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001 or call 916/322-7088.)

Following a brief question and answer period, people organized into individual groups to discuss and evaluate the above alternatives outlined in an Alternatives Evaluation Worksheet

## GENERAL PLAN IN PROGRESS

We are now evaluating the responses developed at the public workshop and will be meeting with State Park and Recreation personnel in the near future to formulate a single plan. The Planning Team will then refine the single plan into a draft general plan for your review at a third public meeting in December 1987. The final document will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission in the Summer 1988. There, too, you will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

For information call Laura Lafler, with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (415) 383-7900.



# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## THE THIRD PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us in planning the future of the Olompali State Historic Park. Our third public meeting will be held:

Thursday, October 29, 1987 at 7 P.M.

Simmons House  
900 Sherman Avenue  
Sherman and De Long  
Novato

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, under contract to the California State Parks Foundation is preparing a General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park to be presented as a gift to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

On May 14, 1987, the Planning Team held the first in a series of local involvement workshops. Major concerns expressed at the public hearing addressed issues related to interpretation, access, day use facilities and site resources.

On July 22, 1987, the Planning Team held the second local public involvement workshop to discuss site and program alternatives including **Land Use ; Interpretation ; Historic Buildings; and Programs - Concessions.** Following a brief question and answer period, people organized into individual groups to discuss and evaluate the above alternatives outlined in an Alternatives Evaluation Worksheet. The public generally favored;

- o Parking near existing entry along U.S. 101;
- o Looping existing trails and connecting the Marin County Open Space District Trails;

- o Using existing buildings for interpretive center either in barns or Burdell Frame House;
- o Relocating rangers residences to Worm Farm area;
- o Providing equestrian staging; providing day camps;
- o Restoring Burdell Gardens and walnut orchard; rebuilding conservatory;
- o Acquiring additional lands, particularly portions of the canyon to the northwest of the site;
- o Interpreting a "flow of history" from Indian occupation to present day restoration;
- o Providing interpretive trails both historic and nature;
- o Designing on-site interpretation and outdoor exhibits;
- o Stabilizing adobe with shelter;
- o Cleaning mansion and stabilizing some vertical elements;
- o Renovating exterior and interior of other buildings for meetings and administrative use,
- o Recreating history;
- o Encouraging outside private groups in running programs;
- o Allowing some concessions.

State Park and Recreation personnel also reviewed the proposed alternatives. In general, the State concurred with the opinions from the Planning Team and the public with a major addition: a Parking Alternative #4, located south of the main historic area, at the base of the hill, along the existing firebreak road. Access to this area, in the short term, would be via the existing main entrance off 101, with an immediate left turn across the creek,

following the general alignment of the existing firebreak up to the parking site. In the long term, after Caltrans moves the lanes of U.S. 101 to the east and allows the existing southbound lanes to be used as a park frontage road, a more direct route east from the parking area could be explored.

In visiting the site and in reviewing the initial criteria for the park entrance, circulation, historic continuity, parking and access this parking alternative appears to be a good solution for the following reasons: (1) adequate space to park required number of cars; (2) relatively level area, previously used as a parking area and therefore requiring minimal grading; (3) adequate separation between parking area and historic area so as to not interfere with historic "feeling"; (4) convenient access for handicapped and elderly; (5) minimal visibility from the rest of the site and Highway 101; and (6) minimal disruption to existing facilities, archeological or natural features. For this parking either the Burdell Frame House or a new building on the periphery of the historic zone could be the main interpretive center.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOP

At the upcoming public workshop the Planning Team will present a Preliminary General Plan which incorporates the above information from both the public and the State personnel. A Draft EIR will accompany the Draft General Plan to be submitted to the State in December, 1987. The final document will be submitted to the State Park and Recreation Commission in the Summer 1988. There, too, you will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

For information call Laura Lafler, with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey (415) 383-7900.

# OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey, under contract to the California State Parks Foundation is preparing a General Plan for Olompali State Historic Park to be presented as a gift to the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

On May 14, 1987, the Planning Team held the first in a series of local involvement workshops. Major concerns expressed at the public hearing addressed issues related to interpretation, access, day use facilities and site resources.

On July 22, 1987, the Planning Team held the second local public involvement workshop to discuss site and program alternatives including Land Use; Interpretation; Historic Buildings; and Programs - Concessions.

On October 29, 1987, the Planning Team held the third and last public workshop to discuss the Draft General Plan. This newsletter is published to inform you about the discussion of the General Plan and the future of the planning process.

## THIRD PUBLIC MEETING

Over forty people attended our third meeting. We appreciate everyone's participation in each of the workshops over the past few months.

Pierre Joske, Foundation Project Manager, introduced the planning team and the purpose and content of the General Plan. Gudrun Baxter, from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, commended the California Parks Foundation, the Olompali People and the Planning Team. Asa Hanamoto and Laura Lafler from Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey presented the proposed General Plan maps: Trail Linkages and Historic Area.

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## DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

The Plan incorporates a CALTRANS proposal to relocate Highway 101 to the east and use the existing southbound lanes as a frontage road. Access to the park would be west from the frontage road to a parking area south of the main historic area. Until the frontage road is implemented, access could be through the existing entrance and then loop south to the parking area. The Burdell Frame House would be the main interpretative/visitors center with administrative offices upstairs.

Other plan features include: stabilize and protect mansion/adobe ruins; retain concrete platform; reconstruct conservatory; restore garden; use barns for display/rustic sleeping quarters; interpret equipment in blacksmith shop; restore exterior and use interiors of Houses 1 & 2 for interpretation or small group use; manage walnut orchard; relocate employees' residences; and link trails for hiking.

## GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

Over the next month, the Planning Team will prepare the Draft General Plan Report. Concurrently LSA, the environmental consultant, will prepare the Draft EIR. These reports will be submitted to the State in December, 1987.

Both the Draft General Plan and the Draft EIR will be available for public review after January 15, 1988 at some Marin

County libraries or by contacting the following agencies or organizations:

State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Development Division (Gudrun Baxter)  
916/322-7088

California State Park Foundation  
415/461-2773

Olompali People (June Gardner)  
415/479-4654

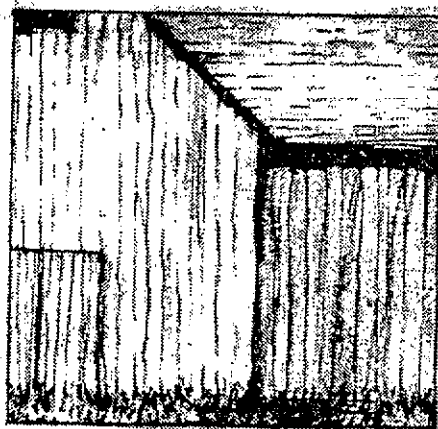
State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Marin District (Ron Brea)  
415/456-1286

State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Northern Region Headquarters (Gary Shannon)  
707/576-2331

The Olompali People may hold a public meeting in February, 1988 to discuss the Draft General Plan and Draft EIR. A meeting announcement will be published in the local papers. If you want to be notified about this meeting please contact June Gardner c/o Olompali People P.O. Box 1400, Novato, CA 94948.

In the spring, following State review of the Draft General Plan and Draft EIR these two documents will be presented to the State Park and Recreation Commission as the Preliminary General Plan on July 8, 1988. The public is invited to attend this hearing and comment on the Plan. The Planning Team will then notify the public through the last newsletter of the action taken by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

For further information or comments call Laura Lafler, with Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey 415/383-7900.



## OLOMPALI STATE HISTORIC PARK ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION SHEET

Welcome to tonight's meeting.

On the following sheets, you will find listed 16 specific alternatives for Olompali State Historic Park. Beneath each section is listed a number of land use or interpretive options suitable to the area. We will be presenting and discussing these options at tonight's meeting. Each option results from the Planning Team's evaluation of the natural and cultural resources, operational needs, and public use/public concerns.

Please consider the most feasible option under each area you are concerned about. Space is provided under each option for you to write in either additional justification or problems regarding each proposal.

## 1. PARKING

- A. - Locate parking north of existing entry road adjacent to U.S. 101 - Alternative 1.
- 
- 

- B. Locate parking in the vicinity of the ranger's residences - Alternative 2.
- 
- 

- C. Locate parking across the road from the Walnut Orchard - Alternative 3.
- 
- 

## 2. CIRCULATION

- A. Maintain existing trails.
- 
- 

- B. Connect existing trails to create loops within the park boundaries.
- 
- 

- C. Loop existing trails and connect to Marin County Open Space District trails (both existing and proposed).
- 
- 

## 3. INTERPRETIVE CENTER

- A. Site new structure for interpretation in the vicinity of existing parking.
- 
-

A. Site new structure for interpretation across the road from the Walnut Orchard.

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B. Restore exteriors and redesign barn interiors to use as interpretive center.

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C. Site new structure for interpretation south of the rangers' residences.

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D. Burdell Frame House for interpretive center.

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#### 4. RANGERS' RESIDENCES

A. Leave rangers' residences in present location.

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B. Relocate rangers' residences to the Worm Farm area.

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#### 5. EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA

A. Improve trails for equestrian use; provide hitching post and water outside of historic area, allowing pedestrian access.

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B. Provide staging area with parking for trucks/trailers, water, restrooms, connections to trails and interpretive signing; along with above improvements (5A).

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6. DAY CAMPS

A. Not provide any day camp facilities.

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B. Provide day camps in one or two designated areas.

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7. BURDELL GARDEN

A. Leave as is.

---

---

B. Restore and maintain garden, interpret.

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---

8. WALNUT ORCHARD

A. Leave as is.

---

---

B. Restore and manage orchard, interpret.

---

---

9. CONSERVATORY

A. Interpret conservatory, but not rebuild.

---

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B. Rebuild conservatory, grow plants for garden, interpret.

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10. LAND ACQUISITION (only with willing sellers)

A. Not acquire any additional land.

---

---

B. Portions of canyon to northwest of site.

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C. Burdell Island to U.S. 101.

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D. Portions of property to the south of the site.

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E. Area of historic quarry.

---

---

11. INTERPRETIVE PERIODS

A. Interpret a "flow of history" from Indian occupation to present day restoration.

---

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B. Interpret a "window of history" highlighting one period of history, e.g., Burdell Family.

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12. INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

A. Interpretive Center

(1) Use existing buildings:

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(2) Design new building:

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B. On-site Interpretation/Outdoor Exhibition.

(1) Miwok Village

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(2) Adobe

---

(3) Burdell buildings (frame house, barns, etc.)

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C. Interpretive Trails

(1) Historic trails (e.g. Camino Real)

---

(2) The Burdell Gardens

---

(3) The Walnut Orchard

---

(4) Nature trails (e.g. riparian walk)

---

### 13. CAMILLO ADOBE/BURDELL MANSION

A. Stabilize adobe, clean up debris, build shelter, allow visual access.

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B. Mansion - clean debris, remove structure leaving only ground level elements (brick, concrete walks, porches).

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- C. Mansion - clean debris, keep ground level elements, stabilize chimneys, some facades and other vertical elements.
- 
- 

14. BURDELL BUILDINGS (Frame House, Cook House, Blacksmith Shop, House #1 & #2, Barns)

- A. Renovate exteriors only.
- 
- 

- B. Renovate exteriors & interiors and interpret.
- 
- 

- C. Renovate exteriors & interiors and use for meeting rooms, overnight housing or administration.
- 
- 

- D. Renovate exteriors and recreate a period of history within (e.g. actual blacksmith working in shop).
- 
- 

15. PROGRAMS FOR OLOMPALI

- A. Maintain park site only for State interpretation with no outside groups involved.
- 
- 

- B. Encourage outside private groups to participate in planning and running programs.
- 
- 

- C. Suggestions for possible additions to proposed programs?
- 
-

## 16. CONCESSIONS

- A. Discourage any concession operations within park site (aside from postcards, books, etc.)

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- B. Allow some concessions (e.g. living history, horsedrawn buggy rides, etc.)

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- C. Suggestions for additional concessions?

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The following are miscellaneous issues. These are not tied to a specific area, but recommendations may be made in the General Plan regarding them:

### EQUESTRIAN USE

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### MOUNTAIN BIKE USE

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---

### OTHER CONCERNS

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---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you already on our mailing list?  YES  NO

## ACQUISITION HISTORY

Olompali SHP has played a significant historical role in the Native American and subsequent Euroamerican history of California. The following historical sketch traces the history of this property:

1000 From at least this date Coast Miwoks lived at Olompali.

1400 It was one of the largest Miwok trading villages in Marin.

1776 Beginning of the end for the Coast Miwok people. Franciscan priests trying to improve spiritual lot of the natives brought diseases and other problems.

1834 Leadership of Rancho Olompali passed to Camilo Ynitia (Christian name for a young Miwok). Adobe houses were replacing Miwok huts.

1843 Ynitia was granted Rancho Olompali, two leagues of land (more or less). He was the only Native Californian Indian to have his land grant confirmed and patented by the United States government.

1852 Camilo Ynitia sold most of his property to James Black, Marin County assessor.

1863 When James Black's daughter, Maria Augustina, married Dr. Galen Burdell, their wedding present was Olompali. During the 1870s the young couple started development of their land.

1911 Burdell's son, James Black Burdell, encased his parent's home with its adobe in an elaborate mansion.

1932 Olompali designated California State Landmark No. 210.

1942 The widowed Josephine Sweetser Burdell sold the land and mansion. After a string of owners, a commune called "The Chosen Family" moved in.

1969 On February 2, a fire broke out and gutted the mansion and left the adobe walls standing.

1972 Rancho Olompali accepted in National Registry as historic site.

1977 The State of California purchased Rancho Olompali.

1981 Rancho Olompali was classified as a state historic park in December by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

1982 The Olompali People organization was established.

(For more information on the unit's history, please refer to the Resource Element.)

### **Encumbrances**

All of the following are easements or agreements attached to the Olompali property:

1. Easement for free flow of water of the Olompali Creek flowing east from Burdell Mountain through the historic area.
2. Rights of way for existing fire roads.
3. Reservation of water rights and pipeline; relinquishment of access and abutters rights (Deeds).
4. Agreement for water pipeline easement (Agreement).
5. Roadway easement to Pacific Telephone and Telegraph (Easement)
6. Easement for water pipes and mains along entire easterly boundary to North Marin County Water District.
7. Reversionary clause in deed to Marin County Open Space District.
8. Perpetual agreement with federal government through Land and Water Conservation Fund Agreement No. 06-00579.

Source: Olompali State Historic Park Land Ownership Record, Dept of Parks and Recreation July 26, 1983

## SELECTED REFERENCES

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California Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning Division. Recreation Outlook in Planning District 4. An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan, June 1979.

Wittenkeller, Brian. Land Management Plan for the Mount Burdell Open Space Preserve, Marin County, California. Prepared for the Marin County Open Space District, August 1983.

References for the Resource Element are included in the Olompali State Historic Park Resource Inventory on file with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Resource Protection Division, in Sacramento.



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