

**UNIT 239**

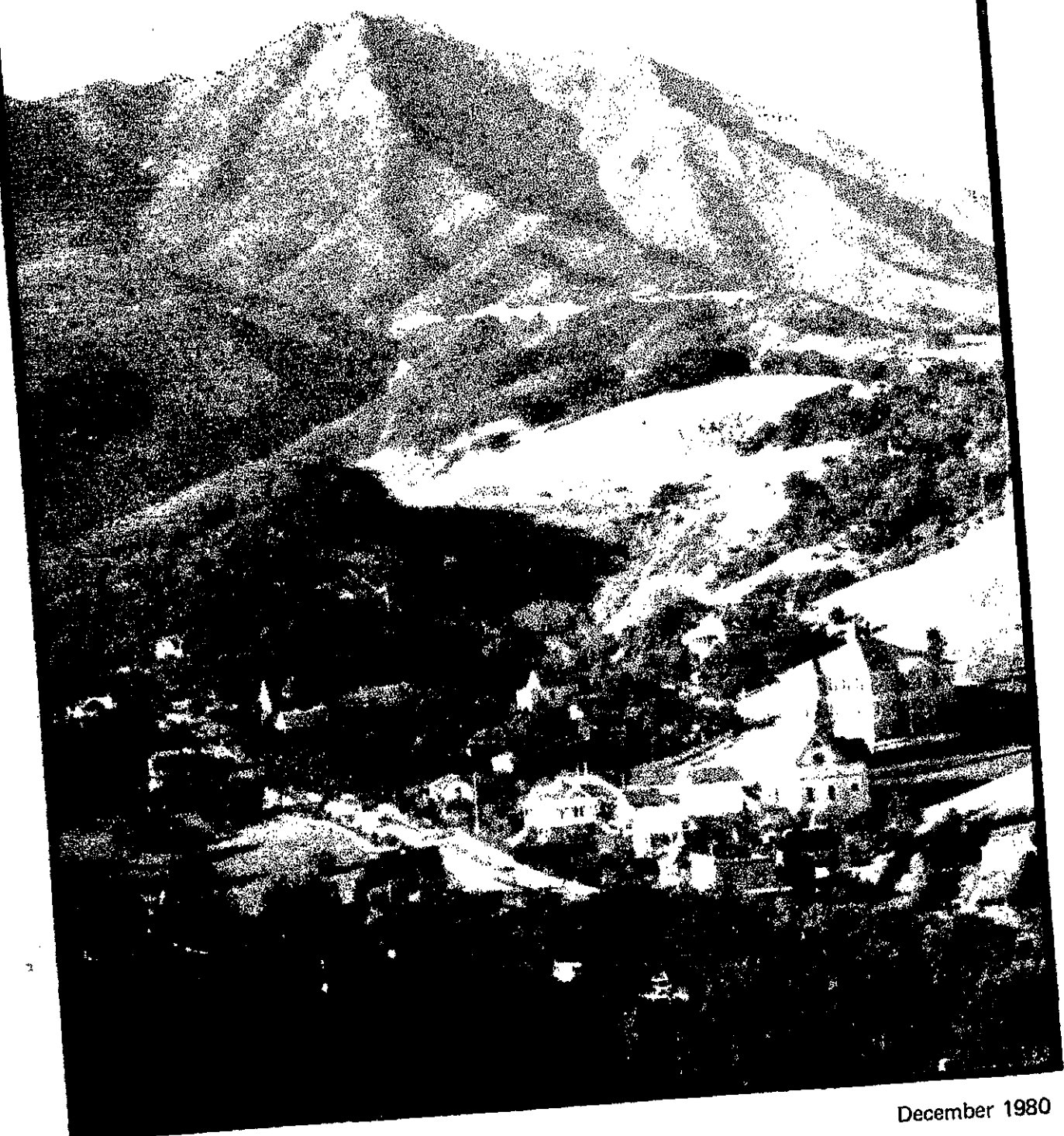
**MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK**

**GENERAL PLAN**

**October 1979**

MCS. EDSONY 1

# MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN



December 1980



State of California – The Resources Agency  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 52-79  
Resolution adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Jose  
October 12, 1979

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

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plan as to provide for the 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 General Plan for the Mount Tamalpais State Park, preliminary dated August 1979, subject to the following amendments:

1. The concession on East Peak shall remain.
2. With regard to eucalyptus trees, the Department of Parks and Recreation shall not remove more than 10% a year and then only if the Department replaces them with plant materials compatible with the Resource Element.
3. Eliminate the hostel at Steep Ravine.
4. In Frank's Valley do not implement camping at Riley Meadows or Warm Springs until necessary mitigation measures to protect the spawning beds have been determined in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game.

AND, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 28A-80  
Resolution adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Francisco, California  
July 11, 1980

WHEREAS, the anadromous fishery of Redwood Creek is one of the few reproducing runs existing near a major metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, this fishery has high scientific, educational, recreational, and natural values; and

WHEREAS, the anadromous fishery in Redwood Creek flowing through Mount Tamalpais State Park is a fragile resource that requires careful management and protection; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation wishes to protect and enhance this natural resource; and

WHEREAS, recreational development in Frank Valley should be done in a manner that is compatible with the environment; and

WHEREAS, the management and protection of the Redwood Creek watershed is shared responsibility of all who make use of this resource;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director is requested to work towards the implementation of a monitoring system for Redwood Creek to assess impacts on the watershed and anadromous fish population and to utilize the results of this monitoring system when considering development in Frank Valley Area. The Director is also requested to work closely with the National Park Service, the Department of Fish and Game, the Muir Beach Community, and other agencies to study the management of the Redwood Creek watershed and collectively explore methods of water conservation and water use to enhance the watershed for the benefit of both the natural values and the people of California.



Resolution 29A-80  
Resolution adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Francisco, California  
July 11, 1980

WHEREAS, there is a need for hostel facilities in Northern California;  
and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has a funded program for the development of hostels, pursuant to the Coast Hostel Facilities Plan, adopted by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Department has identified in that plan a hostel at Mount Tamalpais State Park; and

WHEREAS, a hostel located at Mount Tamalpais State Park would provide an important link in the coastal system of hostels now operating in San Francisco and Marin Counties; and

WHEREAS, a site at Kent Canyon, within Mount Tamalpais State Park, would be appropriate for the development of a hostel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Plan for Mount Tamalpais State Park is amended to show a hostel at Kent Canyon and a 15-car parking lot to serve it. Development of the hostel shall be preceded by adequate environmental documentation, including a public hearing thereon.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 30A-80  
Resolution adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in San Francisco, California  
July 11, 1980

BE IT RESOLVED, that development of any camping at Kent Canyon and/or Frank Valley whether campgrounds are privately donated or publicly financed shall be delayed until:

1. completion of a comprehensive multi-agency study of management for the Redwood Creek Watershed area, and this Commission has the opportunity to review advisability of any camping in this area;
2. completion of a comprehensive document complying with California Environmental Quality Act relating to development as proposed in this plan for Kent Canyon; and
3. provide that there will be an 18 month delay from this date, of any campground development, in order to give Golden Gate National Recreation Area an opportunity to identify alternative additional campground sites on Golden Gate National Recreation Area land.

MOUNT TAMALPAIS - GENERAL PLAN

December 1980

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

Huey D. Johnson  
Secretary for Resources

Pete Dangermond, Jr.  
Director



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
P.O. Box 2390  
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STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1979

Mount Tamalpais State Park

Resolution GGNRA, one page

Commissioner Norris then moved the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Jones and approved by voice vote. (Four AYES and one NO.)

Resolution (53-79)

WHEREAS, there is a high demand for automobile access family-type campsites in and near the greater San Francisco metropolitan area, and a substantial lack of existing facilities in the coastal and near-coastal area; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Preliminary Plan does not provide for automobile access camping facilities; and

WHEREAS, absent such provision, the use can be met only at State or local campgrounds far removed from the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, this would have an adverse impact on the recreation experience of large numbers of urban families because of increased travel time and costs, and is also uneconomical use of energy resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Director is requested to work closely with the National Park Service to the end that automobile access family camping may be supplied within appropriate areas of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. If that use is not accommodated in the GGNRA Plan, the Director is requested to evaluate the allowable use intensity of the Kent Canyon and Hidden Meadow areas in Franks Valley and, if compatible with the resource management element, present this Commission with an amendment to the Mount Tamalpais General Plan which would provide for automobile access camping in those areas.

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# Summary

Mount Tamalpais State Park is one of the oldest and most popular units of the State Park System. It is located about 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of San Francisco. Totalling some 2,555 hectares (6,314 acres), the park features many kinds of natural environments -- Douglas fir, redwood, and bay tree forests; grass-covered ridges alternating with deep canyons; bluffs and beaches on the Pacific shore; and of course lofty Mount Tamalpais itself, which rises 794 meters (2,604 feet), making it the highest peak in Marin County and a distinct landmark of the Bay Area. The park's numerous trails and nearly pristine features beckon many visitors.

Along with increased use of the park has come a better realization of problems and prospects which this general plan attempts to deal with. The plan measures and makes recommendations concerning four vital areas of park life -- resources, recreation, facilities, and transportation.

## Resources

Management policies have been drawn up to govern the protection and preservation of abiotic, plant, animal, cultural, and esthetic resources.

The plan calls for control of geologic hazards, erosion, water diversion, and water pollution; protection of rare or endangered plants and unique vegetation; and removal or control of nonnative plants. The feasibility of an ecological burning program will be studied, and a fire protection plan will be implemented. Wildlife habitats will be restored when possible, and the natural fishery in Redwood Creek will be protected. Regulations on dogs and other domestic animals will be strictly enforced.

Several remaining historic structures and ruins, including the Tavern at Tamalpais, the Mountain Theater, and the CCC camp near Camp Alice Eastwood will be preserved.

The plan emphasizes protection of the special scenery of the park through controls on architecture and placement of powerlines and facilities. One distractive powerline is recommended to be rerouted outside the park. New landscaping will use only native plants.

## Recreation

Demand for recreation at the park is divided between people who want structured activities and facilities and those who want to go their own way. There is a deficiency in the area in day-use and overnight-use facilities, but the park is not suited to accommodate any significant level of facility development. Therefore, it is proposed that recreation use be diverse, with emphasis on day-use activities focusing on the 58 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails. Recreation use will be appropriate to the park classification and within the capabilities of the resources to accommodate it.

## Facilities

Facility development at the park will provide for recreation use, interpretive programs, and operational needs. Traditional activities will be retained and improvements made to enhance visitor experiences.

A total of 55 picnic sites (existing and new) will be provided in areas of scenic or environmental interest. Eighty walk-in multi-use sites will be located in the Frank Valley area; two similar areas will be provided at Pan Toll and the Tree Farm; while group use areas will be retained at Camp Alice Eastwood and another designated in the Santos Meadow equestrian area.

### Transportation

The solution of existing traffic congestion and parking deficiencies was identified as possibly the most important planning consideration requiring action by the department and other agencies.

The recommendations in the plan are based on coordination with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), which operates Muir Woods National Monument within the park boundaries, and local and state transportation agencies. The use of public transportation instead of automobiles is to be encouraged by the addition of bus stops and the extension of shuttle service. A visitor information and orientation station will be established at Diaz Ridge, where parking is proposed. The department will work closely with GGNRA to encourage transit use and to make visitors aware at Diaz Ridge of traffic and parking conditions at Stinson Beach, Muir Woods, and Mount Tamalpais. Additional transportation studies will be made to pinpoint mutual needs and establish solutions with other agencies.

### Plan Implementation

Because the preservation of the natural and cultural resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park is a prime objective of the plan, certain specific measures recommended in the Resource Element to achieve this goal will be implemented as soon as possible, including covering the tavern foundations at East Peak, relocating overhead transmission lines, and controlling exotic plants. Some of these could be carried out under the minor capital outlay or operations program.

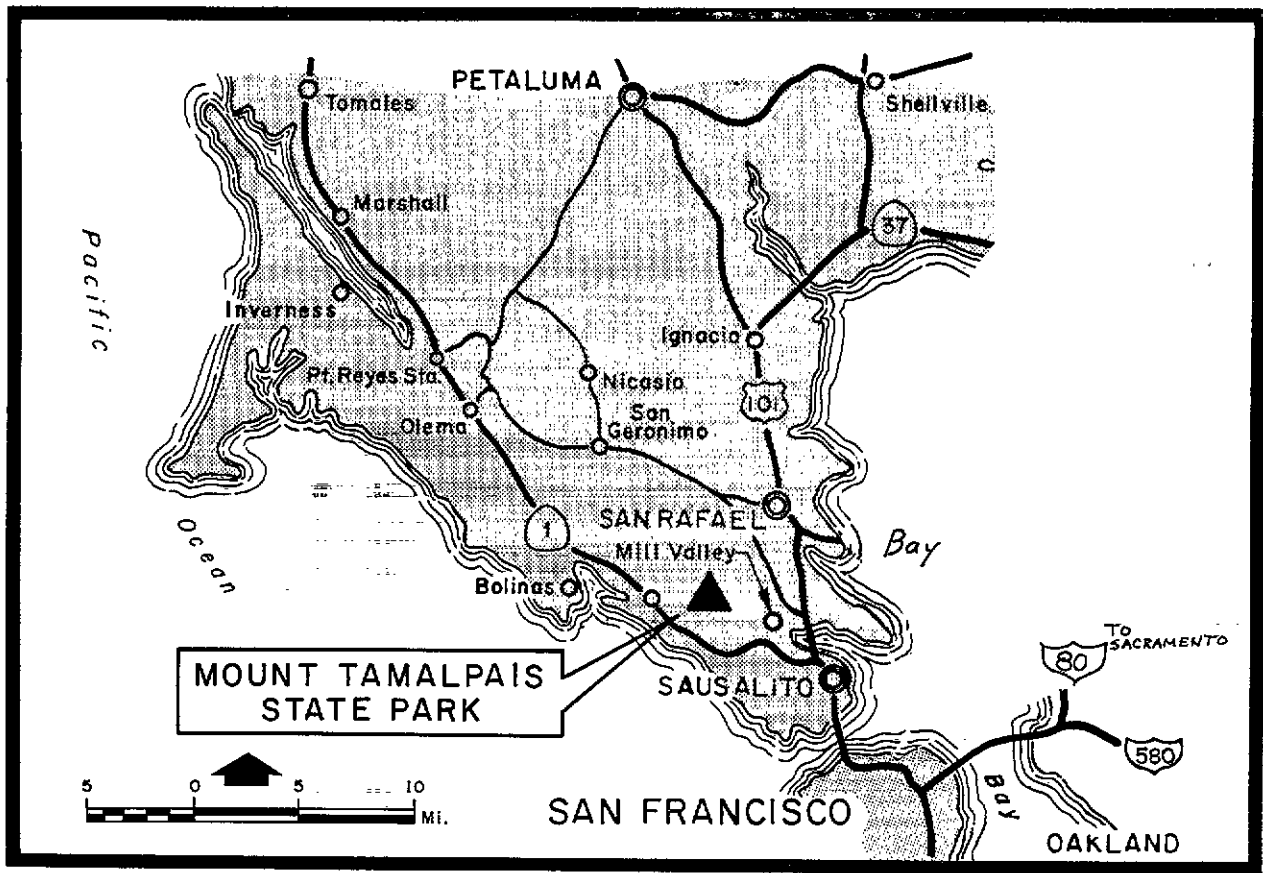
Incremental development is desirable in terms of financing, evaluating public use, determining additional demand, and protecting the environment.

Priorities for implementing the general plan developments are as follows:

1. Developing a hostel at Kent Canyon, subject to legislative concurrence. (The legislature has provided funds for a hostel at the Steep Ravine area of Mt. Tamalpais, but the State Park and Recreation Commission rejected the General Plan proposal for this hostel.)
2. Developing multi-use facilities at Kent Canyon and a comfort station at Red Rock Beach. Upgrading East Peak area.
3. Developing the Diaz Ridge entrance facility.
4. Developing a Riley's Meadow multi-use facility in Frank Valley, a trail camp along the Pacific Coastal Trail at the Tree Farm, and improving parking areas and transit stops.
5. Developing the balance of facilities in Frank Valley, proposed picnic areas, and other improvements.

## Environmental Impact

The plan's Environmental Impact Element foresees a significant irreversible environmental change in the park in the loss of open space, wildlife habitat, wildlife, and vegetation because of the development of new facilities in undeveloped areas and increases in visitors. Various mitigation measures are proposed to reduce these effects and to offset other impacts.



# INTRODUCTION







## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose and Goals of Plan

The purpose of this General Plan is to provide general guidelines for the park's management and development in accordance with the unit's classification as a state park. Since the natural resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park make it unique, development and management should focus on the preservation, interpretation, and public use of its natural and scenic values.

The specific goals of the plan were:

1. Identify the park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
2. Establish policies for management, protection, use, and interpretation of these resources.
3. Identify existing and future problems and provide solutions.
4. Determine visitor activities and land uses that are compatible with the purpose of the park, preservation of resources, and the surrounding areas.
5. Determine the potential environmental impact of visitor activities, land use, and related development.
6. Establish guidelines for the sequence of park development.
7. Provide an informational document for the public, the legislature, park personnel, and other government agencies.

This plan is the first step in a continuing process. By remaining flexible through review and updating, it will act as the primary source of information and concepts from which future park management and development evolve.

### Public Involvement

Historically, concerned citizens have provided a firm foundation of support for Mount Tamalpais State Park. In the 1920s the Tamalpais Conservation Club started a campaign to save the south slope of Mount Tamalpais from being sold to private individuals. A successful condemnation suit fixed the value of 520 acres at \$52,000 and the money was raised chiefly from private contributions. Congressman William Kent donated the Mountain Theater property to the state for the use of the Mountain Play Association. In 1928, when he was near death, Kent deeded his Steep Ravine property to the state to be part of the park.

As established in 1928, Mount Tamalpais State Park consisted of 892 acres north and west of the Muir Woods National Monument.

Many of these citizens and clubs did not stop at establishing Mount Tamalpais State Park, but continued to help maintain and protect the mountain. This strong citizen participation fostered the public involvement planning program which was undertaken for the Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan.

Along with questionnaires and newsletters, a series of public planning workshops and meetings were conducted. The meetings were developed around key phases in the department's planning process, with emphasis placed on existing resources, potential recreation, land use, and facility needs.

Public meetings were held in May, July, and October 1978 in Tiburon, San Francisco, and Mill Valley respectively. The meetings provided the public and the department with the opportunity to address key planning concerns, and to exchange ideas and information relevant to the future management, development, and use of the park. Probably the single issue that repeatedly came up during these meetings was a concern for the protection of the mountain from overdevelopment and overuse.

Meetings were also held with various public agencies and special interest groups, such as conservation and community clubs. The purpose was to provide both a review of the proposals and an open forum for specific concerns about the park. There was vigorous response at these meetings. Continuing public participation is essential to the future of Mount Tamalpais.

# RESOURCE ELEMENT





## RESOURCE ELEMENT

The Resource Element sets forth general policy for the management of natural and cultural resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park, and leaves the details of carrying out such management for inclusion in management programs to be prepared at a later date.\* In addition, this element includes a brief summary of the unit's resources. More detailed information on these subjects is available in the Inventory of Features on file with the department.

The Resource Element, approved by the Director in April 1979, has been adapted here to the General Plan format. Consequently, portions of the Resource Element including primarily introductory material have been removed to eliminate redundancy.

### Summary of Resources

#### Natural Resources

##### Topography

Most of the park is situated on the western side of the northwest-southeast trending Bolinas Ridge and on the southwestern flank of Mount Tamalpais. The area west of the ridge is dissected by narrow coastal canyons with steeply sloping sides. Between these canyons are rolling ridges.

Elevations range from sea level to 784 meters (2,571 feet) at the top of Mount Tamalpais. More than 85 percent of the park is greater than 25 percent in slope; less than 5 percent is relatively flat (0-8 percent slope).

##### Climate

The Mediterranean-type climate, characterized by warm dry summers and cool wet winters, is moderated by the unit's location next to the Pacific Ocean and by its susceptibility to coastal fog. Extremes of heat or cold seldom occur and higher areas in the park are warmer in summer and cooler in winter than are the coastal areas.

Prevailing winds are from the northwest most of the year. During summer months, a landward breeze brings cool marine air which forms fog. Usually the fog moves into the lowland canyons and rolls over Bolinas Ridge, but the top portions of the mountain remain clear.

Eighty-four percent of the annual precipitation occurs between November and March. The annual average is 70.0 centimeters (27.6 inches).

##### Hydrology

The hydrology of the unit is closely tied to seasonal weather patterns. Runoff from early winter rains is usually very small because the storms are less intense and the summer-dried soil absorbs more water. Later, as soil moisture increases and storms intensify, runoff increases, peaking in December, January, or February.

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\*In compliance with Section 5002.2, Public Resources Code.

Six of the eight major drainage basins of this watershed are almost completely within park boundaries — the intermittent Cold Stream Creek, Lone Tree Creek, Stinson Gulch, and Easkoot Creek; and the perennial Redwood Creek and Webb Creek. The latter two creeks have sizeable underground aquifers which allow continued release of water through springs.

Redwood Creek is the most extensive drainage basin in the park. It includes about 1,500 hectares (3,800 acres), which is more than half the total park area.

Webb Creek flows from a point above Panoramic Highway near the Matt Davis Trail through Steep Ravine to the ocean. It drains about 275 hectares (680 acres) and serves as one of the major water sources for Stinson Beach. A dam, constructed near the junction of Dipsea and Steep Ravine trails, provides a temporary basin from which the Stinson Beach Water Company pumps water into a 794,934-liter (210,000-gallon) storage tank.

### Geology

Detailed geologic mapping of Mount Tamalpais State Park has not been completed. The information available is suitable for general planning purposes, but more detailed information will often be required for siting and construction of developments.

The geology of Mount Tamalpais is distinctively Franciscan. The Franciscan complex here basically consists of two types of rock: large, relatively stable blocks, and highly-sheared material mixed with sediment. The latter type is unstable and often fails as landslides even on very low percent slopes. Moreover, the expansive clays in the soil formed from this type of rock seriously hampers septic systems. The shearing has disrupted aquifers, making it extremely difficult to find well sites with adequate yield.

The topography of the park reflects the nature of the Franciscan. The larger, more resistant blocks often yield steep slopes with sharp ridge crests. The second type, which makes up the majority of park lands, is characterized by rolling terrain with broad ridge crests and occasional, scattered, resistant blocks.

Lithologies included in the Franciscan are sandstone, shale, greenstone (an altered volcanic rock), chert, serpentine, and other metamorphic rocks. One of these metamorphic rocks, found on East Peak, is so rare that it has no formal name. Younger deposits found in the park include alluvium, colluvium, landslide deposits, and beach deposits.

Fossils are very rare in the Franciscan. Only one fossil, an early Cretaceous pelecypod, has been found in the park.

The geologic story in Mount Tamalpais State Park has by no means ended. Erosion is causing serious and expensive landslide problems all along the coast, evidenced by the frequent collapse of State Highway 1. Periodic intense rainfall also causes debris avalanches (high-speed mudslides) in some areas.

The existing cabins at Steep Ravine are sited on a landslide that was originally caused by coastal erosion processes, and could be reactivated in part or wholly by these processes. Limited available data indicate that should renewed landsliding occur, such movement would probably be slow enough to permit evacuation without serious injury. There is one exception; that is, a rapid failure of the bluff below the cabins that could affect the three cabins closest to the edge, perhaps causing serious injury or loss of life if they were occupied.

In its meeting October 11, 1979, the State Park and Recreation Commission called for deletion of a Steep Ravine hostel from the preliminary General Plan.

Tectonics, too, plays a significant role. The San Andreas Fault lies less than one mile offshore. Strong earthquake shaking can be expected and may cause boulders to roll down slopes, landslide movement, and other ground collapse, especially in those alluvial areas that have a high water table.

Tsunamis (seismic sea waves), generated by earthquakes nearby or at some distance, may have an impact on the coast of the park.

### Soils

Soils information on Mount Tamalpais State Park is now being collected by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The information available must be considered preliminary in nature and subject to revision. SCS cautions that even their final report will not negate the necessity for detailed site analysis before any construction.

There are 13 soil series in and near Mount Tamalpais State Park, each with its own distinctive characteristics and properties. Basically, many of these soils are severely limited for most uses.

The characteristics of these soils almost preclude the use of conventional septic tank absorption fields. All but one soil series have some characteristics that make them unfavorable as sites for picnic areas or campgrounds. Such limitations may be overcome in some cases, but often only through costly development techniques or by restricting use to certain times of the year, or both.

Many of the soils are rated as having high or very high potential for erosion. Numerous erosion problems have been documented in the park.

### Plant Life

Mount Tamalpais has a rich and diverse flora. A preliminary list of plants includes more than 750 species, subspecies, and varieties, representing more than ten percent of the state's flora (Munz and Keck 1959). A relatively high percentage of these plants are endemic, i.e. known to occur only on the mountain or close by.

There are six rare or endangered plants in the park, according to records of the California Native Plant Society. Actual locations and distributions are not fully known. It is suspected that at least one of these plants is dependent on occasional fire for its long-term survival.

Table 1  
Plant Communities of Mount Tamalpais State Park

<u>Plant Community</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. North Central Forest		
a) Coastal Redwood Forest	Upper portions of Steep Ravine Tributary canyons of Redwood Creek	Form dense canopy over shade-loving undergrowth. No large stands as in Muir Woods.
b) Douglas-fir Forest	Coast canyons Bollinas Ridge Upper canyons of Mount Tamalpais	Not truly representative of northern California Douglas-fir forests. Dense canopy, very competitive climax. Species where fire is absent.
c) Mixed Evergreen Forest	Bollinas Ridge, lower portions of west ridge of Mount Tamalpais, Bootjack, Pan Toll, Laguna Creek, and in ocean-facing canyons.	Require less water than many other species.
2. Cypress Forest	2-acre grove on leased MIMWD land Ridgecrest Boulevard (small stands)	Sargent cypress - relict stand.
3. Alder-Willow Riparian Forest	Steep Ravine (below Dipsea Trail) Frank Valley Also some at lower Lone Tree Creek and Cold Stream canyons	Plants with high water requirements. Redwood Creek area recognized as one of best remaining riparian forests in Marin County.
4. Northern Coastal Scrub	Between coastline and Highway 1 and upper slopes of ocean-facing canyons	Dense shrub, occasional grassy areas. Requires more water than chaparral.
5. California Coastal Chaparral		
a) Chamise chaparral	Portions of west side of Bollinas Ridge; rocky ridges near the upper portions of the mountain	Dense growth, often on thin, poor soils land on dry, south-facing slopes.
b) Ceanothus chaparral	East Peak area, along portions of Ridgecrest Boulevard, and slopes above Muir Woods	Requires more water than chamise. Ceanothus and manzanita are dominant species.
c) Serpentine chaparral	Small islands in chamise and ceanothus chaparral areas; along rocky ridges next to mixed evergreen forest (e.g., Bookjack Rock Springs, and along Ridgecrest Boulevard	Dwarf chaparral. Plants specifically adapted to nutrient-poor serpentine soils. Serpentine endemic here include leather oak, Tamalpais manzanita, and musk bush.
6. Coastal Strand		
7. Introduced Annual Grassland	Ocean-facing slopes and ridges in western portions	These areas contain elements of native grasslands (purple needlegrass and a native bunch grass) associated with numerous nonnative annual grasses and forbs.
8. Stipa Grassland		



Also of botanical significance is a two-acre grove of Sargent cypress located in the portion of Marin Municipal Water District lands which may be leased by the department. Sargent cypress is not rare, occurring in scattered populations along the central Coast Range, but it is significant in representing a relict stand left from a once greater cypress forest.

Other special features are native bunchgrass stands along the upper ridges above Lone Tree Creek watershed, the riparian corridor of Redwood Creek, and a virgin redwood forest in Steep Ravine.

The flora of the park can be divided among eight recognizable plant communities. These are: North Coastal Forest (including coastal redwood, Douglas-fir and mixed evergreen forests), Cypress Forest, Riparian Forest, Northern Coastal Scrub, California Coastal Chaparral, Coastal Strand, Introduced Annual Grassland, and Stipa Grassland.

The forest communities occur in major canyons and along Bolinas Ridge. Grassland occurs on ocean-facing slopes and ridges which alternate with canyons. The coastal scrub occurs primarily between the coast and State Highway 1, and along upper slopes and tributary draws of ocean-facing canyons. Chaparral occurs on dry, exposed areas in the higher elevations of the park.

There are several unnatural influences affecting the park's vegetation. In recent times the suppression of fire has had considerable effect, particularly in chaparral communities. Several exotic plant species are spreading naturally, displacing the native flora. These include the highly invasive brooms, several European thistles, eucalyptus, and acacia.

### Animal Life

Animal life is quite diverse and abundant in Mount Tamalpais State Park because of its large size and the variety of plant communities. The park is located in the Pacific Coastal Wildlife Region (Yocum and Dasmann 1965). Characteristic wildlife associations are to be found in the coastal strand, coastal sage scrub, grassland, chaparral, coastal forest, and streamside riparian habitats.

The park is not known to provide important habitat for any rare or endangered wildlife species listed by the California Department of Fish and Game. However, the endangered brown pelican can be seen flying over and feeding in the ocean. The endangered peregrine falcon may be seen infrequently along the area's coastline.

Special mention should be made of Redwood Creek as a habitat for silver salmon and steelhead trout. Heavy fall or winter rains open the creek's mouth and allow adult salmon and steelhead to enter from the ocean and migrate upstream to spawn. After hatching, juvenile salmon usually spend one year in Redwood Creek before migrating to the ocean. Steelhead trout usually spend two years before going to sea. Annual fish runs vary between 18 and 90 fish. There is general concern that the habitat for these fish be maintained.

### Marine Life

Most of the marine environment off Mount Tamalpais State Park is relatively typical of the open coast classification of Ricketts and Calvin (1968), though some small areas examined also fit the protected outer coast classification.

The marine environment is composed mainly of rounded, wave-tumbled cobble and large boulders. A sand and cobble beach is also present at the base of Steep Ravine, and a sulfur spring is located intertidally on the beach. No unusual flora or fauna were observed in the high inner-tidal region around the sulfur springs. A visual survey of the intertidal areas indicated that marine algae was limited in both diversity and number of individuals present. Subtidal algae populations may be more diversified and abundant than the intertidal populations, but no subtidal survey has been attempted.

Typical marine animals in the high intertidal include sea stars, mussels, barnacles, limpets, sea anemones, and periwinkles. Marine mammals such as sea lions, harbor seals, and the gray whale may be observed in the waters off the coast.

### Cultural Resources

No Native American sites have been identified in Mount Tamalpais State Park. A complete inventory of all accessible areas in the unit was made in 1977. Two small steatite (soapstone) quarry areas were noted on Marin Municipal Water District property near the Rock Springs area.

This is not to say that there are no prehistoric resources in those portions covered by dense chaparral. Prehistoric populations in Marin County date back at least 2,000 years. The ethnographic inhabitants of the area surrounding Mount Tamalpais were Coast Miwok. It is not known whether the Miwok visited the mountain; they may have considered it taboo.

Although the southern Marin area adjacent to Mount Tamalpais has been the setting for major historical events, the mountain itself is seldom mentioned in early narratives.

Following the Spanish exploration period from 1579 to 1776, including brief English visits, settlement in southern Marin County was restricted to the coastal shelf at the foot of Mount Tamalpais. By the latter part of the nineteenth century, the mountain was locally recognized for its recreational potential. In the early twentieth century, action was taken to preserve the scenic values and natural resources of Mount Tamalpais. William Kent, Marin resident, businessman, and later Congressman, was the individual most responsible for recognizing the recreation potential of the area, and one of the important forces in having it preserved.

Various developments have occurred on the mountain that are associated with its recreation potential. In 1896 the Mill Valley and Mount Tamalpais Scenic Railway was built to near the top of East Peak; later a connection to Muir Woods was constructed. A stage road was constructed by the railway company in 1902 linking Bolinas with the rail line from Mill Valley. The West Point Inn, built in 1904, afforded passengers a rest stop at the stage-rail junction. The inn still exists under private control; it is used as a rest stop for hikers.

A major attraction of Mount Tamalpais was the Tavern of Tamalpais, constructed just below the summit of East Peak late in 1896. In 1923 the tavern was destroyed by fire, and rebuilt in 1924. It was used as a barracks for a radar station during World War II; after the war it fell into neglect and was razed by the department in 1950.

In the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was responsible for the construction of many recreational facilities and conservation projects throughout the park, many of which still exist. The corps faced the Mountain Theater amphitheater with stone blocks; cut and maintained hiking and fire trails; constructed footbridges, check dams, and campgrounds; and built a stone pumphouse on East Peak.

The chief cultural resources found today in the park are: CCC-constructed fire lookout tower at East Peak, foundations of the Tavern of Tamalpais and remains of several small structures, as yet unexamined debris from the tavern (located northwest of the foundation on a steep slope), the Mountain Theater and some associated structures, remains of the CCC camp at Camp Alice Eastwood (including several concrete pads and foundations), railway and stage road roadbeds (now used as hiking trails), the Pan Toll park headquarters, concrete foundations of a dairy ranch in Frank Valley (no historical significance), and the Steep Ravine cabins which have no historical or architectural significance.

#### Esthetic Resources

The scenic resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park are enjoyed both as a backdrop and as an outstanding location from which to view the Bay Area. The mountain's rugged forest and shrub-covered profile can be seen from San Francisco and the northern portions of the East Bay. In Marin County, the mountain provides a towering natural backdrop for the many bayfront communities. The panoramic views from the mountain are extraordinary.

The visitor to the park can enjoy diverse natural surroundings ranging from canopied redwood forests to open grasslands, from enclosed, narrow ravines to exposed mountain ridgetops, and from ocean beachfronts to rugged coastal bluffs.

Although pleasant natural surroundings dominate the park, a number of negative features disrupt these qualities. These include some conspicuous firebreaks (especially along Throckmorton Ridge), powerlines, private residences inside and adjacent to the park, and areas of abandoned structural foundations.

#### Recreation Resources

The park is a valued natural area that is visited mostly for sightseeing, picnicking, and hiking. Total annual attendance at the park has increased each year, and has nearly doubled in the last decade, reaching 1.2 million in 1976.

For many first-time visitors, sightseeing is the major activity. East Peak is the most frequently visited spot because of its accessibility and panoramic views.

More than 58 miles of maintained trails are available to both beginning and experienced hikers. A portion of the Pacific Coastal Trail traverses the park and many trails connect the park to neighboring communities and open space lands. All existing fire trails are open to horseback riding.

Picnicking is a popular activity almost everywhere in the park. Picnic facilities are found at Bootjack (including fire stoves), East Peak, and Mountain Theater.

Camping is not a major recreational activity in the unit, since such facilities are limited. A primitive group camp at Camp Alice Eastwood accommodates up to 50 persons and at Pan Toll there are 16 family walk-in campsites.

Some other current activities include birdwatching, rock climbing, hang-gliding, model airplane flying, and competitive running.

### Classification

With the formation of the State Park System in 1928, lands were donated by local citizens to form Mount Tamalpais State Park. The first parcels acquired in the late 1920s created a park of slightly less than 405 hectares (1,000 acres). Since that time new donations and acquisitions have increased the park acreage to over six times its earlier size.

The unit was classified as a state park by the then State Park Commission in May of 1962. The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53, defines a State Park as follows:

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

"Each state park shall be managed as a composite whole in order to restore, protect, and maintain its native environmental complexes to the extent compatible with the primary purpose for which the park was established.

"Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for such recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

"State parks may be established in either the terrestrial or underwater environments of the state."

## Declaration of Purpose

### Primary Purpose of Unit

The State Park Commission approved a Declaration of Purpose for Mount Tamalpais State Park in January, 1965. The declaration is as follows:

"The purpose of Mount Tamalpais State Park is to make available to the people for their inspiration and enjoyment, the outstanding scenic, natural and recreational values of this majestic mountain climax of Marin County, with its steep chaparral-covered slopes, forested ravines, traditional winding trails, and spectacular marine views, overlooking yet seemingly remote from the densely-populated cities on San Francisco Bay. Stipulations in the deeds to key parcels of the property require preservation of natural conditions and limitations on developments on these parcels.

"The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Mount Tamalpais State Park is to manage, preserve and protect its varied resources and values for their perpetuation in accordance with the park purpose; to interpret these values effectively; and to provide such facilities and services, consistent with the purpose of the park, as are necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by the people."

### Significance of Principal Resources

Principal resources are those which are unique or most special, and for which the unit was created. These can differ as to their significance in being essentially statewide or less than statewide in significance. Principal resources are listed below by their relative significance.

#### Statewide Significance:

- o Sightseeing promontory for panoramic views of San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate, and the Pacific Ocean.
- o Natural landmark and highest point of land near San Francisco Bay.
- o One of the state's unique floras in diversity, number of species, and occurrence of endemics and rare plants.
- o Redwood forests of recreational and scientific interest. (Not as significant as above in the sense that there are other preserved redwood forests nearby and elsewhere.)
- o Rugged ocean coastline of statewide interest wherever coastal access is available. (Not as significant as the above resources since considerable public coastline is available in the Marin County area.)
- o A rare quartz-tourmaline rock which makes up most of East Peak.

#### Less than Statewide Significance:

- o Spaciousness and diversity of natural surroundings located near an urban area.
- o Solitude available near an urban area.
- o Dark star-filled skies at night near an urban area (particularly at the top of the mountain and at Rock Springs).
- o Abundant and diverse natural habitat which supports an extensive animal population.
- o Over 58 miles of hiking trails, many of which link to regional trails outside the park.
- o The Mountain Theater.

#### Resource Management Objective

The resource management objective for Mount Tamalpais State Park is to preserve, protect, and, where necessary, to restore the varied park resources and values for their perpetuation in accordance with the park's purpose. This objective will be approached by formulating and implementing resource management policies which guide planning, future acquisition, public use, facility development, and resource management activities and programs.

#### Declaration of Resource Management Policy

##### Zone of Primary Interest

The Zone of Primary Interest is that area in which the department would like to influence development and use so that park resources are not seriously jeopardized or degraded.

The zone includes all land adjacent to the park boundaries; the land between Ridgecrest Boulevard and Panoramic Highway; the military reservation lands at West Peak; the Rock Springs area; private lands to the west of Panoramic Highway from State Highway 1 to Fern Creek; Muir Woods National Monument; and the stream and riparian corridor of Redwood Creek to its mouth at Muir Beach.

In addition, the department is concerned about any lands -- no matter how far away from the park -- that can, through their development, adversely affect those resources and features within the park that the park was created to protect.

##### Management Policies

#### Abiotic Resources

##### Geologic Hazard Mitigation

Geologic hazards in Mount Tamalpais State Park can threaten human safety and park facilities.

Policy: Geologically hazardous areas shall be avoided, or the hazard shall be reduced so that the public can use these areas in reasonable safety. Decisions on reducing natural hazards shall be made under the supervision of a certified engineering geologist.

Geologists shall be consulted on the siting and designing of any development. All structures shall be designed to withstand a 1906 earthquake-type event generated immediately offshore.

In addition, planning and development should follow these general guidelines:

- o Areas in the 100-year tsunami inundation zone should be limited to day-use activities.
- o Unstable or marginally stable areas should be evaluated by a geologist before development, and monitored during the life of the development.
- o All cuts greater than 5 feet in height and steeper than 2:1 should be evaluated by a geologist before, during, and after grading (Chapter 70, Uniform Building Code).

#### Erosion Control

Accelerated erosion, a major problem in Mount Tamalpais State Park, poses a serious threat to natural ecosystems. However, erosion, including coastal erosion, is also a natural process that plays a definite role in the evolution of the landscape.

Policy: Destructive or unnatural erosion shall be controlled and prevented by means harmonious with the unit's purpose. Artificial controls will be introduced only under the most extreme circumstances, and then only when conversion to a natural condition in the future is the objective. The primary objective will be prevention of accelerated or unnatural erosion. Where correction is imperative, all measures used will be as unobtrusive as possible. Steps shall be taken to correct existing erosion problems in the park.

Fuelbreaks on steep slopes shall be examined and where possible revegetated with low-growing native grasses or other native vegetation, or reclaimed, should the erosion problem warrant it.

#### Mineralogical and Paleontological Site Protection

Mineralogical and paleontological resources have scientific, educational, and recreational values that can be destroyed by inappropriate park development or use.

Policy: The site at East Peak containing the rare quartz-tourmaline rock shall be protected from degradation.

Mineralogical and paleontological resources in Mount Tamalpais State Park shall be reported when observed by an employee of the department, and shall be investigated, evaluated, and recorded by the staff geologist or his designee. Recommendations will then be made regarding the necessary protective measures.

Using methods approved by the staff geologist, the department will obliterate promptly any defacements of geological features and restore the damaged sites to as natural an appearance and condition as possible.

## Water Quality and Values Protection

Diversion and pollution are the major concern with water features in the park. Diversion applies particularly to freshwater streams, and pollution to any water body. Soil erosion and effluent from a disposal system failure are the main water pollution threats in the park. The Soil Conservation Service notes that it is very unlikely that any of the soils in the park are suited for the conventional septic filter field system (although such systems now exist in some areas of the park).

Policy: No diversion of water from a park stream or spring shall be allowed unless the department first makes a thorough evaluation of the known or possible effects of such diversion on the park's values.

No pollution of waters shall be permitted because of the installation of facilities by or for the department. Where such pollution now exists, measures shall be taken to abate it. Existing septic systems in the park shall be checked at least annually for possible problems.

## Plant Resources

### Rare and Endangered Plant Protection

Rare or endangered plants can be destroyed by developments or by concentrated visitor use, especially when their exact locations, habitat requirements, and tolerances are unknown. It is suspected that at least one of the rare plants in the park is dependent on occasional fire for its long-term survival and is therefore being affected by successful fire suppression in the park.

Policy: All rare and endangered plants in the park shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation. A program shall be initiated to locate and accurately map their distribution. The management needs of each will be reviewed and appropriate management actions taken.

### Special Plant Life Protection

Special plants or plant associations, including the Sargent cypress, native bunchgrass stands, and riparian woodland along Redwood Creek, require careful management and protection for their perpetuation.

Policy: Areas of unique vegetation shall be protected from degradation as determined by a department ecologist.

### Ecological Burning

Natural fire in certain habitats, and especially in chaparral, is recognized as one of the ecological factors contributing to the perpetuation of plants and animals in those habitats. It is hypothesized that the control of fire in recent times has had the following effects on Mount Tamalpais State Park:

- 1) Chaparral stands on the mountain have become old and decadent. There is a buildup of dead material. It is likely there is nitrogen deficiency and a buildup of phytotoxins in the soil. There is little if any herbaceous understory and no germination of new shrub species, leading to a reduction in species diversity.



- 2) Coyote brush and other coastal scrub plants are encroaching on grassland areas. Bracken fern is also invading the grasslands, especially on the borders of the mixed evergreen forest.
- 3) Madrone, tan-oak, and Douglas-fir are replacing grasslands on higher slopes and ridges.
- 4) Douglas-fir is encroaching on moister chaparral sites, especially in draws and ravines.

Controlled ecological burning of small parcels on a periodic rotational basis will reduce the risk of wildfires and can maintain vegetative ecosystems and wildlife diversity.

Policy: The feasibility of an ecological burning program in the park shall be investigated. When feasible, such a program shall be implemented.

#### Broom Control

Brooms, including French broom, Scotch broom, Spanish broom, and hybrid forms, are serious exotic (nonnative) invaders in the park, and are displacing the natural flora. In the last few years, broom has spread rampantly below Panoramic Highway, infesting about 140 acres of the park. In other locations broom is establishing new footholds from which it will spread.

Policy: A broom control program shall be implemented. Biological and mechanical methods will be the preferred means of control. Continuing advancements in broom control will be incorporated in the program as they become available. The first priority in broom control should be to eliminate the small infestations before they spread. Broom plants beginning to invade grassland are of the most concern. Larger stands of broom should be a second priority as their successful elimination is dependent on further advances in methods of biological control.

#### Eucalyptus Control

Eucalyptus trees were sparingly planted many years ago in various locations that are now in the park. In most places where they occur they have naturalized and are spreading. If left unchecked they will continue to spread into natural plant communities. A few small groves on ridges in the grassland are apparently not spreading at this time. They are, however, conspicuously unnatural-looking in these locations.

Policy: Eucalyptus trees will be removed from the park. Eucalyptus growing on the ridge between Lone Tree and Cold Stream drainages, along Cold Stream, on Diaz Ridge, and on the north side of Green Gulch near where the park boundary leaves State Highway 1, shall be removed at the first opportunity. The few eucalyptus trees growing in Frank Valley shall also be removed. The department shall not remove more than 10 percent per year, and only if they are replaced by materials compatible with the Resource Element.

## Exotic Thistle Control

Exotic thistles, including primarily milk thistle, Italian thistle, and star thistle, occur in many locations in the park's grassland areas and also along road cuts. Most occurrences are in areas of significant soil disturbance. Massive growths often replace native flora, and in some areas where they grow dense or tall they can restrict recreational use.

Policy: A program shall be developed for controlling massive growths of thistle which hamper recreational use or which significantly displace natural plant communities.

## Nonnative Conifers

Monterey cypress, Monterey pine, bishop pine, and Coulter pine were planted in several locations in the park during the early part of the century to increase forest cover on the mountain. All four conifers are native to California but not to the park. None is spreading greatly at this time.

Policy: Nonnative conifers in the park shall be retained pending future evaluation. Existing stands shall be controlled and prevented from spreading. Those that occur along trails which block expansive views shall be considered for removal.

The 3.2-acre Monterey pine plantation ("tree farm") on the ridge between Kent Creek and Cold Stream drainages shall be removed. This has a lower priority than control of exotic species which are naturally spreading in the park.

## Planting of Exotic Trees and Shrubs

When ornamental plants are used as landscaping around park facilities they often contrast with the native vegetation and thereby appear unnatural, and call attention to themselves. Some ornamental plants are also capable of spreading into native plant communities.

Policy: No ornamental (exotic) trees or shrubs shall be planted in the park for landscaping or other purposes. Where landscaping or other plantings are necessary, plants native to the site and soils involved will, without exception, be used.

## Wildfire Protection

A fire protection plan is required for protection of park resources and for visitor safety. This also applies to park employee residences.

Policy: A fire protection plan shall be maintained and shall include prevention measures, fuel management, visitor evacuation and safety, maintenance of fire access, and acceptable fire fighting procedures. The fact that prescribed burning may be considered, recommended, or used for fuel reduction or vegetation management purposes does not reduce the necessity for prevention and control of wildfires.

## Fire History Records

Fire history records, including precise locations and dates of all burns, are important to the understanding and management of park vegetation. Burned areas can be monitored to document recovery rates and succession patterns for guiding future vegetation management and ecological burning programs.

Policy: A program for recording fire history in the park shall be developed and implemented. This program shall apply to all burned areas of one-half hectare (1 acre) or more in size. Coordination will be made with local fire departments.

## Animal Resources

### Wildlife Management

One of the primary purposes of Mount Tamalpais State Park is the protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations. Ideally it would be desirable to have all wildlife in the park under "natural conditions," which can be defined as conditions before the influence of Europeans. For various reasons, this may be difficult if not impossible to achieve. However, restoration of modified plant communities as discussed in the plant management section of this element will help to restore natural conditions.

Policy: Wherever possible the department should restore altered wildlife habitats as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed. Whether or not restoration of natural conditions is possible, it shall be the policy of the department to avoid significant imbalances in the natural wildlife population caused by man's influences. If it is necessary to regulate the populations by something other than natural means, the methods used should be based upon sound principles of wildlife management and should avoid disturbance to other natural values of the park.

Deliberate feeding of wildlife shall be strongly discouraged to protect both the animals and park visitors. Feeding often causes an imbalance in the natural diet of wildlife and may also result in other behavioral changes which reduce the animal's ability to survive under natural conditions. Feeding of wildlife, particularly larger species, may also pose a health and safety hazard to the park visitor. Animals such as deer and raccoon, which have a history of becoming tame around campgrounds and day-use areas, can suddenly bite or kick when frightened, resulting in injury to the visitor. For these reasons, animals which become tame enough to be touched by visitors shall be considered problem individuals. When such animals are determined to be a health or safety hazard, the Department of Fish and Game shall be contacted and steps to minimize the problem, such as removal or relocation of the animal(s), shall be decided upon and appropriate action taken.

### Domestic Animal Control

In order to achieve a more natural wildlife population in the park, adverse influences by domestic animals must be minimized. Uncontrolled domestic animals, particularly dogs, in the park can cause unnatural conditions through direct predation on wildlife or behavioral modifications. A major problem in this regard is dogs which stray into the park from the residential areas of Mill Valley, Stinson Beach, and Fairfax.

Policy: It shall be the policy of the department to strictly enforce department rules and regulations regarding dogs and other domestic animals in units of the State Park System.

## Vector Control

Rodents, as well as other animals, may transmit diseases or support parasites capable of transmitting certain diseases to man. The probability of most diseases reaching epizootic levels (disease levels in animals which resemble epidemic levels in man) and becoming a possible health hazard to man is in many cases related directly to overpopulation of the animal host. As animal populations become crowded, the possibility of disease increases.

Policy: The populations of animals which are important vectors of disease, such as ground squirrels, skunks, and raccoons, shall be visually monitored by field personnel during their regular duties. If significant increases in animal observations are reported in any particular area, a departmental ecologist shall be notified. Should epizootic levels of disease be found in areas frequented by the public, actions which lower the vector population should be investigated and carried out if necessary for public safety.

## Fisheries Protection

The anadromous fish runs of Redwood Creek are a fragile resource that requires careful management and protection.

Policy: The department shall work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect and enhance the natural fishery in Redwood Creek, as well as in other aquatic resources of the park.

## Cultural Resources

Several remaining historic structures and their ruins help to tell the history of early recreational use on the mountain and in the park. The following are recommended policies for these structures:

Policy: The CCC fire lookout tower at East Peak shall remain in service for the county, and the fire department shall be encouraged to perform necessary maintenance on the structure to ensure its continued rustic appearance. Should the county discontinue its use of the tower, the department shall maintain it as a historic structure and public viewing facility.

Foundations of the Tavern of Tamalpais shall be maintained. The area could be filled to help preserve the foundations until further study of them can be made.

Qualified historical archeologists shall study the debris remains of the Tavern to gain insight into late nineteenth and early twentieth century life in the area. Park staff shall be educated about the need to keep the whereabouts of the debris confidential.

The Mountain Theater shall be preserved, maintained, and used for such events as weddings, plays, and nonamplified concerts, as in the past. The two stone restrooms shall be preserved; the fixtures may be removed and the structures used for interpretive purposes. Small features associated with the theater shall be repaired, restored if necessary, and maintained as important parts of the historic fabric of the theater.

The remains of the CCC camp shall be left alone and development discouraged at this time. The camp should be studied by historical archeologists.

Roadbeds for early railroad and stage lines shall continue to be maintained and used as hiking trails.

The rustic Pan Toll headquarters shall be kept in good repair.

The remains of the dairy ranch in Frank Valley shall be removed.

The cabins at Steep Ravine have no architectural or historical significance and may be removed if the department decides to do so.

#### Esthetic Resources

The scenic resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park are of primary importance and are the essence of the park's unique qualities. These include most specifically the promontory views, but also the quality of natural surroundings that can be found in the park and along its trails.

Policy: The special scenic resources of the park shall be protected from all degrading and undesirable intrusions. Structures in the park shall be sensitively designed and located so they blend with their surroundings.

Powerlines and other detracting installations shall be kept as unobtrusive as possible. Such intrusions as do exist shall be removed as soon as practical. Powerlines running over the ridge above Lone Tree Creek drainage and near the junction of the Pacific Coast and Dipsea trails shall be removed as soon as possible.

Signs shall be kept to a minimum, strategically located, and in the best of taste. All litter shall be removed.

The very visible scar left from an earlier fire trail along Throckmorton Ridge shall be closed to foot travel and revegetated.

The feasibility of closing some fire roads along grass-covered ridges shall be investigated. Particular attention should be given to McKinnan Gulch and Willow Camp fire trails.

Ecological burning or other highly visible management practices shall be conducted in such a manner as to minimize impact on the park's scenery.

## Allowable Use

Classification of this unit as a state park dictates appropriate and inappropriate recreational activities.

The park was created for the enjoyment of certain principal or special resources.

Additional consideration may be given to recreational activities that are directly related to the enjoyment of these resources. Those that are not directly related to these resources are not appropriate, and should not be considered.

Since Mount Tamalpais State Park is part of the State Park System, the statewide perspective should also be considered. Recreational opportunities that relate to the special resources or to resource aspects that have a statewide significance should be provided first.

Based on these assumptions, some possible recreational activities are ranked and listed below.

Highest priority recreation activities based on resource significance:

Sightseeing	Painting and sketching
Nature study and observation	Creative writing
Hiking	Contemplation
Photography	

Secondary importance:

Picnicking	Fishing
Camping	Astronomy

Some inappropriate recreational activities, not related to the significance of the park's primary or special resources:

- Model airplane flying
- Athletic events or competition\*

Illegal activities:

- Hunting
- Off-road vehicle riding

\* The traditional annual Dipsea Race, established in 1905 before the park was created, is a permitted exception.

## Allowable Use Intensity

California state law (Section 5019.5, Public Resources Code) requires that the department make a land carrying capacity survey before any park or recreational area development plan is completed. As a step in determining carrying capacity, the department is using "allowable use intensity."

Allowable use intensity is of vital importance as a guideline in helping to determine what types of facilities and how many of each type are suitable for a particular area in a State Park System unit. A compromise must usually be sought between meeting recreational needs and protecting the environment, all within the framework of the area's physical limitations.

The amount of use an area can withstand with no substantial degradation of the environment depends on the type of activity, the number of users, and the intensity of use, as well as the physical characteristics of the area and its ecological and esthetic tolerances. It is too complex to quantify. However, a qualitative analysis of general kinds of use can be made and applied to various areas of a unit to indicate appropriate use intensity in each area. Once use begins, adjustments can be made as determined through monitoring and observation by staff resource personnel or resulting impacts on the resources. If it appears that use intensity exceeds the capacity of the resources, proper steps can be taken to reduce use through various operational means available, which may include closure, rerouting, and rehabilitation.

The allowable use intensities for various areas of Mount Tamalpais State Park were based on seven classes of use intensity. The seven classes (A through G) are described in detail in the Appendix. The least restrictive class is "A"; the most restrictive is "G". Of these seven classes, five are appropriate for Mount Tamalpais State Park. Table 1 summarizes the intensity of use, the limiting resource criteria, the suggested recreation level, and suggested development level for each class. The four basic types of uses are:

- Destination use - concentrated human activity both in space and time
- Transitory use - activities that involve moving through the landscape
- Unstructured use - activities not centered in any developed area, e.g. nature exploration away from a developed trail
- Controlled use - activities under guidance or supervision

The Allowable Use Intensity Map (Appendix B) shows the park divided among Classes B-F. The map is intended as a guideline to the suitability of different areas for a given use intensity on an individual basis and not collectively. This map describes an "as is" situation and does not consider mitigating measures that may be feasible but which can only be analyzed on an individual basis.

Table  
2  
Allowable Use Intensity Classes

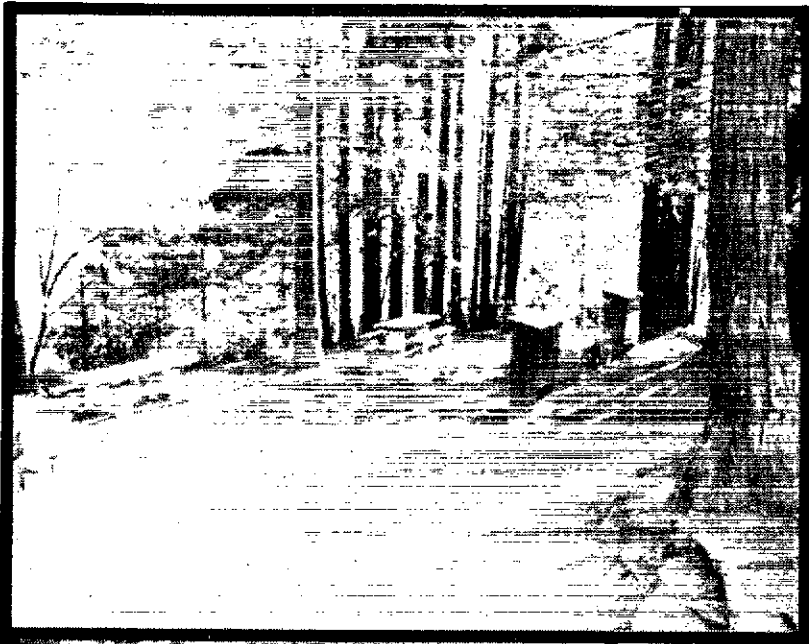
<u>Class</u>	<u>Intensity</u>	<u>Limiting Resource Criteria</u>	<u>Suggested Recreation Level</u>	<u>Suggested Development Level</u>
*A	Destination Use - Unrestricted	Available area	Auto access, camping, picnicking, interpretive center	Paved roads and parking, permanent structures, septic system
B	Destination Use - Possible Restrictions	Soil characteristics (compressibility, depth, permeability, erosion potential, etc.) topographic form, characteristics of immediately surrounding areas	Auto access, camping, picnicking	Paved roads and parking, permanent structures, limited septic systems
C	Destination Use - Restrictions	Same criteria as above with possibility of other criteria such as wildfire or flood hazards	Limited auto access, and limitations to camping and picnicking, by size, utility availability, and access	Formal camping and picnic units
D	Transitory Use - Possible Restrictions	Slope, erosion potential, scenic resources of some fragility	Auto-bicycle sightseeing, roadside vistas	Roads, bicycle trails, roadside parking
E	Transitory Use - Restrictions	Slope, slope stability, erosion potential, sensitive ecological resources, important scenic resource areas	Hiking, sightseeing, photography, sketching	Hiking trails, signs, footbridges
F	Unstructured or Controlled Use	Very fragile or valuable cultural resources, very sensitive ecological resources, geologic hazards and land instability	Nature study and exploration, guided tours	No facility development
*G	Closed to Use	Severe geologic hazards	No use	No facility development

(\*Not located in this unit)



# LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT





## LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

The Land Use and Facilities Element provides general guidelines for the development of Mount Tamalpais State Park. The goal is to enhance the public's use and enjoyment of the park while protecting its natural and cultural resources. This element contains evaluations of existing park conditions and recommendations for recreation use, transportation improvements, land use, and facility development in the park. These recommendations have been reviewed by the department, concerned citizens, and federal, state, regional, and county agencies.

### Study Area

The study area considered in formulating this plan comprises lands that affect or potentially affect the management, future development, and use of the park and its resources (see Study Area Map, Appendix B). The area includes Mount Tamalpais and its watersheds. It is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean; on the north by the Fairfax-Bolinas Road across the three reservoirs of Alpine Lake, Bon Tempe Lake, and Phoenix Lake; the western limits of Kentfield, Larkspur, and Corte Madera; Highway 101 to the east of the City of Mill Valley; and the Tennessee Valley on the south near the Marin Headlands.

It is not intended that all lands in this area should be considered for acquisition, or in any way be directly managed or influenced by the current plan.

In the study area there are five governmental planning jurisdictions or agencies which have a direct effect on the planning for Mount Tamalpais State Park: the County of Marin, the City of Mill Valley, the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), and the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission.

- o The park is located in the unincorporated area of Marin County. The county has acquired 57.4 acres in Cascade Canyon as open space lands located along the eastern boundary of the park. This will help protect the park's values.
- o Nearby communities share our concern about existing and future traffic congestion. Also, residents of Muir Beach have voiced their concern about maintaining the quality of their water supply which they obtain from wells located near the park boundary. Open areas under the jurisdiction of Mill Valley provide hiking access to the park.
- o The prime concern of the Marin Municipal Water District is the protection of its watershed. To prevent overuse of its lands, MMWD has recommended that park planning in areas that would affect MMWD land be limited to improving existing facilities.
- o Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Mount Tamalpais State Park comprise a large area of contiguous public parklands. They share many common concerns and will continue to work cooperatively to solve problems.

- o The California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission is made up of six regional commissions. Mount Tamalpais State Park is within the North Central Coast Region. Future park uses and developments recommended in this plan are generally compatible with applicable local and regional plans.

### Recreation Evaluation

The recreation evaluation conducted for Mount Tamalpais State Park identified the existing recreational situation, relating it to statewide, regional, county, and local concerns. Factors that would affect future development and use of the park were examined. The following points were clearly established:

- o There is a large demand for outdoor recreation in the Bay Area and at Mount Tamalpais State Park, with an increase expected in the future.
- o The demand for recreation is polarized into two factions: 1) those who want structured activities, usually with developed facilities, and 2) those who want unstructured activities so people can "do their own thing," often needing little in the way of developed facilities. Although these two points of view represent opposite ends of the spectrum, it is not uncommon to find some users in both categories.
- o There is an existing and projected facility deficiency for both day-use and overnight-use activities evident in Marin County and the surrounding Bay Area.
- o Because of limited terrain that is suitable for development and the concern for protecting both the natural resources and the visitor's experience at the park, any significant amount of development is not advisable.
- o Mount Tamalpais State Park can provide a diversity of activity types. Day-use and overnight-use activities can take place.

### Recreation Demand

To estimate recreation demand, park planners studied the situation in the planning district in which the park is located. Mount Tamalpais State Park is in Planning District 4 of the California Outdoor Recreation Resource Plan (CORRP). District 4 basically represents the Bay Area region. In addition to Marin County, the planning district includes the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco, along with San Pablo, Suisun, and San Francisco bays. There is a large demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in the planning district. About 84 percent of recreation users in the district are district residents.

Recreation demand in District 4 is concentrated in Marin and other north bay counties and increased demand can be expected. According to the CORRP study:

"Many agencies anticipate that future cultural or sociological changes, such as the all-year school and a shortened work week, will have the effect of increasing the number of short-term vacation periods, distributing use over a greater portion of the year, and enforcing the search for close to home recreation opportunities."

Although this even distribution of demand may occur, and recent gas shortages may support this, current peak visitation at Mount Tamalpais State Park is primarily on the weekends, causing crowding of limited facilities. On weekdays, the facilities are not fully used.

### Recreation Trends

Park planners attempted to determine the type of recreation activities or facilities people will want. Recently there has been an increased interest in hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. People appear to favor trails that link residential areas to recreation areas, or trails that tie two or more recreation areas together (CORRP 1974).

At the same time that demand is increasing, factions are beginning to form. One side stresses more structured recreation use with developed facilities. Demand is generated for additional scenic highways as close as possible to the population centers. There is increased pressure for facilities on the coast and bay shoreline and an increased interest in specialized programs for senior citizens and cultural activities.

Another faction emphasizes less developed parks with fewer structured activities. There is a growing demand for wilderness or back country experiences within or adjacent to the cities, and a greater emphasis on citywide or regional parks where activities are generally unstructured.

Two general types of visitors to the park -- the occasional motoring tourists and the regular regional users -- reflect these differing points of view. Many of the sightseers are from among the more than 2,000,000 visitors to Muir Woods each year. They come up to East Peak to enjoy the panoramic view of the Bay Area, and these visitors are interested in improvements to roads and traffic conditions. They also desire overnight facilities close to Bay Area attractions.

The regular regional users come to Mount Tamalpais to enjoy the secluded natural environments accessible by a myriad of trails throughout the park and adjacent area. These visitors feel strongly about the protection of the mountain from any development that might mean an increase in cars and people.

Another important visitor category is composed of those from the region and elsewhere who camp at the park to enjoy the park camping experience and day-use activities rather than to use the campsite as a "motel" as they tour the Bay Area.

The difference of opinion over future facilities was also evident in public comments made during the planning process. For example, on the subject of day use of the park, one side suggested more parking facilities, interpretive displays, formal picnic areas, and a variety of concession services. The other side insisted that only existing trails be maintained and that public transportation be emphasized to ease traffic congestion in the park.

On the subject of overnight use, one side pushes for no overnight use or possibly a backpacking camp at most, while others would like to see more individual and family camps, and possibly hostels.

### Recreation Deficiencies

Once the recreation picture for Planning District 4 was considered, an analysis was made of unsatisfied recreation demands. These demands fall into two main categories -- day-use opportunities, and overnight-use opportunities.

According to the CORRP study:

"Some areas appear to be adequately served by regional day-use parks, while others are in dire need of such facilities. County or regional parks must be established in areas that are not presently being served this way. These county or regional parks should be developed to serve general needs as well as specific activity interests--youth camps, mechanized parks, and the like. A pressing need in Planning District 4 is for large open space areas within or near the urban centers.

"The scarcity of camping facilities is the most serious deficiency in recreational opportunities within Planning District 4. Because of the tourist attraction of this District, competition is keen between residents and non-residents for available campsites. The demand for camping opportunities is greatest along the coast."

To find out the extent of deficiencies in the park, a questionnaire was distributed at the start of this current planning effort. Its purpose was to gather regional visitor use information and regional visitor attitudes towards future development at the park. The findings were:

- o On Present Recreation Use - Hiking throughout many areas in the park is the principal recreation activity. Other major uses include picnicking, running, rock-climbing, rest, and meditation.
- o On Future Overnight Use - About half of those who responded to the questionnaire felt a need for additional campsites. Of these, hike-in individual sites were most often suggested, but group sites, primitive sites, and RV sites were also suggested.

On Future Day-Use Facilities - Seventy-five percent were opposed to any additional day-use facilities.

On General Issues and Concerns - The major concern was that overdevelopment and overuse of the park may occur.

To some extent, visitor comments on expanded overnight-use and day-use facilities at Mount Tamalpais State Park correspond to CORRP's findings, particularly on the need for overnight facilities.

A recent (1978) survey by the Marin County Parks and Recreation Department shows that similar deficiencies are noted by local residents. They would like to have more and better camping and picnicking facilities, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails, and campgrounds and trails accessible to disabled persons.

Despite the recreation deficiencies noted in Planning District 4 and Marin County, it is neither practical nor advisable to accommodate any major level of recreation use development at the park. This is because of limited terrain suitable for development and concern for protection of both the natural resources and the visitor experience of the park. Less than 5 percent of Mount Tamalpais is relatively flat (0-8 percent slope). Much of this land has already been developed or is not readily accessible for development. Certain areas of flat land are also located in sensitive resource zones. These factors limit the development potential of the park.

It is not advisable to establish any major development at Mount Tamalpais State Park. CORRP notes that "The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, when completed, will be a prime recreational attraction and will serve to relieve much of the burden on local recreation agencies in providing close-to-home recreational opportunities for residents of Planning District 4."

#### Proposed Recreation Use

Emphasis at Mount Tamalpais State Park will be placed on providing a diversity of appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities to enhance all the visitors' enjoyment of the park.

These recreation opportunities are those that preserve the quality of recreation experience for the visitor and allow the visitor to relate to the natural resource values of the park.

Both day use and overnight use will be provided for at Mount Tamalpais State Park. Because a high percentage (84 percent) of the park's visitor use is anticipated to originate from within a day-use travel zone, filling day-use needs will continue to be the principal recreation objective of the park. Along with day-use needs, overnight use of the park is also appropriate and especially valuable for visitors who do not reside locally.

Table 3

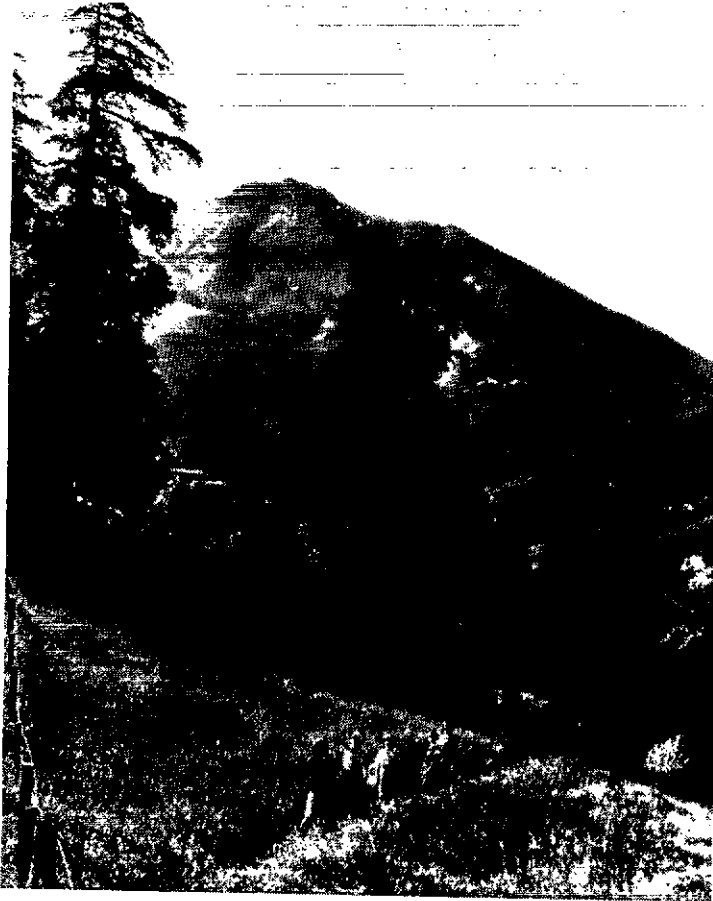
Proposed Recreation Activities

Day Use

Hiking  
Formal and informal picnicking  
Sightseeing  
Group picnicking  
Natural and cultural interpretation  
Nature study  
Horseback riding  
Specialized activities

Overnight Use

Individual and family camping  
Group camping  
Backpacking  
Hosteling  
Astronomy and other natural interpretation





## Transportation Evaluation

The natural, cultural, and recreational resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park should be enjoyed by a wide segment of the nearby metropolitan populations as well as by visitors from farther away. Early in the preparation of this General Plan it became apparent that traffic congestion, parking deficiencies, and lack of public transit use were problems that must be addressed if the park is to serve the public in the best way possible.

The transportation issues that face this unit are only a small part of a much larger recreational transportation picture. As the National Park Service points out in its study on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Point Reyes, "...Without better transit (the area) will be unable to serve a significant number of people with a great need for improved recreation." Many community members and agencies felt that adequate transportation was critical to appreciation of the park. (See Transportation Plan, Appendix B.)

Visitors to Mount Tamalpais State Park can expect increasingly congested roadways and full parking areas during peak-use periods unless innovative alternatives are developed. The proposals in this plan are designed to provide such alternatives. Our objective is to build a foundation for future public transit.

Although state park planners examined long-range goals, recommendations which could be implemented in the near future were of key concern.

These recommendations are based on the following objectives:

- o Control private auto traffic and parking within the park
- o Make public transit an attractive and effective alternative
- o Improve visitor's experience of park
- o Preserve/restore natural environment

### Traffic Conditions

Ninety-eight percent of park users arrive by private car. As a result, on peak-use days, roads and parking areas at Mount Tamalpais are often congested. Adding to the congestion are visitors going to other recreation areas such as Muir Woods, Stinson Beach, and Point Reyes. Traffic patterns vary widely; on weekdays there is little, if any, congestion.

Two highways and three other paved roads serve the area.

Panoramic Highway: The Panoramic Highway, a county road through the park, is the major access to the park and carries local traffic going to Stinson Beach and other local areas. The highway is hazardous and in peak periods is very heavily traveled. At such times it may take two hours to traverse the park. There is marked congestion at the intersection of this highway and the Ridgecrest Boulevard/Pan Toll Road.

State Highway 1 (Coast Highway): State Highway 1 provides access to the park from the south at two points — where it intersects with Panoramic Highway, and where it intersects Frank Valley Road at a point near Muir Beach. Major conflicts with local traffic occur at Muir Beach (Frank Valley Road is primary access to Muir Woods), at Stinson Beach, and at various coastal sites between these two communities where roadside parking occurs.

Frank Valley Road: The Frank Valley Road (Muir Woods Road) is the only secondary road connecting Panoramic Highway to Highway 1. The segment between Muir Woods and Highway 1 is the principal access road to Muir Woods National Monument. As such it is heavily traveled, carrying many charter buses from San Francisco and the East Bay. The segment between Muir Woods and Panoramic Highway is hazardous and less frequently used.

Bolinas Ridge Road: Bolinas Ridge Road (park property) serves as a minor access to the park from Fairfax. It receives only light use.

Ridgecrest Boulevard: Ridgecrest Boulevard (park property) is the only paved access to the East Peak area. Since about 66 percent of park visitors go to East Peak, there is heavy traffic congestion on this road on holidays and weekends.

At present, these roads are heavily congested on 30-50 days per year at times of peak park use. Because the problem involves areas outside the state park, a full assessment should be made of origins and destinations of the traffic in the park and in areas such as Muir Woods National Monument, Stinson Beach, Point Reyes National Seashore, and local communities. Although increased road capacity might initially reduce congestion on roads, the department believes that increased use of public transit would be the best solution to peak weekend and holiday traffic congestion.

A specific traffic problem deserves mention. The intersection of Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway at the east end of the park is awkward and dangerous because of severe alignment problems. Topographic conditions are so limiting that no easy solution presents itself. Additional study by all concerned agencies is recommended.

#### Road Conditions

A dirt road leads to Camp Alice Eastwood from Panoramic Highway; all other roads (except fire roads) in the park are two-lane asphalt pavement. Rehabilitation of two of the roads maintained by the department is needed.

Ridgecrest Boulevard extends from Pan Toll ranger station to East Peak. The section from Pan Toll to the Mill Valley Air Force Station (4,500 feet from Rock Springs intersection) is in good condition. The section from Mill Valley Air Force Station to East Peak (10,000 feet) is in poor condition and should be repaired.

Bolinas Ridge Road (18,000 feet), which extends from Rock Springs to the Bolinas-Fairfax Road, needs repair badly. The original surface is 0.25 to 0.5 inches thick and has been patched numerous times. It needs a completely new surface with reflective striping. At present, when the fog comes in, the road edge cannot be seen.

## Parking

There are a total of 260 paved parking spaces at Mountain Theater, Mountain Home, Pan Toll, Bootjack, and East Peak. The dirt parking lot at Rock Springs can hold about 100 cars. Another 95 road pullout spaces have been identified at various points in the unit.

At peak times, when the established parking areas are full, the natural environment and visual enjoyment suffer as additional cars are parked randomly wherever there is room. Weekday parking is not a problem.

To some extent designated parking areas serve to limit use of the park; but our goal is not to restrict park use. Rather we hope to increase park use, in some areas, and at other than peak times, by encouraging use of public transit and protect the resources by controlling parking. To this end we recommend that:

- Parking be consolidated at major trailhead and use areas;
- Random off-road parking be controlled to eliminate hazardous situations and degradation of natural resources;
- Transit service be provided at major parking areas;
- Damaged areas be restored;
- \* -- New areas be designed to have minimum visual impact and be landscaped with native plants.

## Public Transit

The proposals in this plan aim at making it easier for people to use public transit to and from the park. Although the unit is currently served by public transit (Golden Gate Transit routes 61, 62, and 63), there is limited flexible access to the entire park. Also, the existing service focuses on transit-dependent users, and does little to encourage private automobile users to park and use public transit.

The department recognizes that it will require significant efforts in innovative planning, informing the public, and working cooperatively with other public and private agencies to convince "transit-reluctant" people to give up the convenience of private automobiles. Because we believe that encouraging park visitors to use mass transit is one of the most important planning considerations, we make the following recommendations:

- The department should develop an entrance complex at Diaz Ridge with an information station, 50 designated parking spaces, and accommodations for public transit. In cooperation with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), we could provide appropriate information on traffic and parking conditions at Stinson Beach, Muir Woods, and Mount Tamalpais, and encourage alternative public transit use. The parking facilities could serve not only park visitors but also users of GGNRA lands in the immediate area and users of MMWD lands. GGNRA has property adjacent to the state park lands that could figure in the ultimate proposal.

- The department should consult with Golden Gate Transit (GGT) on the possibility of extending its current service to include a stop at Diaz Ridge (GGT Route 63) and stops at Diaz Ridge, the equestrian center, Kent Canyon, and Warm Springs (GGT Route 61).
- The department should consult with the National Park Service on the possibility of extending its planned shuttle service to include a stop at Pan Toll and stops along Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ballou Point, Rock Springs, and Laurel Dell trailhead. The National Park Service has recommended implementation of a shuttle service for 1977-82 that will serve the northern portion of Bolinas Ridge Road. Extension of this service would not only provide a vital link between GGNRA and Mount Tamalpais State Park, but would also provide supplemental access when parking along Ridgecrest Boulevard and Bolinas Ridge Road is full.
- The department should undertake additional studies on the recreational transportation problems with appropriate agencies to determine mutual needs and potential solutions. For example, CALTRANS owns a parking area near the junction of Highways 1 and 101. The area receives only negligible use on weekends, and CALTRANS staff has indicated that the area could be used as a staging area for recreation travel.

Additional study should be made by the department of the feasibility of providing a shuttle from the Rock Springs area to East Peak and/or from Diaz Ridge to East Peak, and providing a shuttle to link the developments in Frank Valley. Also, the possibility of restoring train service for access to the park has been considered. Preliminary analysis of these suggestions indicates that they are not feasible at this time.

### Trails

The 58 miles of trails in the park are one of its principal attractions. Twenty-eight hiking and equestrian trails are now available for use within the park's boundaries, including six fire roads. Many of these trails are interconnected with other trails extending beyond the park boundaries, making the system a valuable means of providing visitor access to the park from points outside the park.

There are no established bike trails in the park. While this department generally encourages bike use, the topography of the park and surrounding areas is so steep as to discourage construction of trails outside of roadways; and the type of roads and volume of traffic is such that biking is not safe on the roads.

It is interesting to note how other plans may affect the unit's trail system.

The Marin Countywide Plan proposes a main county hiking trail system, with one trail starting at Point Reyes National Seashore, extending along the Bolinas Ridge, and connecting with the Golden Gate Bridge. Another trail intersecting at Rock Springs will tie to the East Marin trails and is identified in the countywide plan. This route, the proposed Pacific Coastal Trail, is endorsed by GGNRA and the department. GGNRA has proposed in its General Management Plan that the trail connect with Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Mill Valley General Plan encourages hiking to the park from the city by providing various park trail access points from residential streets.

Extensive MMWD trails are connected with trails in the park. MMWD trail management policies are compatible with those of state trails, except that MMWD allows leashed dogs on its trails while California's Public Resources Code prohibits dogs on state park trails.

Recognizing the importance of trails at Mount Tamalpais, a trails survey questionnaire was developed and distributed to various hiking enthusiasts, organizations, and park staff for their comments on existing trail use and condition. This survey has added measurably to knowledge of existing trail conditions and maintenance needs, and has established a realistic standard for new trail development to serve the proposed facilities.

From the survey's findings, a systematic maintenance evaluation will be developed by the department's Operations Division, with the cooperation of hiking and conservation clubs, to create an ongoing program of adequate care for park trails. It is not felt that any additional trails are needed in the park, beyond those required to connect proposed developments to the existing trail system.

### Land Use Evaluation

#### Existing Land Use

Mount Tamalpais features 58 miles of hiking trails. Overnight use occurs at 16 camping sites at Pan Toll. Group camping is provided at Camp Alice Eastwood. The balance of the park is used primarily for day use, including activities such as beach use, rock climbing, scenic driving, and horseback riding. Mount Tamalpais State Park hosts more than a million visitors annually. Peak visitation occurs on weekends, creating traffic congestion and parking problems.

#### Proposed Land Use

Areas of potential use and/or development are identified on the Proposed Land Use Plan, Appendix B. The plan is partly based on allowable use intensity and carrying capacity limits and recreation planning and design guidelines. Proposed land uses for Mount Tamalpais are divided into four basic categories: natural/preservation use, day use, multi-use, and maintenance/operations use. (Specific proposals for each area are presented in the next section, Facilities Evaluation and Proposals.)

Natural/Preservation Use Areas. This category makes up about 95 percent of the park. It is proposed that these areas be maintained in a natural state with only minimum development, such as hiking trails. Trails near sensitive plant communities should be monitored to ensure resource protection. It is essential to the park's integrity that this type of use predominate. In doing so, many of the secluded areas of the park will be preserved and the need for less-developed back country will be met.

Day-Use Areas. In these areas more structured activities will be provided, such as picnicking, natural/cultural interpretation, sightseeing, and any specialized activities. All areas will have roadway access and facilities for motoring tourists and day users. Designated day-use areas are East Peak, Rock Springs, parts of Bolinas Ridge, Bootjack, Mountain Home, along Panoramic Highway at Diaz Ridge, Red Rock area, and in the Frank Valley area. All have scenic vistas dominated by Mount Tamalpais.

Multi-Use Areas. These areas will provide facilities for both day and overnight use. Individual, family, and group camping will be allowed, and day uses such as picnicking. Multi-use areas will be located at Pan Toll, Camp Eastwood, and parts of Frank Valley.

Maintenance/Operations Use Areas. These areas will be used for park maintenance, operations, and/or administrative activities. The principal base will be at Pan Toll, with satellite storage and temporary residential units at Kent Canyon and public contact facilities at Pan Toll and Diaz Ridge. West Peak is a potential maintenance/operations base.

### Facilities Evaluation and Proposals

This section describes the department's evaluation of existing facilities and proposals for development in the four use categories. Existing uses are described at 15 specific locations in the park, followed by a description of proposed facilities to be provided in each place. (The General Plan map shows these places and summarizes proposed facilities.)

In formulating facility proposals for Mount Tamalpais, no attempt has been made to satisfy all the recreation deficiencies identified in Planning District 4. The resulting level of development would be unacceptable to users of the park and in terms of environmental quality. Generally, the goal was to retain the kinds of activities people have traditionally enjoyed at Mount Tamalpais and to improve the quality of their experiences. Visitors will continue to enjoy a range of activities including hiking, sightseeing, picnicking, horseback riding, camping, and backpacking.

#### Proposed Facilities by Area

##### Bolinas Ridge

Outstanding views from the grassy knolls of Bolinas Ridge attract many drivers. Unpaved pullouts serve sightseers, informal picnickers, and hikers. On weekends, when improved parking areas are full, many cars park on the road shoulder.

A total of 115 parking places will be identified for visitors' needs. Along the ridge west of Rock Springs, 45 designated parking spaces will be provided (including 15 at Laurel Dell and 15 at Ballou Point), along with 40 improved pullout parking spaces at various locations. At Trojan Point, between Rock Springs and Pan Toll, 30 parking spaces will be provided. The surface of these areas will remain unpaved.

Existing parking areas that are to be phased out will be restored to their natural state. Public transit stops are proposed along Bolinas Ridge to coincide with remaining parking areas.

Fifteen picnic units will be provided along Bolinas Ridge near proposed parking areas and located so as to take advantage of scenic points along Bolinas Ridge Road.

Appropriate sanitary facilities will be provided in the area.

#### Rock Springs

This is a beautiful area of gently rolling meadows and scattered groves of trees. The area serves as a principal trailhead for MMWD land, with an informal parking lot close to the road. When there are special performances at the Mountain Theater, as many as 200 vehicles park there.

The General Plan proposes that the existing meadow parking area should no longer be used as extensively, and that part of it be restored to its natural condition. Sixty paved and defined parking spaces and 5 picnic units are proposed there. An additional 30-car unpaved overflow parking lot can be provided in the general area for park use. The restored Rock Springs meadow will continue to serve a few times a year as overflow parking when needed for special functions at the Mountain Theater. This limited use of the restored area is not expected to harm it.

Additional parking is available just north of the Mountain Theater, where 100 overflow spaces are provided in the existing MMWD parking lot. Precautions should be taken to avoid new development that would jeopardize any rare or endangered plant species.

Transit access to this area is also proposed.

#### Mountain Theater

This natural amphitheater, with its massive stone seats, has held crowds of over 5,000 people. It accommodates special events, such as the annual Mountain Play put on by the Mountain Play Association, high school graduations, and Easter Sunday services. Use of the Marin Municipal Water District parking lot (100 spaces) to the north of the theater is available on request.

Although special events are held only a few times each year, the large influx of visitors over a short time accentuates the lack of available parking. The search for parking often leads users to pull off roads, damaging the environment and creating safety problems.

Since present use is largely confined to paved surfaces and there is no apparent damage to resources, a limitation on visitors does not appear to be called for. A limitation now exists in terms of availability of parking spaces. To some extent this can be overcome by busing arrangements. These arrangements are the responsibility of the organizations that sponsor events at the theater and are subject to prior approval of various controlling agencies, as required by the park staff.

The existing parking area at the entrance to the theater will provide 10 designated parking spaces and a passenger drop-off zone.

If the West Peak facility (almost one mile from the theater) becomes available for park use, 200 more parking spaces will be available. Mountain Theater users could arrange a shuttle system to this facility.

Improvements to the Mountain Theater will include replacement of old water lines, upgrading of electric service, and general site work, including attention to trails.

#### West Peak

The West Peak area is owned by the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), and leased to the U.S. Air Force for a radar station (Mill Valley Air Force Station). On the summit of West Peak are communication domes along with a number of buildings, all highly visible from many parts of the Bay Area. The Air Force expects to phase out its operation over the next two years. Several proposals have been made for park use of West Peak. This department encourages removal of the domes and other structures that mar the skyline. However, it is understood that after the military leaves the site, the domes will be retained and operated by the Federal Aviation Agency.

The department considers the following as potential uses for the site. They would be negotiated with MMWD.

Portions of West Peak could be used for a resident outdoor environmental education facility. Overflow parking for special events at the Mountain Theater could also be located at West Peak. Other portions of West Peak could be used for park operations (staff residences, minor maintenance and storage areas, and information office space). The maintenance and operation of facilities at West Peak, including utility systems, would be a major responsibility with heavy financial implications. It is not likely that this department would need all of the facilities of the area, so some form of joint undertaking with MMWD should be considered.

In the long run, most, if not all, of the structures should be removed from West Peak to reestablish a natural scene. To this end, the department views its use of facilities there as temporary, and would eventually find other locations for these functions, possibly outside the park.

#### West Point Inn

The department is currently negotiating a 50-year lease with the Marin Municipal Water District to bring some 900 acres of MMWD land under the department's jurisdiction. The West Point Inn watershed is within this land and will continue as a day-use hiking area. The terms of the lease will exempt the West Point Club, allowing it to continue operating the West Point Inn. The inn is used by various groups as a retreat, and also serves as a rest stop where hikers can refresh themselves.

The West Point Inn will continue to provide both day-use and overnight use opportunities, subject to the terms of the lease agreement.



## Boot Jack

Originally, Bootjack was a group camp facility, but it is now a picnic area located on small flats in a generally sloping area. The site has suffered from heavy use and is in need of some rehabilitation. It also serves as a major trailhead.

At Bootjack, the 20 existing picnic units will be retained, and the area will be rehabilitated to correct deficiencies. The 49 parking spaces will remain, with landscaping added to screen the area from the adjacent Panoramic Highway.

## Pan Toll

Pan Toll serves as the only individual/family campground in the park. The 16 campsites are heavily used and need rehabilitation. These are walk-in, tent sites; no spaces are available for vehicular camping. Parking is available about 100 yards from the campsites. The park headquarters is also located in this area, along with staff residences and maintenance and storage facilities.

These 16 campsites will continue as multi-use facilities, providing both day use and overnight use. Pan Toll will also continue to be used as a major trailhead for the park. As camping facilities are developed in the Frank Valley area, use of Pan Toll will be deemphasized, and the campsites will be rehabilitated.

Fifty paved parking spaces and 30 overflow spaces are available at the existing parking area at Pan Toll. Landscaping will screen the area.

The park headquarters will continue in its role as a visitor contact and information station because of its central location.

Two existing permanent staff residences at Pan Toll will remain in use.

The Pan Toll operations and maintenance service area will be retained. If West Peak becomes available, some storage and maintenance facilities at Pan Toll will be relocated there.

## Red Rock Beach

Located just south of Stinson Beach, Red Rock is a relatively clean beach accessible by a steep half-mile trail from a parking turnout and unimproved parking lot along Highway 1. On peak-use days, as many as 100 cars fill the lot and overflow into areas across Highway 1. This situation is hazardous because people must cross Highway 1 to get to the beach.

Most of the parking areas are on land owned by Caltrans. Department staff consulted with Caltrans staff and learned that while Caltrans is unlikely to designate any parking in this area, it may agree to develop earth berms. These would keep vehicles out of areas from which it is unsafe to cross the highway. They would also prevent visitors from parking vehicles where they stick out into the roadway.

There are no sanitary facilities at Red Rock Beach. This plan proposes development of a comfort station, relatively close to State Highway 1, so that pumping out wastes will be feasible. Trail improvement is also needed here to reduce random foot traffic which is eroding the land.

#### Steep Ravine

The coastal landscape, beach, and the natural sulfur hot springs are the highlights of the Steep Ravine area. Thirteen cabins, constructed before the property was added to the park, are now vacant and boarded up. Current approved uses of the site include fishing, sunbathing, and informal day use.

The only vehicle access to the site will be for service vehicles. Along Highway 1, near the entrance to Steep Ravine, roadside parking is available for day-use visitors.

#### Back Country

About 95 percent of Mount Tamalpais State Park is back country, with dense forests and open grasslands, rolling hills, and numerous trails that offer the visitor many opportunities to escape from the surrounding urban scene.

The back country will continue to be accessible only by hiking and horseback riding, preserving both the quality of the environment and visitor experiences in this area. The existing trail system will be maintained and a systematic, ongoing evaluation of trail conditions will be made.

The only proposed development in the Mount Tamalpais back country is a trail camp along the newly established Pacific Coastal Trail. The National Park Service is establishing similar trail camps along the Pacific Coastal Trail outside the park. They will offer a backpacking experience from the Golden Gate Bridge to Point Reyes National Seashore.

The camp will be located at the Tree Farm, and will be retained until such time as the nonnative Monterey pines there are removed. It will consist of 15 primitive hike-in sites, a comfort station, and water facilities. No permanent structures will be built. The number of users will be controlled by a permit system that will allow a specific number to use the site.

#### East Peak

East Peak attracts more visitors than any area in the park. It provides excellent panoramic views of the Bay Area below. Many visitors come for a short, one-time sightseeing visit. Rock climbing and picnicking also take place.

An additional 3 picnic units will be provided at East Peak, bringing the total to 15. There will be 120 designated spaces in the existing paved parking area. Landscaping will be improved. The existing entrance road will be redesigned to eliminate the hazardous conflicts between cars and pedestrians going between East Peak and the parking lot.

Fill material will be placed on the tavern ruins, keeping them intact for historic purposes, but overcoming unsightliness.

The existing comfort station will be landscaped to have it blend with the surroundings.

All existing trails in the area will be evaluated and upgraded as required.

The existing portable concessions facility (food service) will be retained.

#### Mountain Home Area

This area serves as a major trailhead and parking area for several popular hiking trails. It also has a 40-vehicle parking lot for park users. Patrons of the Mountain Home Restaurant across the road also use the lot. The resulting pedestrian traffic across Panoramic Highway is a hazardous situation.

It is proposed that the parking area remain, with additional landscaping and appropriate safety signs installed to minimize visual impact and safety problems.

The park residence south of Mountain Home will be retained.

#### Camp Alice Eastwood

This is a primitive group camp area for about 40 people and is used nightly from mid-April to mid-November. Facilities include tables, piped drinking water, and pit toilets.

The camp will remain, along with 20-vehicle parking. It is considered a multi-use facility as it is also available on a day-use basis. Existing sanitary facilities will be upgraded.

#### Diaz Ridge

Panoramic Highway, which provides the major access to the park, runs along Diaz Ridge in the southeast corner of the park. The area is characterized by open, grassy knolls.

A majority of visitors using Mount Tamalpais State Park, Muir Woods National Monument, and Stinson Beach enter the park along Panoramic Highway either at its junction with State Highway 1 or 4,000 feet north, where it meets Sequoia Valley Road from Mill Valley.

As discussed in the Transportation Evaluation Section, it is proposed to provide an information station at Diaz Ridge near Panoramic Highway to serve as the initial visitor contact and information point for park visitors. A parking area with 50 designated spaces, an overflow parking area, and access to public transit will be provided. Developments at the site need not be visible from the adjacent highway because of differences in grade. To keep the development from intruding on vistas from other high points in the park, it will be designed to blend with the surroundings, and will be landscaped with native plants.

## Frank Valley

The Frank Valley area adjacent to Muir Woods was added to the park for the purpose of preserving the area's natural values and to provide additional recreational opportunities. Its acquisition was recommended in the Mount Tamalpais State Park Expansion Study, requested by House resolution No. 99, Statutes of 1964.

Redwood Creek, which runs through Frank Valley, has been identified by the California Coastal Plan as an important resource deserving special protection. Water quality and quantity must be maintained to assure protection of the fishery.

Although Frank Valley has terrain suitable for recreation development, restraint will be exercised respecting the natural resources and visual integrity of the valley. Recreational facilities will be limited in quantity, consolidated, and screened to minimize visual impact. The intensity of use will also be controlled to prevent degradation of the natural environment and protect the visitors' enjoyment of the area.

Existing facilities include an equestrian area, with riding ring and training course, and a primitive backpack camp in Santos Meadow. In Kent Canyon, there are also several staff residences and a storage/maintenance area for park operations.

Development in Frank Valley is proposed in four areas.

### o Santos Meadow

The equestrian area will be retained for equestrian and nonequestrian group use, and will be used on a permit/reservation basis. A multi-use, hike-in facility with 10 sites will be provided in the adjacent canyon to serve users of the Pacific Coastal Trail (see Transportation Evaluation, Trails).

No formal parking development is proposed in Santos Meadow, in the interests of preserving the present pastoral scene. Occasional vehicular access to equestrian activities will continue to be allowed over existing dirt roads.

Sanitary facilities, water, and trash receptacles will be provided.

### o Kent Canyon

A multi-use unit of 40 walk-in sites will be located in Kent Canyon, which is a prime public use area. It possesses flat terrain beside an intermittent stream, is relatively sheltered from coastal wind and fog, and is hidden from the Frank Valley Road.

The department will consider the possibility of consolidating parking for Frank Valley in Kent Canyon and operating a shuttle at busy times from there to the other areas of the valley. This would offer advantages for the public because vehicles would be parked in a less-isolated area where there would be staff surveillance available. Parking in Kent Canyon would have less adverse visual impact than development along Frank Valley Road and would facilitate collection of park use fees. The feasibility of a shuttle has not been fully evaluated. Development of a 50-vehicle parking area is recommended. Most people could walk the 4,000 feet from Kent Canyon to the multi-use areas at each end of the valley.

The existing Marin Area storage facilities at Kent Canyon will be removed and relocated with facilities outside the park. Minor maintenance and service facilities will be developed as necessary to support proposed activities.

As recommended in the Resource Element, the foundation of structures of a former dairy farm will be removed.

Two permanent staff residences in Kent Canyon will be temporarily retained until other sites become available, as at West Peak.

Plantings and other screening, plus careful siting of service facilities, will make these elements compatible with the public entrance and will improve the site as it is viewed from Frank Valley Road.

Sanitary facilities, water, and trash receptacles will be provided.

o Riley's Meadow

A 15-site multi-use facility will be developed in Riley's Meadow, just east of the equestrian area. Access will be provided by a pedestrian bridge. No clearing of riparian canopy vegetation is anticipated and widening of any trails will be minimized. Sites will be kept well back from the creek. Sanitary facilities will be kept simple. Parking will initially be provided in the Kent Canyon area. If needed, the area has space for a 20-car parking facility on the northwest side of the creek.

o Warm Springs

Warm Springs is located at the east end of Frank Valley. The same development as proposed for Riley's Meadow is proposed for this area. In both cases, access will be by footbridge only.

Walk-in sites have several advantages over traditional campgrounds: better use of available land; less scenic impact; reduced environmental impact; and a degree of inconvenience that will discourage "transient camping" (i.e., campers who would use the sites as a bedroom for visiting the Bay Area).

Sanitary facilities water, and trash receptacles will be provided.

## Implementation Program

This General Plan provides guidelines for adequate management programs, facilities, and services, but because of funding constraints, the program cannot be implemented all at one time. The department has therefore assigned priorities to the various aspects of the planned developments. To increase flexibility and enable us to respond to changing demands, these designated priorities will be carried out in several stages.

Because the preservation of the natural and cultural resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park is a prime objective of the plan, certain specific measures recommended in the Resource Element to achieve this goal will be implemented as soon as possible. Some of these could be carried out under the minor capital outlay or operations program.

Corrective actions, such as covering the tavern foundations, relocating overhead transmission lines, and removing exotic plants, are extremely important for protecting resources and enhancing public enjoyment of the unit.

The priorities for development are as follows:

Priority 1: Development of a hostel at Kent Canyon. The department will ask the legislature to appropriate previously committed funds for the Steep Ravine hostel for the Kent Canyon facility.

Priority 2: Development of the Riley's Meadow multi-use facility in Frank Valley, the trail camp along the Pacific Coastal Trail at the Tree Farm, and improved parking areas and public transit stops.

Priority 3: Development of multi-use facilities at Kent Canyon. The primary purpose of this program will be to provide additional overnight and day-use facilities which will relieve existing visitor pressure at Pan Toll and distribute the expected moderate increase in park use more evenly over the area. A comfort station at Red Rock Beach will also be provided.

Priority 4: Development of the Diaz Ridge entrance facility.

Priority 5: Development of the balance of facilities in Frank Valley, proposed picnic areas, and other proposed improvements.

Priorities 2 through 5 will be accomplished in phases, as noted earlier. The extent of each phase will be determined by the specific needs identified at the time funds are requested. Such phased development is desirable, allowing us to initiate development in the areas where adverse impacts will be limited and extend development carefully. By responding only to demonstrated needs and only to the extent compatible with protection of park resources, we can both preserve the environment and give the public an opportunity to enjoy it.

As an example, Warm Springs should be developed in two phases. In the first phase, 15 primitive hike-in units would be provided. This type of development would offer backpackers using the Pacific Coastal Trail an optional route through beautiful Muir Woods National Monument. The site may be well used by backpackers, by campers who are dropped off at the county road near the site, and by campers using a shuttle arrangement, with parking at Kent Canyon. Since there is a heavy demand for all kinds of camping facilities at the park, if the sites are not well used in that manner, the second stage of development would provide a parking area between the creek and the county road to provide better access. Group use would be favored as this would require only a small parking area and would lend itself to reservation use.

Similarly, Kent Canyon would be developed in two stages. One stage would provide walk-in, multi-use sites with parking limited to a downstream area. If the demand for this walk-in type of development exists, the development of an additional parking area and road, with their intrusion on the natural scene, would not be necessary. If this fails to meet the public need, a road extension partway up the canyon is feasible.

Developments proposed for the Rock Springs Area and elsewhere on Marin Municipal Water District lands will require concurrence from that agency and, to the extent that state funds are involved, will require special concurrence from the legislature to expend such funds outside state property.

In Franks Valley, camping at Rileys Meadows or Warm Springs will not be implemented until necessary mitigation measures to protect the spawning beds have been determined, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game.

#### General Facility Designs

The department's architectural section has surveyed the structures at Mount Tamalpais State Park. A program will be developed to overcome any structural or maintenance deficiencies so that all structures and facilities will meet minimum standards for health and safety, and where possible the needs of the handicapped. The following concepts will be used as guidelines in designing the proposed facilities:

- o Design and construct architectural structures that respond to the need for conservation of energy and resources.
- o Provide furniture constructed with native materials whenever possible.
- o Encourage the conservation of nonrenewable resources and promote the research, development, and use of various alternative energy sources for utilities in the park. (For example, solar space heating, solar water heating, and skylights will be used where possible and practical.)
- o Design developments to avoid or minimize geological hazards.
- o Design structures to be in harmony with the environment in scale, color, and materials.
- o Protect the environment near facilities.
- o Design and construct facilities (structures, walks, and ramps) to be accessible and usable by physically handicapped persons.

## Utilities

### Water

At present, water for the northwestern section of the park comes from two springs on MMWD lands. One supplies the East Peak area and the other the Bootjack, Mountain Theater, and Pan Toil areas. Camp Alice Eastwood is supplied by a creek intake structure and the Mountain Residence area by the MMWD. The Frank Valley area is supplied by a well. No water supply now exists for Bolinas Ridge, Diaz Ridge, Red Rock Beach, or Steep Ravine (see Utilities Map).

Estimates of water requirements in each of the park areas have been made, and the water systems now in operation are considered adequate for proposed developments where these systems are located. However, arrangements must be made for supplying water to some areas where none is available now. Also, a special situation exists at the community of Muir Beach, which obtains water from two wells in Frank Valley.

Bolinas Ridge -- No water source is available for this area so the planned picnic sites and pullout parking areas will be provided with waterless toilets.

Diaz Ridge -- Water needed for sanitary facilities at this site will be obtained from the Mill Valley City System.

Muir Beach Water Supply -- Water for the community of Muir Beach (500,000 gallons per month) comes from two wells located just outside the western limit of the park in Frank Valley. Because these wells are relatively shallow (37 feet) they have no sanitary seal, making them liable to pollution from leaching of black wastes. Therefore, the department proposes to separate black from gray waste in vaults and haul out the black wastes. This solution to the problem has been approved by the Muir Beach general manager.

### Sewage

As noted in the Resource Element, most soils of this unit are not well suited for leaching of wastes; however, leachfields do exist in all the developed areas except Steep Ravine. The department recognizes the problem and plans a program of frequent inspection and replacement of these fields whenever necessary to maintain groundwater quality.

In Frank Valley, leachfield use will be restricted or prohibited in recognition of the concerns of the Muir Beach community for the quality of its water supply. It is recommended that low-flush toilets be used and wastes be separated into gray and black water; the latter to be collected in vaults and hauled to an off-site wastewater treatment system.



## Power

Electrical power to Mount Tamalpais is supplied by PG&E on overhead powerlines that run from Stinson Beach along Panoramic Highway to Pan Toll, then to Bootjack, and then to Mountain Theater. The department owns and maintains the line from Bootjack to Mountain Theater. A line also runs in Frank Valley from Highway 1 to Muir Woods.

Efforts should be made to place overhead utility lines underground where such work would not have excessive impact (as by trenching through sensitive tree areas). Where undergrounding is not feasible or desirable, consideration should be given to consolidation of lines to reduce visual impact.

## Concessions

Funds allocated to the department cannot be expected to provide all services and facilities that might be desirable. Relatively little will be spent on ancillary services and facilities such as food services, recreation equipment rentals, and the like. When appropriate, these are to be provided primarily through the use of private capital investment.

The Public Resources Code (Chapter 1, Article 1.5, Section 5019.10) provides authority to the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into agreements with private business, and to control concessions activities.

Today the only concession at Mount Tamalpais State Park is a temporary food service operation at East Peak. A concession for the operation and maintenance of the Kent Canyon Hostel is proposed.

At this time, it is not expected that any other concession services will be required in the park. It is conceivable that shuttle services or other modes of moving people in the park could be concession operations.

## Interpretation

Interpretive services at Mount Tamalpais State Park will focus primarily on the beauty and variety of the natural and scenic features of the environment. Visitors need to be aware of diversity in the park, and interpretive methods will be designed to enhance these features and not detract from them.

Brochures for self-guided hikes can present interesting natural history and the background of the area's significant cultural activities, both past and present.

An environmental education program at Mount Tamalpais would be an excellent opportunity for children, particularly those from urban areas.

School groups and outdoor organizations can arrange in advance for guided walks where the students' or organization's special area of interest can be emphasized. It would be advisable to have a "Teacher's Guide" so that children could be prepared in advance of their visit and already have some background knowledge about what they are going to see and do.

Campfire programs at Camp Alice Eastwood and Kent Canyon can also be used as a method of interpreting the park's variety of natural and cultural aspects.

Park personnel should continue to be available at East Peak to point out special points in the spectacular panoramic view afforded from the top of the mountain and to give brief informal talks.

At this time a local radio station broadcasts a 5-minute radio program on which the park's rangers talk about places of interest or about upcoming special events. This approach appears to be a good way to reach people and expand their awareness and knowledge of the park's natural features and facilities.

### Interpretive Themes

Interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of Mount Tamalpais State Park will center on three broad themes -- natural environment and preservation, Native Americans and missionization, and Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway and the Mountain Theater.

Theme 1: Natural Environment and Preservation. All of the environmental interpretive efforts will mention the importance of preservation and conservation of open spaces. Pressures of the man-made environment on these fragile natural resources will be emphasized.

Brochures for self-guided hikes allow each visitor to have a personal experience with the park -- to go at his own pace and be informed about what there is to see and how to get there. A trail guide covering the extensive network of trails -- not only in the park itself, but in Muir Woods National Monument, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and watershed lands held by the Marin Municipal Water District -- will also be available at various places in the park. Visitors will have an opportunity to become aware of the extent of open space and be alerted to facilities that are available for public recreation.

Because the trail system at Mount Tamalpais State Park is extensive, it is important that adequate trail information be readily available to hikers. Length of trails, approximate time necessary for completion of a hike, and special points of interest along the way should be included.

Short guided hikes and talks will focus on special features of the park -- wildflower displays, the East Peak area, or the Mountain Theater, for example.

On clear nights, visitors hiking along the ridgetops or up to East Peak have a panoramic view of the Bay Area. The Tamalpais Astronomical Society has a special use permit and has arranged interpretive programs on nights when there is a new moon.

The Youth Conservation Corps two-month summer program has worked well at Mount Tamalpais. High school students have the opportunity to learn more about the natural environment and the need for ecological balance.

Theme 2: Native Americans and Missionization. The story of the Coast Miwok-- their culture, traditions, use of natural resources, and living patterns -- make an interesting contrast to our present-day perceptions and uses of this same environment. The missionization process began relatively late in Marin County (1817), but nonetheless had tremendous impact on Coast Miwok culture.

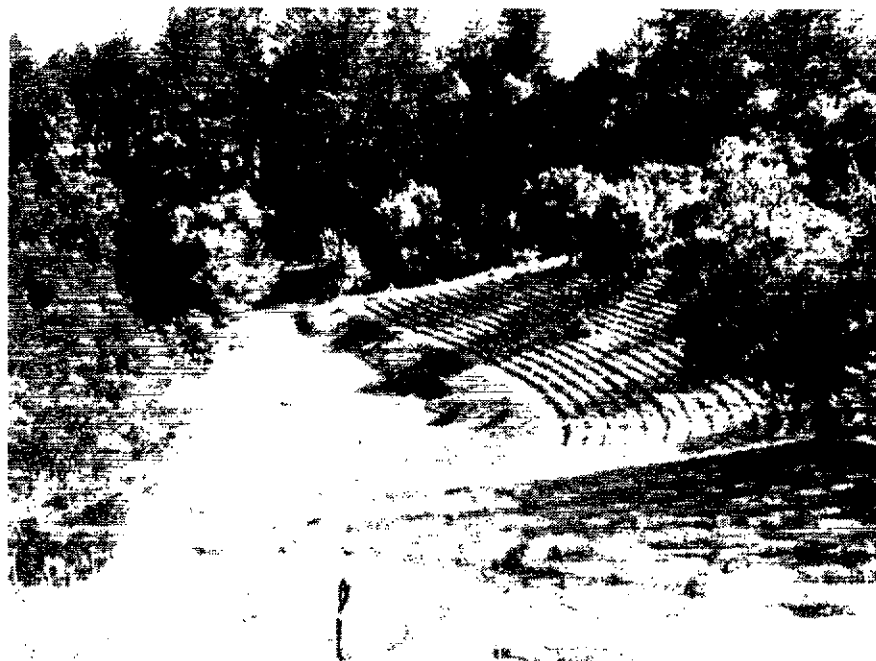
Trail guides at Pan Toll and Diaz Ridge information centers, guided hikes, and other informal tours of Mount Tamalpais by park personnel or docent groups should describe the Coast Miwok culture and point out how the Indians used the various natural resources.

Theme 3: Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway and the Mountain Theater. Mountain Home is the most appropriate place to interpret the history of the Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway. From here people can hike up the old railroad grade and follow the route of what was commonly called "the crookedest railroad in the world." An interpretive panel giving a brief illustrated history of the railroad could be located here.

A brochure describing the history of the railroad, the people who were involved in its creation, and the inns that once existed to serve the passengers will be available at the Mountain Home and also at Pan Toll.

The Mountain Theater is an interesting and outstanding feature of Mount Tamalpais State Park. A brief summary of its conception, construction, and variety of uses will be presented on an interpretive panel near the entrance where it would not intrude on the beauty of the amphitheater itself.

A brochure dealing with the history of the Mountain Theater and the Mountain Play Association should be made available to visitors at the Pan Toll Station.





# OPERATIONS ELEMENT





## OPERATIONS ELEMENT

Operation of Mount Tamalpais State Park is the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation's Operations Division, headquartered in Sacramento. Regional field operations (resource management, administration, maintenance, interpretation) are administered through the Region I office in Santa Rosa and the Area office in Corte Madera. The office at the park handles on-site duties.

Department operational staff were consulted as to the pros and cons of consolidation of jurisdiction of Muir Woods National Monument and Mount Tamalpais State Park. Apparently, there is no foreseeable political likelihood of the consolidation occurring. The extent of cooperation between the two jurisdictions is such that the Muir Woods operation as a federal unit does not cause problems for state park operation.

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 O&M 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 developments or programs.

The main park service area (or corporation yard) is at Pan Toll. If the department obtains the use of facilities at West Peak, some functions would shift from Pan Toll to West Peak. A small service area and storage building are proposed at Kent Canyon to service Frank Valley developments. Other existing facilities at Kent Canyon, which are being used for Marin Area storage, should be relocated to a site more central to area operations. The space they now occupy at Kent Canyon will be needed for public use.

Housing for permanent employees is dispersed, with one house near the Mountain Home, two at Pan Toll, two at Kent Canyon in Frank Valley, and two residence trailers at Kent Canyon. This housing is adequate for today's needs for permanent employees; however, there is no housing for seasonal employees and no site in the park seems suitable for this purpose. Seasonal staff could be accommodated in existing structures at West Peak, should they become available.

The proposal to eliminate the residences from Kent Canyon, when housing can be provided elsewhere, is preferred because of space limitations and the adverse impact of residential activity on proposed public use areas.

Additional staffing will be required to handle the Frank Valley multi-use development. If shuttle service or train operation within the park occurs, and is staffed by park personnel, housing would be required for the employees involved.

Public contact at the park is currently provided through the park headquarters at Pan Toll and by patrol. A checking kiosk on Ridgecrest Boulevard, just above the Pan Toll area, is manned when traffic control is necessary on the road above this point (e.g., for special events at the Mountain Theater).

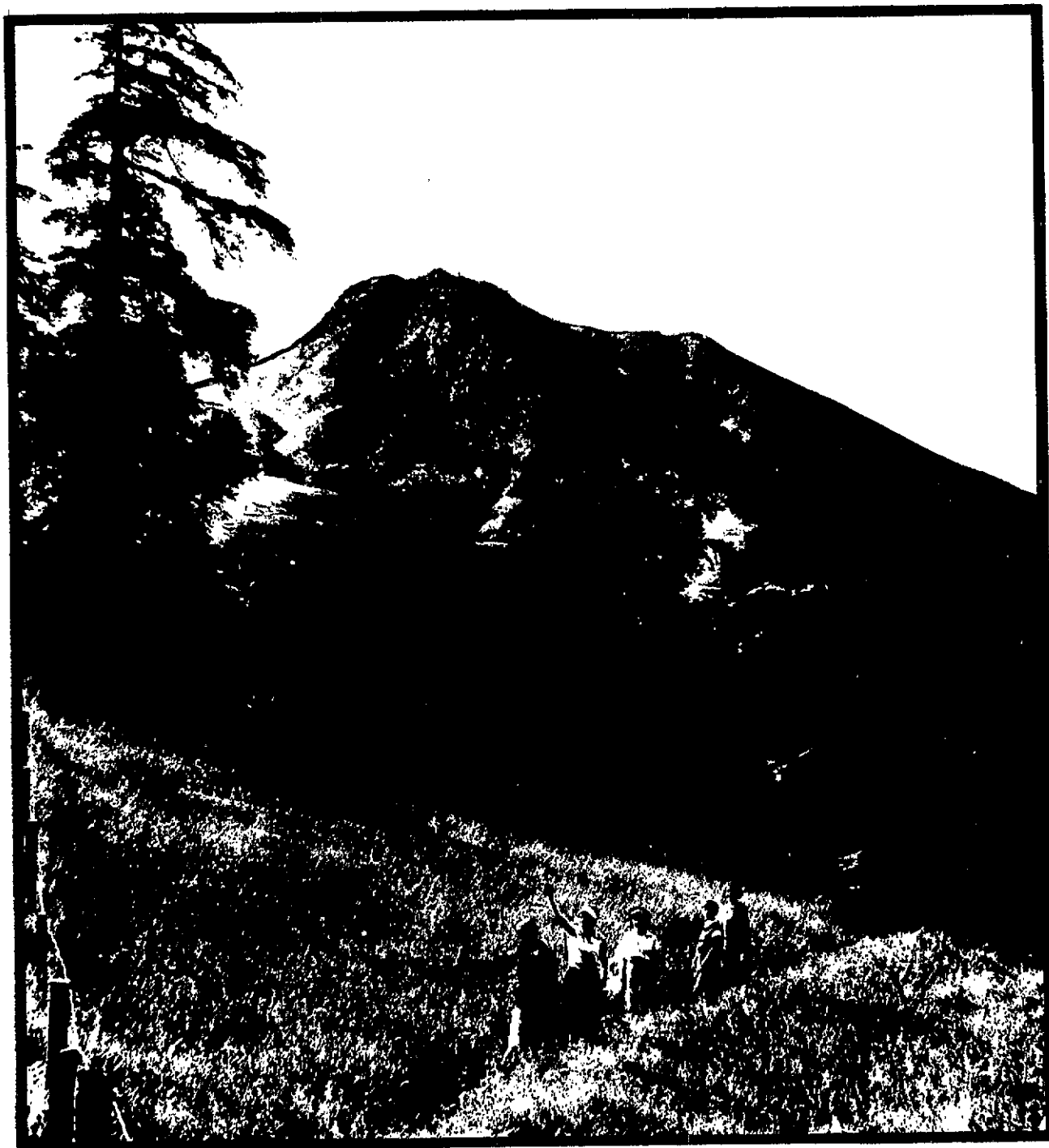
Operation of the proposed hostel at Kent Canyon is anticipated as being accomplished by professionals in that field, who have been contacted by the department and have expressed an interest in that activity.

Operation of developments in Frank Valley would be conducted from the proposed contact station at Kent Canyon. Satellite areas in Frank Valley would either be monitored by patrols or users of those areas might be required to check in at Kent Canyon.

The equestrian facilities in Frank Valley area are open to various responsible groups on a special use permit basis.



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT  
MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN

This Environmental Impact Element (EIE) is an environmental assessment of the proposals set forth in the elements of this general plan for Mount Tamalpais State Park. As such, it meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. This EIE is synonymous with a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The degree of specificity in the EIE corresponds to the degree of specificity of the General Plan. Whenever a specific phase of the overall plan is budgeted and proposed for implementation, a more detailed and specific environmental assessment will be prepared for that particular project, as part of the budget package.

Description of Project

Maps of Mount Tamalpais listing existing and proposed features of the general plan's land use and facilities element are in Appendix B, along with a regional map relating to the study area.

Objectives of the plan are to provide general guidelines for the park's resource management, land use, facilities, and operations. The resource management objective is listed in the Resource Element. The general proposals set forth in this plan are to:

1. Increase recreation opportunities in Frank Valley.
2. Improve the unit's parking and vehicle circulation.
3. Rehabilitate worn-out areas.
4. Remove exotic plants.
5. Remove or conceal esthetically unpleasing structures .
6. Establish an information/contact facility at Diaz Ridge.
7. Retain and continue to maintain 58 miles of hiking and horseback trails.

Description of Environmental Setting

Mount Tamalpais is a unique landscape feature in Marin County. A description of the park's physical features is given in the Resource Element. Six rare plants occur in the park, according to official records of the California Native Plant Society. Three of these also occur on the federal list of endangered and threatened species.

The Land Use and Facilities Element describes the regional setting of the park and existing land uses. Included are descriptions of existing utilities, roads, and trail systems.

## Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

Certain environmental qualities of the park as a whole will be affected by the proposed development. These are discussed first, followed by a description of anticipated effects in specific areas of development.

### General Effects

Pollution. A minimal amount of air and noise pollution is expected from increases in traffic and visitor use. Slight increases in pollution of streams will result from soil erosion, drainage of petroleum products from roads and parking lots, and careless littering.

Esthetics. New use areas and facilities will be visible from strategic viewpoints such as along Panoramic Highway, on top of East Peak, and from State Highway 1. The proposed removal of transmission powerlines from above ground and removal or relocation of several structures will have beneficial effects on scenic values.

Energy Consumption. Heating and maintenance of park buildings, operation of park and private vehicles, and construction activities will consume energy.

Traffic. There is serious traffic congestion throughout the park. The plan presents proposals to solve or alleviate many of the conditions, but proposals for opening new areas in Frank Valley will result in added traffic there.

Geology. Since the area is close to the San Andreas Fault, developments could be affected by fault movement. Slide areas are common in the park.

Fire. Because of the steepness of park terrain, the accumulation of vegetation and vegetative litter, and long, dry summers, there is a possibility of a severe wildfire.

Soils. Slight disturbance of soil will result from construction activities. This can be minimized by limiting, to the extent possible, the area affected by heavy construction equipment and by using proper soil conservation measures. A potential problem is erosion on trails, near streams, and in off-trail areas that is caused by vegetative loss linked to human activities. Soil compaction, resulting in less soil permeability, and increased runoff and erosion can also be expected.

Vegetation. Development of facilities, trail construction, and visitor use will affect some vegetation.

Existing data on the distribution of rare and endangered species in the park are not sufficient to determine whether any would be affected by the proposed developments. Environmental documents on specific development plans will have more specific data on rare and endangered plants.

The removal or at least the control of several invasive exotic species will benefit the perpetuation of existing native plants.

Cultural Resources. No prehistoric sites have been identified that would be affected by proposed development. Several historic structures have been identified, but none will be adversely affected.

Table 3 lists buildings and structures that have been approved for demolition, which would not cause a significant effect on the environment. None has significant historical value.

Table 4  
Structures Approved for Demolition

Frank Valley

Storage sheds (3)	In Kent Canyon	
Storage building	In Kent Canyon	
Greenhouse	In Kent Canyon	
*Residences (2)	In Kent Canyon	(may be retained for park purposes)
Barn	In Kent Canyon	(may be retained for park purposes)
Foundations for dairy buildings south of Redwood Creek		

\*Several options exist such as using one, relocating one, using one or both for several years, or demolishing one or both in the near future.

East Peak

Abandoned comfort station  
Concession building

Steep Ravine

Sheds (2)  
Water tower  
\*All cabins

Miscellaneous

Powerlines found along the ridge above Lone Tree Creek drainage and near the junction of Pacific Crest and Dipsea Trails to be removed or relocated.

\*The approval for demolition of these cabins has been through the CEQA process. However, a request to remove the cabins was denied at a State Coastal Commission meeting in October 1974.

Effects in Specific Areas

Bolinas Ridge. The existing impacts here, associated with traffic congestion and roadside parking on shoulders, affect vegetation and cause minor soil compaction and erosion. Proposed parking areas will lessen this impact.

Mountain Theater and Rock Springs. The plan's proposals will have a beneficial effect by reducing traffic congestion associated with theater events. Of major importance is the proposed reduction of parking at Rock Springs, which will return the area to a more natural condition. The proposed parking site east of the Mountain Theater is the suspected site of a rare plant, Tiburon buckwheat, which may be affected.

Pan Toll, Bootjack, Mountain Home Area, and Camp Alice Eastwood. The proposed rehabilitation of these areas will be beneficial to esthetics but may cause some minor impacts during the refurbishing stage.

Red Rock Beach. Traffic congestion is one of the main problems here. The plan's proposals will benefit the parking situation and reduce existing parking hazards. There are no sanitary facilities at this site. The proposed addition of a comfort station for this area should reduce negative environmental impacts.

Traffic congestion problems occur from cars parking along Highway 1. This is a potentially dangerous traffic area due to curves, dips, reduced visibility, and usually rapid traffic flow through the area.

Tidepool life will be affected by increased visitor use along the coast.

Back Country. Some soil erosion will result from trail construction and use. The proposed linkage of the Pacific Coast Trail with other segments on adjacent land, the removal of exotic plants, and the rerouting or undergrounding of powerlines will be beneficial.

East Peak. Several beneficial changes are proposed. These are: 1) relocating the one-lane traffic ingress lane to avoid conflict between vehicles and pedestrians; 2) burying the unsightly tavern foundations to preserve these historic remains; and 3) landscaping the restroom with native plants. There would be an impact at a not-yet-designated borrow site where soil will be obtained to bury the tavern foundations.

Diaz Ridge. The plan proposes developing a contact station with public transit facilities at Diaz Ridge. The visual impact resulting from this proposal would be adverse because the location is on a grassy ridge area visible from some high elevations in the park. However, to the north the ridge is already crowded with other urban structures. Beneficial effects would result from having an information and contact facility and parking, and a possible shuttle staging area closer to the most popular entrance to the park. Visitors will be encouraged to proceed on foot to Muir Woods and the state park. With information available at Diaz Ridge, many visitors may be satisfied with the views from Diaz Ridge and may choose not to travel further into the park on the two-lane, winding roads. If visitors do proceed, the orientation received at Diaz Ridge will probably reduce the need to ask questions at the Pan Toll ranger station or other points. Energy would be saved by both a shuttle system to the summit or by visitors deciding not to proceed further than the Diaz Ridge contact station in vehicles.

Frank Valley. The most significant effect in Frank Valley could be on the salmonoid fish habitat of Redwood Creek and the riparian vegetation along the creek. Salmonoids spawn in the creek and young salmonoids are reared in the creek. Removal of riparian vegetation would also result in increased erosion and siltation of gravels. Heavy deposits would seriously affect their usefulness for spawning.

The riparian plant community would be adversely affected by the removal of some woody species during the construction of footbridges across the creek and by the eventual reduction of numerous understory herbs and brambles because of increased visitor activity along the creek.

Other effects would include soil erosion, soil compaction, possible stream pollution, increased traffic, and possible visual effects. Parking areas will increase runoff.

People from Muir Beach have expressed concern that development in Frank Valley would affect that community's water supply, which comes from two wells in the valley. Similarly, Stinson Beach residents are concerned about any actions in the Webb Creek watershed, the source of their water supply.

A beneficial effect of the project will result from the removal of the remains of the dairy farm in Frank Valley.

#### Significant Environmental Effects That Cannot be Avoided

All of the effects mentioned as significant and those rated less than significant cannot be completely avoided. Many of the proposed plan's features can be altered to minimize the effects. Mitigation measures will be carried out to minimize adverse impacts.

Having inventoried and analyzed the existing resources, determined present and future recreational needs, and studied various alternatives, the department has determined that the benefits to be gained from the proposed project outweigh the environmental impact resulting from implementation of this plan.

#### Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Significant Effects

1. Members of the operations staff at Mount Tamalpais State Park will patrol and maintain the area. By enforcing park rules and regulations and by educating the public through interpretive programs, they can help minimize damage to the natural and cultural resources. Park rangers patrolling the roads can cite violators. Maintenance crews will remove solid waste, maintain trails, and maintain barriers used to protect the park's resources. Maintenance of park signs and picnicking and camping facilities will help reduce vandalism.
2. Barriers, such as rocks or fences, and specially sited information signs will be used to protect some of the unit's natural resources, and the rights of neighboring property owners, and to keep visitors away from dangerous conditions.

3. All facilities will be sited, designed, constructed, and screened with native vegetation to minimize visual intrusion.
4. Roads, parking lots, and trails will be designed and constructed so as to minimize soil erosion.
5. The department will work closely with other agencies and support programs to reduce the amount of traffic.
6. The Resource Element's management policies will be implemented. They will significantly reduce existing resource problems and help prevent future impacts.
7. New buildings will be designed to reduce energy consumption. Fuel economy will be practiced by the park staff. Car pooling and bus transportation will be encouraged for park visitors.
8. Only native plants will be used in landscaping, stabilization, or revegetation projects unless otherwise approved by a department ecologist.
9. When development is proposed, a detailed survey of natural features will be completed before final siting and development design. If deemed appropriate by the Resource Protection Division, such surveys will include investigations of the hydrology, pedology, geology, and biology of the project site and will be completed by staff personnel that have the needed expertise. Should these surveys identify any endangered species or other feature of significant merit, or identify any unfavorable condition (e.g., slope instability), the development project will be modified or the impact mitigated in order to protect and preserve the resource and the safety of the public.
10. Specific mitigation measures by area are as follows:

Rock Springs and Mountain Theatre: By reducing the size of the overflow parking for the Mountain Theatre at Rock Springs, the natural resources of the meadow by Rock Springs will be less affected. Another site to the north of the theater on MMWD land will compensate for the spaces lost at Rock Springs.

There will be a buffer left in and around the serpentine rock outcropping, the suspected site of the Tiburon buckwheat.

If MMWD property at West Peak becomes available, about 200 existing parking spaces would become available. Visitors could then use a shuttle bus to the theater.

Red Rock Beach: The proposed parking and the proposal for eliminating overflow parking across the highway will reduce the vehicle and pedestrian conflict along Highway 1. With less parking available, the impact on the beach will be reduced.



Steep Ravine: Signs will be posted warning visitors not to disturb marine tidepool life and about the dangers of the surf. The trail to the beach (and any other necessary trails) will be sited and maintained to reduce soil erosion.

East Peak: The plan calls for improving traffic circulation, concealing the historic but visually undesirable tavern foundation, eliminating the concession and the older, closed restroom, and screening the newer restroom. These proposals will help solve existing environmental problems. The railings on top of the old tavern foundation will be eliminated after the historic foundation is buried. The concessionaire will be given ample notice and consideration.

Diaz Ridge: Care will be taken to design and site the parking area and orientation facility so that it is not visually conspicuous. An orientation facility here will interpret the park and the regional setting to the public. Many visitors may decide that they do not wish to go beyond this point after analyzing the road situation and seeing the view of the mountain and Frank Valley. This should have the beneficial effect of reducing traffic on roads inside the unit.

Frank Valley: Campgrounds and parking will be sited so they will not be a great visual intrusion on the landscape as seen from local highways. Riparian vegetation, salmonoid spawning areas, and juvenile salmonoid rearing areas will be protected, by carefully designing and siting facilities away from critical areas, using barriers if necessary, patrolling on foot, and restricting access to the creek by using footbridges over the creek.

### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

#### No Action

Allowing the continuation of current uses and existing facilities with no changes is not considered an acceptable alternative. Current conditions would continue to deteriorate and no orderly plan would be made to protect resources and enhance visitor use in Frank Valley and other recently acquired areas.

#### An Increased or Decreased Level of Development

An increased level of development would provide greater public access and use, but it would also cause greater impacts on the park's natural resources. A decreased level of development would have only a slight mitigating effect since the project would still cause major impacts, primarily from new facilities being developed in previously untouched natural areas. Neither alternative, therefore, is acceptable.

#### Specific Alternatives to the Proposed Actions That Were Considered

Transportation. A site in Marin County close to U. S. Highway 101 and State Highway 1 has been suggested as a major staging area for busses and a shuttle system to Mount Tamalpais, Muir Woods National Monument, and other area points of interest. This alternative, favored by Golden Gate National Recreation Area staff, has objectives parallel to those of the orientation and parking area proposal on Diaz Ridge, but would not provide parking at the periphery of the park. The Diaz Ridge proposal anticipates continued use of private vehicles to that point.

The prospect of rebuilding and using the historic Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway has been discussed. This plan may not be feasible because the historic depot land in Mill Valley is no longer available and no alternative terminal had been identified; also, the railway could be an attraction in itself and, therefore, might not be appropriate.

Mountain Theater. An alternative which has been proposed and is still being discussed calls for only participants in the theater program to be permitted to park in the theater area; all others would be required to use bus transportation. This would eliminate the parking problem in the Rock Springs - Mountain Theater area on theater days. Traffic congestion and resource damage from cars parked off the pavement would be substantially reduced.

Steep Ravine: An alternative to the demolition of the cabins at Steep Ravine would be to refurbish the cabins for public use. This proposal was made in the preliminary General Plan. Various objections included geologic instability of the site, and the proposal was not approved.

East Peak: Elimination of the food concession was proposed in the preliminary General Plan. The proposal was not approved as it was determined that the facility provided a valuable public service and was not incompatible with park values.

Frank Valley. Several sites were investigated for multi-use on the south side of Redwood Creek but were not proposed because of the visual impacts they would have on the valley scene and because there would be a substantial loss of vegetation. Instead, planned sites on the south side of Redwood Creek will be hike-in areas. Parking will be provided on the north side of the creek if needed. An alternative parking arrangement for Frank Valley sites would be the development of centralized parking in the Kent Canyon area. The chance of vandalism and thievery affecting vehicles would be reduced by this alternative, as well as a reduction in the visibility of parked cars. Another alternative would be not to construct any facilities or any visitor use on the south side of Frank Valley Road.

#### The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The short-term uses of Mount Tamalpais State Park include the enjoyment of activities such as hiking, picnicking, camping, and viewing the scenery on the mountain and from the mountain. If this unit were privately owned, it would be used for activities to achieve capital gains from its resources, such as logging, dairying, and residential housing development, and services related to the sightseeing opportunities.

The long-term uses proposed in the plan's Resource Element and the Land Use and Facilities Element call for a continuation of present use, provision of facilities in Frank Valley, and modification of the use facilities in other areas. The relationship between the short-term uses and the long-term productivity is complementary.

Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes That Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should It Be Implemented.

The following irreversible environmental changes are anticipated:

1. The commitment of nonrenewable resources such as oil, gasoline, and gravel to construct roads, parking areas, and other park facilities.
2. The loss of open space, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and vegetation due to the development of new facilities in previously undeveloped areas and from increases in visitation.

The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

There will be no significant growth-inducing impacts from the proposed actions. Only minimal economic gains from construction of proposed facilities are anticipated in the area. The greater opportunities for camping in the park may result in increases in trade for local service businesses.

## Organizations and Persons Contacted

### Local

Marin County Parks and Recreation Department  
Marin County Planning Department  
City of Mill Valley  
Marin Municipal Water District  
Marin Conservation League  
Tamalpais Conservation Club

### State

California Coastal Commission  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Transportation

### Federal

National Park Service, GGNRA  
U. S. Air Force  
U. S. Department of the Interior

## COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN AND RESPONSES TO THESE COMMENTS

The preliminary General Plan, including an Environmental Impact Report, was sent to the following agencies, organizations, and individuals for review.

State Clearinghouse (15 copies)  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
Planning Director, Marin County  
Department of Parks and Recreation, Marin County  
City of Mill Valley  
City of San Rafael  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Muir Beach Improvement Association  
Marin Municipal Water District  
U.S. Air Force, Mill Valley Air Force Station  
Sierra Club, Dr. Robert Mark  
Coastal Commission, North Central Regional Commission  
Several conservation organizations and individuals

In addition, copies were sent to several public libraries in the Bay Area. This information was publicized in the legal section of Bay Area newspapers and through a planning team newsletter.

Comments were received from the following agencies, organizations, and individuals:

1. CALTRANS, District 1
2. State Solid Waste Management Board
3. Muir Beach Improvement Association
4. Muir Beach Community Services District
5. Tamalpais Conservation Club
6. People for the Preservation of the Natural and Wild in the Bay Area
7. California Alpine Club
8. The Nature Friends
9. Frontier Arts Institute - Slide Ranch
10. Dorothy W. and Stephen C. Cook
11. Dr. John B. and Dr. Elisabeth G. Gleason
12. Mr. J. Stitt
13. Ms. Judy Webber
14. George J. Sivistri, Jr., of Bagshaw, Martinelli, Corrigan & Jordan, Attorneys at Law  
— representing the concessionaire
15. Ms. Lorraine Burtzloff

### Frank Valley:

1. Comment: Increased use in Frank Valley will have a detrimental effect on anadromous fish and their spawning areas. Siltation will increase. How will the possible destruction of Redwood Creek be prevented?

Response: The Draft EIR discusses the effects of increased use in Frank Valley and the environmental impact on Redwood Creek. Mitigation measures are stated.

2. Comment: The Muir Beach community is concerned that the proposed water use in Frank Valley will leave insufficient water for their use.

Response: The sections on water and sewage in the Land Use and Facilities Element discusses and solves the problem of water quality. Although the General Plan does not discuss projected water use by quantity, it is expected to be low. There will be no showers available and low-flush type toilets will be used. A 60 gpd per campsite estimate appears reasonable and has been used for planning purposes.

During critical drought situations, conservation measures will be necessary for all parties. Much higher gpd would be the case if showers and laundries, etc., were proposed.

3. Comments: The traffic problem of Route 1 is not solved by the report.

Response: The Department supports public transportation systems as described in the Land Use and Facilities Element.

The Draft EIR recognizes that the Frank Valley facilities will add to traffic congestion along Highway 1 and Frank Valley Road. The hike-in camping proposal will reduce the short car trips in the area since there will be less dependency on the automobile. Some visitors will be hiking in from GGNRA lands. Public transportation will be encouraged and supported.

4. Comment: Several comments favored fewer facilities in Frank Valley.

Response: The Land Use and Facilities Element states that development will be phased. An environmental assessment will be made for each proposed development budget.

#### West Peak:

1. Comment: The unsightly domes and all other buildings should be removed. The area should be returned to a natural condition. Other uses after the Air Force is phased out could not be tolerated.

Response: The Land Use and Facilities Element discusses West Peak. MMWD owns this land. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages that ultimately all buildings should be demolished and the area returned to a natural condition. Some other uses negotiated with MMWD may be utilized for badly needed park purposes during an interim period.

#### Steep Ravine

Conservation clubs oppose refurbishing the cabins for a hostel. These are the comments.

1. It should not be a DPR site for a hostel pilot program.
2. Geologic reports show this area to be on a slide.
3. Hostels exist at Marin Headlands and Pt. Reyes. These are one day apart, and another is not needed at Steep Ravine.
4. Another agency should handle hostels.
5. The project would be too costly.
6. The cabins should be demolished and the area returned to a natural condition.

Responses: These comments will be considered. The General Plan and DEIR recognize these problems. If the project proceeds, geologic studies of the slide will be conducted as proposed in the Resource Element.

#### Exotic Species Control:

1. Comment: The plan does not call for implementation of "broom" control.

Response: This comment may have been made without benefit of seeing the General Plan. The Resource Element does have a strong policy statement on broom control.

2. Comment: The "pine plantation" should not be removed. It serves as important habitat for wildlife species and serves as an educational area.

Response: The pine plantation has its positive aspects, but it is not part of the natural ecology of the park. The pine forest is not spreading as are other exotic species and, therefore, the removal program would have a lower priority. There are many "natural" forest areas in the park that could serve the same or even a better educational purpose.

3. Comment: Do not remove any trees. Introduction of new species is a part of nature. Eucalyptus are not unsightly.

Response: There are fewer and fewer pristine landscapes in California. Our Department has been charged with the responsibility to preserve pristine landscapes. Eucalyptus trees, while not unsightly in many places, are out of place in the context of the Department's responsibility. Eucalyptus trees are spreading and replacing natural forest and grassland areas. There are many exotic species in the city and regional parks where pristine landscape preservation is not a purpose.

#### Trails:

1. Comment: Specific trails were mentioned as to needing improvement, such as the Sun Trail for walkers of limited ability. The Grant Trail and Eastwood Trail should be reestablished in the West Peak area after buildings are demolished.

Response: The Department plans to maintain trails as described in the Land Use and Facilities Element. The specific trails mentioned will be noted. Trails could be reestablished in the West Peak area in coordination with MMWD.

2. Comment: McKinnan and Willow Camp Trails should not be eliminated as they serve as hiking routes from Bolinas Ridge to the coast.

Response: These trails will only be reduced in width. This will improve the appearance of the grassy ridges and still retain the hiking trails.

3. Comment: A recommendation was made to rename the Coast Trail after Bob Cook. He planned and was active in building this trail along Bolinas Ridge. Bob died in a U.S. Forest Service plane crash and his parents feel that this would be a fitting memorial.

Response: We are sympathetic with this idea, and a decision should be forthcoming.

4. Comment: Dogs should be permitted on trails.

Response: The regulation pertaining to no dogs on trails is statewide. Although many dogs are well behaved and are companions to their owners, no change in the regulation is contemplated.

#### Diaz Ridge:

1. Comment: Several persons wondered about the visual effect of an orientation center and parking area.

Response: Mitigation measures to keep the facility visually unobtrusive are listed in the DEIR. Careful site planning and native vegetative landscaping would be used. The Land Use and Facilities Element discusses this.

2. Comment: Is the facility at this location needed? CALTRANS property near the junction of U.S. 101 and State Highway 1 could serve the same purpose.

Response: The interpretive possibilities are more advantageous at Diaz Ridge than at the CALTRANS property because of its location and views. The CALTRANS location may be useful in serving as a public transportation staging area. Traffic would be reduced on Highway 1 as well as the Panoramic Highway.

#### Webb Creek Dam:

1. Comment: The plan did not discuss the impoundment for Stinson Beach water supply. The creek should be allowed to flow freely. The waterfall to the beach is a unique resource that should be returned.

Response: This situation would be difficult to change without first having an alternative for the water supply to Stinson Beach.



#### CALTRANS District 4 Comments:

We believe the findings on page 69 that this project has benefits that outweigh adverse impacts are premature. The finding was developed from study information that was not presented in the EIR element. There is an admission of significant impacts, but these are not stated. We believe the impacts should be listed for the no action and other alternatives to facilitate public review and to assist decision makers.

When specific development is contemplated and/or detailed studies for traffic problems such as congestion at intersections are undertaken, peak hour traffic volumes for all vehicle movements will be required.

Response: The Environment Element (DEIR) does not repeat the resource and project information that was presented in other elements in the General Plan. The other elements are, therefore, a part of the DEIR.

Significant environmental effects of the proposed project are listed in the DEIR. The general effects listed would be true for each alternative action. Newly proposed areas such as Diaz Ridge and Frank Valley will have greater impacts than areas that are already receiving visitations. The impact of these areas are described. The no action alternative would result in increased impacts on areas now being used, but would have less impact on undeveloped areas.

Traffic information will be analyzed in environmental assessment for the budget phase. We believe that, with increased public transportation and hike-in use, traffic volume will be reduced overall in the park.

#### State Solid Waste Management Board Comments:

1. A solid waste collection system is not mentioned in the report. Recycling and litter reduction should be mentioned.

Response: In the normal operation of the park unit, solid waste is collected and litter is picked up. Garbage cans are placed in use areas. The concession stand at East Peak would be removed if the proposed plan is adopted. If it stayed in operation, a deposit system on returnable containers would be used.

#### Miscellaneous Comments:

1. The Land Use and Facilities Element shows too much development.

Response: The plan implementation will be accomplished in phases. Each budget phase will have an assessment of environmental effects. Future phases may not be developed if environmental assessment shows significant effects that cannot be properly mitigated.

2. GGNRA has sufficient land to absorb needed facilities such as the horse camp.

Response: Recreation deficiencies are sufficient enough so that both GGNRA and DPR will need to develop recreation facilities for the public.

3. The railway would be too dirty and noisy.

Response: Restoring the railway is not too promising. Interpretation of the railway bed and preservation of railway artifacts is planned.

4. Bolinas Ridge is too fragile to allow heavy use. The number of parking spaces (85) west of Rock Springs is too great.

Response: Parking areas will be formalized but not paved. They will replace many unimproved spaces that are damaging the vegetation and causing erosion.

There may actually be a net loss of spaces. These areas will be restored.

Hike-in and bus transportation will be encouraged.

5. Do not increase parking at Mountain Theatre.

Response: There will be no net increase in parking at Rock Springs. A shuttle system from other areas is being investigated as an alternative.

6. Keep park primarily day use.

Response: The type of camping proposed is the walk-in type rather than traditional car camping. Minimal development is proposed.

O-6146C

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P. O. BOX 3366 RINCON ANNEX  
SAN FRANCISCO 94119  
(415) 557-1840



August 15, 1979

04-MRN-1  
SCH# 79072504P

Mr. James M. Dayle  
State Department of  
Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Dayle:

Subject: Comments on the Preliminary Draft for the  
Mount Tamalpais General Plan

We believe the findings on page 69 that this project has benefits that outweigh adverse impacts are premature. The finding was developed from study information that was not presented in the EIR element. There is an admission of significant impacts but these are not stated. We believe the impacts should be listed for the no action and other alternatives to facilitate public review and to assist decision makers.

When specific development is contemplated and/or detailed studies for traffic problems such as congestion at intersections are undertaken, peak hour traffic volumes for all vehicle movements will be required.

We request a copy of the Final document of this General Plan. It should be sent to:

Caltrans District 4 CEQA Coordinator  
Engineering Service Branch  
P. O. Box 3366 Rincon Annex  
San Francisco, CA 94119

Sincerely yours,

T. R. LAMMERS  
District Director

By   
JERRY O'SHEA  
Chief, Engineering Services

## Memorandum

To : Mr. James W. Burns  
Resources Agency

Date: August 21, 1979

Mr. James M. Doyle  
State Department of Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

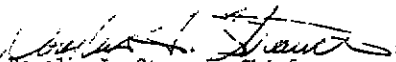
From : **STATE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Subject: SCH # 79072504 - Preliminary Draft General Plan - Mount Tamalpais State Park -  
Marin County

We have reviewed the preliminary general plan for Mount Tamalpais State Park and find the plan lacks information concerning the management of solid waste material generated within the park.

Because of increasing problems associated with solid waste, we suggest that the general plan include a description of the solid waste collection system and method of disposal. The general plan should also include a brief discussion of park policies to promote recycling and litter reduction programs. For example, a buy-back deposit system for beverage containers sold in recreational areas and graphic displays for litter education.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this preliminary General Plan. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Mr. Frank Plesko of my staff at (916) 323-0108.

  
Douglas L. Strauch, Chief  
Enforcement and Technical Assistance Division

FPlesko:fc

August 11, 1979

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State of California - The Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle,

After several discussions with State Park staff and within our community, we are convinced that the Park plans for Frank Valley development have ignored major environmental questions.

Frank Valley is already a part of a highly developed recreational area. It is surrounded by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area which has vastly increased its use, and it is only twenty-five minutes from San Francisco, an ideal day-time escape for city people limited to public transportation.

The recreational use within Frank Valley itself has greatly increased in recent years. The equestrian ring and horse trails, established by horse lovers in this community for the enjoyment of all, are becoming widely known and used. On a good day cars now line both sides of the road to accommodate joggers, hikers, walkers, bicyclers, and bird and fish watchers.

They also overflow down from Muir Woods and up from Muir Beach when those parking lots are full. Muir Woods has an international reputation and attracts over 800,000 tourists a year, by car and bus. Muir Beach, at the other end of Frank Valley, is a small residential community and includes the first recreational beach on the coastal highway north of San Francisco. Visitors have doubled at Muir Beach since it was taken over by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

A delicate balance still exists in Frank Valley between this heavy recreational use and the unique natural environment of plants, wild life, and Redwood Creek. The elements of this balance include:

#### I Water

Redwood Creek flows through the valley. It is one of the few live salmon-spawning creeks in Marin County. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area draft plan, developed when they believed this valley would lie within their boundaries, says, "Increased use of trails and camping in Frank Valley might cause increased siltation of Redwood Creek and thereby reduce its suitability as an anadromous fish spawning area." The State Park's own preliminary draft proposes to protect and enhance the natural fishery in Redwood Creek, yet their plans for campsites are not backed by any scientific studies to ensure the safety of creek life.

Water use in Frank Valley is a major concern as this is the water shed for the Muir Beach community water supply. The GGNRA plan

and engineering studies authorized by the Muir Beach Community Services District state that the well draws from aquifers whose precise magnitude and dependability are not known. During drought seasons, normal demand exceeds estimated flow capability of these underground sources. This condition sometimes requires rationing measures. The GGNRA estimated that the diversion of surface water or extraction of groundwater within the Frank Valley watershed could reduce the potential volumes available for use by the community by as much as 13,000 gpd, and they based their estimates on only twelve campsites. The State Parks plan estimates only 60 gpd for each campsite, adding up to 4800 gpd for 80 campsites. The differences in estimates of water use per campsite and in the numbers of campsites that are advisable are so great that they raise more questions than they answer.

In addition, any increased use also affects the water level in Redwood Creek which endangers water supply for fish and wildlife. Again, no research on the hydrology of Frank Valley has been done to support the development proposals of the State Department of Parks.

II Plant and wild life abound in Frank Valley. State Park plans haven't considered the destructive effects of overnight campers on the wildlife habitat. This contradicts the Department's own intention to "restore altered wildlife habitats as nearly as possible to conditions they would be in today had natural ecological processes not been disturbed."

III Transportation is recognized by the State Park plan as the most crucial problem for Frank Valley; yet the planners fail to offer concrete solutions to it. A grim report recently released from the California Coastal Commission warns of extreme over-use on Route 1, one of the roads feeding into Frank Valley. The first recommendation in this report is that development along Route 1 be restricted.

The proximity of Frank Valley to a major urban area provides an unprecedented opportunity to make it available to a wide variety of people, many of whom have not been able to reach more remote parks. To surrender the area to cars and parking lots will contribute to more congestion, more impact on the community of Muir Beach, more frustration for people using the area, and more destruction of the wildlife habitat. No new facilities should be developed in Frank Valley until public transportation eliminates the need for recreational traffic and parking lots.

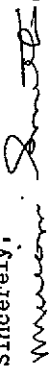
VI The quality of life on the mountain and the coast is threatened by additional development in the Frank Valley watershed, which supplies domestic water; by traffic congestion on the coastal highway and in Frank Valley; and by the endangering of the wild life habitat.

Before any facilities are considered, all of these problems have to be solved. It is not enough to set forth noble goals. What studies have been done to show that proposals for campsites, water use, and parking lots will not destroy Frank Valley? What staff reports are there that show how these problems have been specifically considered and resolved? The National Park Service spent

several years drawing up a master plan for this area which concluded that the maximum development in Frank Valley should be limited to fifteen hike-in campsites, with no parking facilities. The discrepancies between these two plans is alarming.

Frank Valley is not an island. Its future must be planned within the context of the entire region. The master plans of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and of Muir Beach, which have been developed over a long period of time with much citizen input, must be of primary consideration. Scientific studies must precede, not follow, development proposals.

Sincerely,



Miriam Smith, Secretary  
Muir Beach Improvement Association

cc: Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
Huey D. Johnson, Secretary for Resources  
California State Park Commission  
Russell W. Cahill, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Marin County Planning Department  
Gary Giacomini, Supervisor, Fourth District  
Congressman John Burton  
Muir Beach Community Services District  
California Fish and Game Department  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
California Coastal Commission  
Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Audubon Society, Marin Chapter  
Tamalpais Conservation Club  
Sierra Club



# MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOX 221 • STAR ROUTE • SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA • 94965

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Yost, Chairman 383-5838  
Janet Stump  
Ted Elliott  
Jane Colton  
Barbara Rohan

August 16, 1979

RE: M.B.I.A. letter of  
8-11-79 on Park plan  
for Frank Valley

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State of California - Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

Dear Sir,

The Muir Beach Community Services District Board of Directors at our meeting of August 15, 1979 read and discussed thoroughly the copy of letter sent you, dated August 11, 1979.

The Board of Directors concur in the opinion of the Muir Beach Improvement Association and are deeply concerned with the water use you project for the Park plans for Frank Valley, as this is the water shed for our water supply.

Due to the fact we have no way of telling just how much water there is in the underground sources, even after the engineering studies authorized by the district were made several years ago. This is the only source of the district to supply water to the present amount of residences in the area. There are presently 143 customers, hence the major concern.

cc: Muir Beach Improvement Association

Yours truly,  
*Hazel M. Melo*  
Hazel M. Melo, Secretary  
M.B.C.S.D.

# QUESTIONNAIRE

Ask at the library for: MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

PRELIMINARY DRAFT July 1979  
1979

## SUMMARY REVIEW

I have read the following summaries.  
I agree with the summary.  
I disagree with the summary.

Resource

Recreation

Facilities  
  
  
 Strongly

Transportation

Plan Implementation  
  
  
 Strongly

I have the following comments. There are several incongruities in "newsletter 2"

It starts out fine, stating that the emphasis of the document is on preservation, management, and interpretation of natural resources (and scenic resources). It immediately states that hazardous areas, geologically hazardous, will be avoided or the hazard reduced to the extent required to enable the public to use areas in reasonable safety, that destructive or unnatural erosion shall be controlled and prevented, that there will be no diversion of water without the Department first making a thorough evaluation and there shall be no pollution of water. THEN, without anywhere indicating in this document that the State geologist has stated that the Steep Ravine cabins are situated on a landslide that is active in its upper reaches and being undermined by the surf at the toe where the cabins sit and that they should not be rehabilitated for that reason alone, the Planners go right ahead and make the implementation of the hostel the number one priority of this plan. If one reads the Preliminary Draft Plan, which is not readily available to the general public, one finds that all the rest of the proposed developments are "very distant".

FOLD ALONG DASHED LINE

NOWHERE is Webb Creek mentioned. Diversion of this water for the showers at Stinson was wrong when it was done and now that that facility is not a state facility there is even less excuse for this degradation and degradation of place. Those kinds of solutions are not realistic, not that they were in the beginning. NOWHERE, after giving a hot of space to the matter of Plant Resources, do we see any provision for implementing these good statements such as "A Broom Control program shall be implemented."

Under Recreation Summary are the greatest incongruities! A demand for recreation polarized into 2 factions: 1. structured activities usually with developed facilities; 2/ unstructured activities where people can "do their own thing" is stated. The next statement is that despite deficiencies in facilities for both day and overnight use, it is not advisable that Mt. Tamalpais State Park accommodate any significant level of facility development due to limited terrain suitable for development and concern for protection of both the natural resources and the visitor experience of the park.. so far so good and EXCELLENT!



State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Mount Tamalpais State Park Planning Team  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

But then, the very next statement "proposed recreation use for Mt. Tamalpais will provide a diversity of activity types..and this goes on throughout the facilities summary and "proposed facilities" with hostile suggestions.. with developments that would be ruinous to the environment and to the visitor experience..peace, quiet, solitude, communion with nature, that we have been accustomed to. The Public at all planning session meetings has made this clear over and over again..Remember..there is the whole GGNRA out there to absorb these facility-oriented recreational needs..Parking lots, campsites,

hostels - The reason for Prop 28 was to PROTECT the coast -

PLAN REVIEW

You forgot Webb Creek. The dam should come off Webb Creek and the area brought to its once lovely condition. You also forgot elimination of French Broom, the worst of the exotics.

I have reviewed the proposals for:  
 These proposals are acceptable.  
 These proposals are not acceptable.  
 I am not concerned with this area.  
 I have the following comments on:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓		✓						✓				✓	✓	

- 1. Bolinas Ridge
- 2. Rock Springs
- 3. Mountain Gate
- 4. West Peak
- 5. West Point
- 6. Bootjack
- 7. Pan Toll
- 8. Red Rock
- 9. Steep Ravine
- 10. Backcountry
- 11. East Peak
- 12. Mountain Home Area
- 13. Camp Eastwood
- 14. Diaz Ridge
- 15. Frank Valley
- A. Riley's Meadow
- B. Kent Canyon
- C. Diaz Meadow
- D. Warm Springs

COMMENTS

Take the money appropriated for rehabilitation of Steep Ravine and improve the Sun trail for limited walkers; remove the broom infestations from the Sun, Panoramic and Dipsea trails and the sides of Panoramic Highway where it is creeping up toward Bootjack camp. If there is any left, buy the West Peak area from the Water District and make those improvements in Frank's Valley that will permit walk-in camping.

Presently I enjoy the following areas of the park. (see map and circle appropriate No.)

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 A B C D

This plan will  increase  decrease  not affect my enjoyment of the park. If you ruin Steep Ravine Beach, my favorite place! and do not remove the dam from Webb Creek.

The plan could be improved by: see "comments" above.

MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK PLANNING TEAM  
 P.O. Box 2390 SACRAMENTO, CA 95811  
 State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

to get buildings off and keep them off. The purpose for the GGNRA was to provide the land resource and space for the kind of facility development that Mt. Tamalpais State Park cannot and should not as a park accommodate.

Let's have hostels and horse trails and whatever else the facility oriented public wants over there..

Get control by buying or leasing the West Peak area; remove all buildings and installations, especially those domes, and return the site to its natural condition. It's a blight on the outline of the mountain and restricts people from use of the original hiking trails.

Lets move the "trailhead" for the Frank Valley area down to the CALTRANS property at Highway 1 and 101 junction and have walk-in campsites in this lovely area. Horses are not native to the park and are destructive to it. Those facilities should be moved to GGNRA land.

Leonore M. Bravo for  
 People For the Preservation of the Natural  
 and Wild in Bay Area Open Space.





Member of:  
Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs

14 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30  
31 32 33 34 35

### Tamalpais Conservation Club

(FOUNDED 1912)  
828 Pacific Building — 821 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94103

Purpose: "Conservation of those  
plants and animals in Marin County,  
California, and particularly the  
Tamalpais, the scenic beauty and  
fauna of Mt. Tamalpais and its  
slopes."



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fauna of Mt. Tamalpais and its  
slopes."

July 28, 1979

495-4490

Proposed resolution to the FWOC convention, 1979.

#### MT. TAMALPAIS, MARIN COUNTY CALIFORNIA

The distinctive outline of Mt. Tamalpais, rising 2,604 feet above the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay Area, dominates the landscape for miles around and is a source of inspiration to hundreds of thousands of people as they go about their daily business. The purpose of the park in which the mountain lies in part is to make available to people for their inspiration and enjoyment the outstanding scenic, natural, and recreational values of this majestic mountain climax with its steep chapparral covered slopes, forested ravines, traditional winding trails and spectacular marine views, overlooking yet seemingly remote from the densely populated cities on San Francisco Bay.

One of the mountain's three peaks, the West Peak, lies on land owned by the Marin Municipal Water District. It has been leased out to the Air Force as a radar station since World War II. The Air Force expects to phase out its operation there over the next two years. The Water District is in need of money and there is great concern over the future of the site.

During their occupation the Air Force built a large complex including some domes that can be seen from a great distance and which interfere severely with what was the natural scene. It is understood that these domes will be retained and operated by the Federal Aviation Agency. Such use is completely unacceptable to the Tamalpais Conservation Club.

State Parks and Recreation considers the following as

potential uses for the site: Portions could be used as a resident outdoor environmental study facility. Overflow parking for special events at the Mountain Theater. Other portions could be used for Park operations such as staff residences, minor maintenance and operation facilities, storage areas and information office space.

All of these proposed uses are completely unacceptable to the Tamalpais Conservation Club. All can be accommodated outside the Park. "Outdoor environmental education" especially leaves open the door to the worst kind of exploitation and over-use and all of the consequential problems that have been experienced elsewhere with the expansive recreational-educational establishment.

The FWOC strongly supports the efforts of the Tamalpais Conservation Club and other Bay Area groups and citizens to have the West Peak of Mt. Tamalpais returned to its natural condition by the removal of all structures now there and opposes its use by the Federal Aviation Agency. The Grant trail from Westpoint to the Middle peak and the Eastwood trail which crosses the mountain top and joins the Arturo to Rifle Camp should once again be made accessible to the public.

Submitted by the Tamalpais Conservation Club  
Leonore M. Bravo, Sec'y.

Copies to Congressman Phillip Burton  
Congressman John Burton  
James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

NEW ADDRESS  
ROOM 502 FLOOD BLDG  
870 MARKET ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

**Tamalpais Conservation Club**  
(FOUNDED 1912)

828 Pacific Building — 821 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94103

August 10, 1979



Member of:  
Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Board of Directors of the T.G.C. was canvassed for their reactions to the Mt. Tamalpais General Plan based mostly on their familiarity with it from Newsletter #2, April 1979. Information from the Preliminary Draft furnished by your office was used to supplement key items such as Steep Ravine, the West Peak of the Mountain, and Frank Valley.

The reaction of the board as a whole is "too much development" "leave the Mountain alone",--summarized by Board member Gordon Gehser. Any attempt to facilitate more usage of Mt. Tamalpais can only result in the eventual loss of wildness and beauty.--There is no need to bring more people to the area, turning it into another Golden Gate Park".

Again, speaking of the campsites proposed for Frank Valley; "Never mind the improvements. Spend money on making the Park work like it is. How can we afford 100 campsites and not be able to keep the dogs out?"

On the basis of checks made on the Newsletter #2 questionnaire, acceptable among the proposed developments, or perhaps least objectionable, were: Camp Eastwood, Back Country, West Point Inn, Mountain Theater, Bootjack, Pen Toll, Red Rock, East Peak, and Mountain Home area.

The most objectionable are the proposed plans for Steep Ravine and the West Peak of the Mountain. You have already received or will receive in this mailing our resolution addressed to the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Convention on the West Peak development.

Other Board members indicated that the dam on Webb Creek should be removed, an item not on the lists anywhere, but it should be.

Members present at the August 8 meeting were in accord with the board's reactions to "the Plans".

The majority of the Board observe that the contents of paragraph 2, above, is what the general public attending the various workshops that were held has said from the beginning. Nothing that the planners have done has resulted in a "different public opinion". The various structural facilities proposed, especially those noted above, are not in keeping with the public opinion expressed throughout this process.

Respectfully yours  
*Leonore M. Bravo*

Leonore M. Bravo, Sec'y  
Tamalpais Conservation Club.

Copy to: Richard Humphrey,  
Mt. Tamalpais Planning Team

Although you contacted us, you did not include us in the list of Organizations and Persons contacted at the end of the Preliminary Draft: We would like recognition for our not inconsiderable efforts for the environment in general and Mt. Tam especially where we began and have done almost all of the work on Broomremoval..

*Leonore Bravo*

August 6, 1979



PEOPLE FOR PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL  
AND WILD IN BAY AREA OPEN SPACE

47 LEVANT ST. SAN FRANCISCO CA. 94114  
PHONE 415-861-5636

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Thankyou for giving us a chance to respond to the Preliminary Draft Plan for the development of Mount Tamalpais State Park.

The Bay Area Public which hikes the mountain and the naturalists among us who put a high value on preserving the integrity of its various biotic provinces considers most of the proposed facilities as out of keeping with Park status, and especially in this one.

We have been grateful over the years to leave the City behind and find peace and quiet and the spiritual rejuvenation available over there "in nature".

The Public attending the Planning Team meetings has asked "what is this all about?" "why are you "planning" for something that is naturally functional and needs no plan?" All we need is to keep the developers off, whether they be developers employed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation or people who seek to use it for "educational field trips".

Now the Preliminary Draft which you have furnished us is excellent in summing up the natural resources to be protected however the Park is used and in putting emphasis on the Park Status of the Mountain. But after recognizing the rightful goals of preserving, protecting and where necessary restoring the various Park values for their perpetuation in accordance with the Park's purpose, The compilers of the Plan proceed to offer facility developments which are out of keeping with perpetuating Park status and potentially destructive to the environment.

The Steep Ravine cabins strikes many of us as the worst example because those cabins don't belong there in the first place; Park personnel informed us that they would come down when the site was purchased in 1960; they are clearly a blight on the landscape as things stand, their possible occupation would result in a marked degradation of the environment and would destroy its highest value: the opportunity to feel far away from civilization and to enjoy some of the most beautiful effects of nature while only 25 miles from the City.

We need to be alone once in a while, and this is the ideal spot.

The majority, 32 to 4 or 5 people attending the last Planning Team meeting in Mill Valley wrote their names down as opposing the development of a hostel at Steep Ravine. That should be enough. But since it isn't, we can bring forth the opinion of

PRESIDENT

LEONORE M BRAVO

ORGANIZERS

STEPHEN BRICKLEY  
EVELYN ENGEL

PRESERVERS

KARL & NAOMI SAUMANN  
DESMOND BONNINGTON  
RICHARD L BOWEN  
ANNE BRICKLEY  
PAUL COVEL  
EDITH DUARTE  
ARTHUR B EMMES  
JEAN GLASEP  
RAY & MILLIE GOULD  
MILLICENT HUGHEY  
JAMES JOHNSON  
ESMOND MILSNER  
NAN TUNISON  
LOUISE RICHTER  
DR EDWARD S ROSS

AUDREY PENN ROGERS  
MICHAEL & JOANNA MC CLURE  
THE REDWOODS LEAGUE  
CALIF. NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

pg. 2 PFPNW response to Prelim Draft Plan

the State Geologist cited in a March 13, 1979 document of the Resources Agency which would seem to be the parent from which this Preliminary Draft was written, to the effect that the cabins are situated on a landslide, the upper reaches of which are still active and the toe of which, where the cabins sit, is being undermined by the surf. This Preliminary Draft correctly reports that the state Geologist is against refurbishing the cabins.

But despite public opposition to this project and the opinion of the State Geologist we find elsewhere in the report that the project will have to go on because development of this hostel is tied in with development of 3 other hostels in an assembly bill or action; that it's a case of "all or none". This action was engineered by former Assemblyman Michael Wornum who had a personal interest in the matter. The public was not informed that the action was to take place or we would have been there to oppose it. I cannot believe that the State Legislature, given the further facts from the Geologist's report, would accede to this kind of political manipulation of our natural resources.

The Preliminary Draft further states that this pilot program will allow the department to assess the popularity of hostelling in California and to gain experience in hostel management. Let them do it on the other three sites!

Last but not least, those of us who have long historical perspective on this matter including the attempt of the Yosemite Institute to develop the site, are concerned that if and when the State should not want to continue in the hostelling business, the site would be occupied and expanded by a concessionaire with the worst kind of exploitation resulting.

As A. Alan Post said at one point in this long battle of Steep Ravine, "lets get rid of junk and headaches".

Several years ago, the Tamalpais Conservation Club offered as an alternative, that people be allowed, but not encouraged, to sleep on the beach for the low tides on which the springs become available in the very early morning. That a latrine be established inconspicuously on the bluff. Or that people be encouraged to dispose of waste by digging a hole consistent with wilderness use. Or both. In that event people biking along highway I could stop over without degrading the site by hostel development. Not many people are able to negotiate Highway I on a bike with its steepness, its curves, and its fogs.

As far as use by hikers on the trail proposed by the Marin Countywide Plan which will go from the Golden Gate Bridge to Ft. Reyes National Seashore goes, it would not serve as a "trail camp". People are not going to travel the steep 2-3 miles down to Steep Ravine beach and back to the ridge or near it where the Pacific Coast Trail is sited.

Steep Ravine is not a place on the road to somewhere else. It is a unique site to be enjoyed for itself. Not putting a hostel there does not reduce it's availability to the public. It is easy of access by foot and more "free and open" when no one has the prior rights of a hostel reservation with all the personnel that it will take to manage such a facility. Last but not least there is already a hostel at Marin headlands and another at the Point Reyes National Seashore on GGNRA land which satisfy the requirement of stops a day a part for hostelers.

A second area of great concern to our constituency and other traditional users of the mountain, hikers, is the proposals for West Peak. We agree wholeheartedly with the last paragraph pg. 46, "most if not all of the structures there should be removed to reestablish a natural scene". We are especially offended by the domes and other structures that mar the skyline, and are unalterably opposed to operation of the domes by the Federal Aviation Agency.

Not are resident environmental education facility, overflow parking for events at the Mountain Theater, or Park operations in anyway consistent with preserving, protecting, and restoring the park resources. Our wars are finally overwith, lets's get rid of this ugly paraparenallia and once again be able to use the Grant Trail from West Point to the Middle Peak and the Eastwood trail which crosses the mountain top and joins the Arturo to Rifle Camp.

Educational establishments, parking, and operations buildings should be placed outside the Park. People can walk or use shuttle service to get in.

We agree with the plans for Public Transit outlined on page 41 except that no entrance complex should be developed at Diaz Ridge. Such would interfere with the natural beauty of the site. It could more appropriately, the entrance complex and parking area, be more appropriately established at the CALTRANS site at Highway 1 and Highway 101 junction.

The idea of re-establishing train service is very romantic but would be dirty and noisy and disturb the peace and quiet of the Park.

Because of the close proximity to the large Bay area population of users, we have a situation similar to Yosemite National Park where we should think in terms of keeping vehicles, buildings and any kind of concession outside, providing transportation for people to get in. This would eliminate the need for parking facilities proposed on page 44 for Bolinas Ridge. Appropriate sanitary facilities are reasonable, especially if people are coming a distance on shuttle.

Rock Springs should be left as is. As stated previously, we do not approve use of West Peak for parking. Bus transit to the Mountain Theater should be provided when events require it.

West Point has already been covered and West Point Inn should continue in its present status. Same for Boptjack camp. Same for Pan Toll Suggestions for Redrock Beach are acceptable except that latrines that do not need pumping out would be more logical.

Sleep Ravine has been covered. We are opposed to use of horses as well as presence of dogs on Park hiking trails. There should be no provision for horses in the Park. There is ample room on GGNRA lands for this activity. Trail camps for the use of people on the Pacific Coast Trail should be outside the Park rather than within it.

Plans as stated for East Peak on page 49 are acceptable. We are particularly heartened that the existing concessions facility will be removed as we were prime movers in asking that this action be taken.

Proposed plans for the Mountain Home Area and Camp Alice, Eastwood are acceptable. We wish that the Mountain Home Restaurant was what it used to be, a place that served beer, butterwalk or an ice-cream come to passing hikers rather than a class of restaurant that caters to automobile traffic with inconvenient hours of service for hikers, and prices generally out of sight.

Diaz Ridge has already been dealt with. Opinion seems to be divided on Frank Valley. For many years hikers looked to the development there of a place to sleep out. Those people approve of some kind of low-key and limited walk-in campsites. Many people are opposed to the equestrian area. Simple sanitary facilities, water and trash receptacles seem reasonable. (Santos Meadow). The existing storage facilities at Kent Canyon had better be retained there than moved to West Peak, as expounded earlier. If walk-in campsites of limited number are to be provided, parking should be outside the park and a shuttle provided. The possible adverse results of being able to drive up to such campsites recognized on page 52 must be taken seriously and guarded against by walk-in arrangements.

Under priorities, the worst possible most destructive project of all proposed, followed by the suggestions for West Peak, rehabilitation of the Sleep Ravine cabins - is listed first, in spite of all the public opposition and excellent reasons amply documented in the Preliminary draft against it. It should be abandoned. It will be contrary to demonstrated needs and completely incompatible with protecting the environment to pursue this development. We urge you to abandon it.

One other item not listed anywhere is the need to remove the dam from Webb Creek and so rehabilitate that section of lovely Sleep Ravine Canyon. This, and getting rid of the installations at the West Peak should be the number one priority. Another item that should receive high priority is the removal of escaped exotics, especially French Broom. Let's save the park before concerning ourselves how further to develop it.

Written in the interest of good citizenship and the preservation of our chief local natural wonder, the land of Mt. Tamalpais, for People for the Preservation of the Natural and Wild in Bay Area Open Space and respectfully submitted by

*Leonora M. Bravo*  
Leonora M Bravo

Another priority is the development of the Sun Trail to accommodate limited walkers. Plans have already been discussed with Mr. Jack Hessmeyer, Area Mgr, State Parks.

\* It is as though the whole purpose of this "planning process" was to get approval to establish a hostel at Sleep Ravine:

Copies to: Mr. Jack Hessmeyer, Area Mgr. State Parks  
Mr. Richard Humphrey, Mt. Tam Planning Team  
Assemblyman Leo T. McCarthy  
Assemblyman Art Agnos  
Mr. Huey Johnson, Resources Agency, Director



# California Alpine Club

Founded in 1913 and incorporated in 1936

(not profit)

5 FLEET BLDG  
824 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

July 13, 1979

## LODGES:

ALPINE LODGE, Mt. Tamalpais  
Marin County  
2000 SUNDWY LODGE  
El Dorado National Forest

Address Reply To:

Purpose: To explore, enjoy, and protect the mountains and scenic resources of the State of California. To encourage the public to enjoy and cooperate in the protection and preservation of the mountains, and to provide training for the youth and general public in the State of California.

State of California - The Resources Agency  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Mount Tamalpais State Park Planning Team  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Friends:  
The California Alpine Club, an organization of over 800 members residing in the Bay Area and operating a lodge in Mill Valley, respectfully present these comments with regard to the proposed Master Plan for Mt. Tamalpais.

### The Resource Summary:

We strongly support the proposed plan to guard and restore Mt. Tam as a natural area; to control erosion; to control massive growth of thistle and the implementation of a broom control program.

### Facilities Summary:

For years, the C.A.C. has supported plans for the development of Frank Valley. The proposed use of this valley for multi use sites and, in particular, the construction of walk-in camp sites is most encouraging. We recall when Laurel Dell, Barth's Retreat, Potrero Meadows and Rifle Camp were used as overnight camp sites but this activity is now prohibited by M.M.W. Department rules. Overnight walk-in sites is a prime need of this state park.

With the exception of proposed additional parking areas in Frank Valley, the C.A.C. opposes the construction of any additional parking lots on Mt. Tam. This means increased auto traffic and more overcrowding in the park. Parking lots encourage people to use private cars and, in this time of an energy crunch and an ever growing gasoline shortage, steps should be taken to encourage the use of public transit.

We approve with emphasis the removal of the concession facility. This facility only increases the litter problem and automobile travel in the park.

July 13, 1979

Opposition is expressed to the hostel project at the Steep Ravine Area. It is our understanding that the Youth Hostel organization in this area would prefer the location of a hostel in some other area. It is respectfully believed that this area should be returned to its natural state in accordance with the stated Resource Summary to emphasize the preservation of Tam's natural and scenic resources.

### Transportation Proposals:

We are in complete agreement that use of public transportation within the park should be encouraged. We would suggest that funds which would be used to build and maintain parking lots be used to subsidize increased public transit in the park. Suggested recommendations that the state should co-operate with GGNRA administrators with regard to public transit are heartfully endorsed.

The above recommendations were approved by resolution of our membership at our quarterly meeting held Sunday July 8, 1979.

Very truly yours,

California Alpine Club

*Henry Hillman*  
Henry Hillman  
Conservation Chairman



HIKING · · · · · CAMPING · · · · · SKIING

# "The Nature Friends"

(INC.)  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH  
30 Ridge Ave.  
Mill Valley, Ca. 94941

BRANCHES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
OAKLAND  
LOS ANGELES

# "The Nature Friends"

(INC.)  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH  
30 Ridge Ave.  
Mill Valley, Ca. 94941

AFFILIATED WITH  
TOURISTEN-VEREIN "DIE NATURFRIENDEN"  
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

BRANCHES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
OAKLAND  
LOS ANGELES

Mill Valley, Ca. Aug. 1, 1979

Mill Valley, Ca., June 15, 79

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

Mount Tamalpais State Park Planning Team  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

CLUB HOUSES AT  
Muir Woods  
Oakland  
Sierra Madre  
San Jacinto Mountains  
Nobles

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Enclosed find copy of a letter to Mt. Tamalpais State Park Planning Team in reply to their Newsletter 2.

We feel that money should be spent wisely and not spend for something like the Steep Ravine Hostel Plan. A Hostel there would benefit only a few people and could be done better by AYH or the GGARA at a more appropriate site.

If possible we should appreciate a copy of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the development of Mount Tamalpais State Park.

Very truly yours,  
The Nature Friends, Inc.

*Christine Heilmann*  
Conservation Chairperson

1 Encl.

The members of the Nature Friends, Inc., a hiking organization established in 1912 at the foot of Mount Tamalpais, are very much interested in the development of the park. We are strongly opposed to too much facility development and diversity of recreational activity in the park. The park should stay the one place in the Bay Area where one can find solitude, can walk and feel free, in general retain the activities people have traditionally enjoyed. The surrounding GGNRA has enough activity oriented usage for the people, that want this type of recreation.

We feel that an Information Center and Parking Area at Diaz Ridge is too visual and would not fit into the sweeping landscape.

We strongly oppose the Steep Ravine Hostel Plan (we do not know of any State Park that has a Hostel). The location is not advantageous for hikers and bicycle riders, it is off the trail and a long way down from Highway 1. Besides the cost to restore the 12 cabins and build an adequate sanitary system is prohibitive and the value to the general public nil. We have said the same thing at meetings and in letters, but there seems to be a strong political influence of a few, so that the wishes of the other people involved are ignored. What we have read about the new Hostel in the GGNRA shows us, that the State Park System is not equipped for the special services that seem to be expected by the users. Thus why not let the GGNRA develop the Hostel Chair, since they are already involved. The cabins should be destroyed and the coastline restored to its natural state. The money appropriated for the plan should be used to implement some of the other priorities which would serve more people.

The removal of the concession facility at East Peak is mentioned in very small type, we think it should be a big issue.

Very truly yours,  
THE NATURE FRIENDS, Inc. signed:  
Christine Heilmann  
Conservation chairperson

# Frontier Arts Institute — Slide Ranch

a non-profit organization

Star Route #304 • Sausalito, Ca. 94965 • (415) 383-0358

Aug. 7, 1979

NOBETH TAMALPAIS STATE PARK PLANNING TEAM

Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
State of California

Dear Sirs:

My name is Michael Ellis, I am the director of Frontier Arts Institute at Slide Ranch. We run an Environmental Education center on GGERA property slightly north of Muir Beach along the coast. Our program is designed primarily for inner city, low-income residents to experience small farm life and the natural history of the California coastal environment. To this end we often utilize the state park east of Highway 1 including the "tree farm" and Frank Valley. Therefore any proposed changes in the park are of utmost interest to us in our educational programs.

The latest proposal for the "tree farm" suggest that it be removed. I strongly oppose this action. Although it is a man-made environment with introduced species, the forest has created habitat for a variety of animals. Foxes, bobcats, Great Horned Owls, Barn Owls, Pinyon Owls, moles, nuthatches, chickadees, skunks, raccoons have all been seen in the forest and many of the animals make their home there. There is a certain stillness and cathedral-like atmosphere within the forest. After taking the children on a long hike from Slide Ranch, up the fire road the scenic vista stretches for miles, far out into the Pacific Ocean, on to and beyond San Francisco, back to the East Bay and then up to Mt. Tamalpais. The children get a true feeling for the grandness and immensity of their world. In contrast to this expansive swariness, we enter the pine forest. Crouched low, we crawl, the stillness and softness quickly quiets the children. Here in this environment we now look very closely at things, no longer stretching our vision down the California coastline but looking at the world that lies within a few inches away. Please do not destroy this very special place and valuable educational

tool; it cannot be duplicated.

We recognize the need for improving visitor facilities in the state park. However, the proposed campsites and parking facilities are entirely too numerous and would adversely affect the quality Frank Valley. Development of the Kent Canyon area should especially be reduced. There should be no trail development through the canyon. A mountain lion has been reported in the valley and Kent Canyon (being rugged and undeveloped) could be the only available refuge for this rare creature. We would appreciate careful reevaluation of the proposed changes for Frank Valley; especially regarding the large number of parking and camping sites. Your decision on these matters will have irreparable consequences.

Thank You

*Michael J. Ellis*  
Michael J. Ellis

Director: Frontier Arts Inst.  
Star Route 304  
Muir Beach, Ca. 94965

c. Lynn Thompson- Gen. Supt. GGERA  
c. Doug Hadesat-Park Planner GGERA  
c. Huay Johnson- Sec. Dept. of Resources Agency State of Ca.



August 5, 1979

Mr. James M. Doyle  
Supervisor Environmental Review Section  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Sir:

Kindly note that your mailings to us are in duplicate. We are pleased to be included in your study even though we live at P. O. Box 474, Asotin, Washington.

Our interest in Mt. Tamalpais means some forty years of association and a more intimate relationship began when our son, Bob Cook, proposed and proceeded to build a hiking trail on the mountain. It commences with a take off from the Matt Davis Trail to Stinson Beach, and continues parallel to Ridgcrest Blvd., and continues into the GGNRA property where it connects to the Laurel Trail near the old apple orchard. Bob lost his life this June when the forest service plane crashed into the Selway River in Idaho. In June, 1978, the trail was dedicated and posted "The Coast Trail" to Bolinas. By now you have received many resolutions asking that the trail be renamed the "Bob Cook" trail. The TTC has already labeled it as such on their new maps gone to print.

In Your April 1979 Newsletter 2 you state under proposed facilities, "The main emphasis will still be the existing day use at the park, which focuses primarily around the 58 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails." Because Tamalpais State Park is contiguous to federal land and water district property, you connect to a network of trails extending 300 miles or more. Most of these miles were voluntarily constructed and maintained by individuals and groups for whom they were named. These people developed a guardianship feeling for the mountain. We hope the state's new plan does not depersonalize this natural resource. This personal feeling is why we support retention of this park by the state and discourage it from becoming a part of GGNRA.

You summarize that the emphasis of Newsletter 2 is on preservation, management and interpretation of natural and scenic resources. The following comments are made with continued reference to the Newsletter 2 because the latest plan is not available to us.

Recreation Summary:

Recommendation: Consider another priority category that permits foot traffic through the park with specified overnight camps. This would require a group to submit a plan showing their route, number of people and date of use. The ranger would issue a special use permit which related to the submitted plan.

1. Groups with instructions and proper leadership have enjoyed and could enjoy trail backpacking on Mt. Tamalpais.
2. A few comfort facilities placed in designated places would be minimal.
3. Cooperation would be required from GGNRA and MWD, both of which have plans in progress.
4. Recognition would be extended to a segment of population not included in your plan, those who enjoy hiking and horseback riding and not to just picnic or sunbathe or fly kites.
5. It would require parties to do their planning and providing.
6. This is a kind of cooperative educational tool you will be glad to have. This type of people are the ones who work on a voluntary knowledgeable basis and are present when you hold a hearing.

General Plan: Drawing No. 18884:

1. Bolinas Ridge.

The area indicated No. 1 on this plan is a beautiful and popular spot. At one time it was private and fenced. Cows grazed the hillside keeping brush to a minimum and retaining grassy slopes. This is the hillside where the Bob Cook trail parallels Ridgecrest Blvd. People who come by car use the knolls for many cruises, whether permitted or not. They litter and trample up and down the steep slopes creating erosion trails and slides. If you propose developing 85 spaces for cars to park beyond Rock Springs, that permits too many standing and moving vehicles. It would also allow easy access for too many people to a small concentrated area.

This area could best be preserved by planning for pass through foot traffic rather than heavy vehicle use bringing picnickers, sunbathers and the like. The area is too fragile and hazardous for heavy use. I don't see this consideration in the plan.

Highway:

At one point on Ridgecrest Blvd. there is a culvert which, as it is, is creating an erosion hazard. Bob pointed this out many times, but time, money and priorities have not permitted its replacement.

We wish you a good series of hearings of the plan, and we hope the California State Park system will permit the renaming of the Coastal Trail to Bolinas to the Bob Cook Trail. The efforts to train and employ youth in the YCC is laudable and successful, but the personal dedicated volunteer effort of the mountain Guardians is an immeasurable asset.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy W. Cook and Stephen C. Cook*

Dorothy W. Cook  
P. O. Box 474  
Asotin, WA 99402

5 Tower Point Lane  
Tiburon, CA 94920  
August 9, 1979

Mr. James Doyle  
Environmental Section  
State Department of Parks and Recreation  
Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

As hikers of long years' standing, who know Mt. Tamalpais State Park intimately, and as members of the Tamalpais Conservation Club, we would like to comment briefly on CDPR Report regarding the future of the park:

1. We cannot agree enough with the outlined priorities which stress use by naturalists over use by tourists. As you know, park land is fragile. Developing it in a way to accommodate the ever-increasing number of casual visitors is a losing proposition - there will always be more, and the park would entirely lose its wilderness character.
2. Please do NOT expand parking facilities at Mountain Theater. Already the area is very heavily used on week-ends, and the Rock Springs area is littered.
3. Hearty endorsements for making all efforts to keep off-the-road vehicles out. Recently, we noticed on our regular Sunday hikes that bands of boys with trail-bikes use laboriously constructed hiking trails. Besides being very rude, and a real menace to hikers, they have done damage to trails, esp. the Nora Trail from West Point to the junction with the Matt Davis Trail.
4. No concessions should be allowed in the park.
5. No further increase of camping facilities is necessary. Additional camps would change the tranquillity of the park, which is the main attraction to the many people who come to it for recreation after a week's work.
6. YES to all efforts to keep roads as they are and to increase public transportation. We often use the bus, and it is very comfortable.
7. Finally, do you need volunteers to help you?

Dr. John B. Gleason

Sincerely,  
Dr. Elisabeth G. Gleason

1 Whitaker Ave.  
Berkeley, 94708  
August-09 1979

Environmental Review Section,  
Mount Tamalpais State Park  
General Plan, Preliminary Draft

Dear Sirs:

I cannot thank you enough for your kindness in sending me the copy of the Preliminary Draft of the General Plan.

I have read it from beginning to end & have found myself, with one small exception, in complete agreement with all its conclusions.

I plan to reread the Preliminary Draft & then lend it to friends who have heard the rumors which I had heard & which prompted my letter on the subject.

One of these rumors was to be effect that all trees suitable for lumber were to be cut.

Anyone who has seen recent photos of the way forest land on Mount Shasta has been destroyed could be excused for believing even that.

It is such a relief to be able to reply that there is no truth in that statement. Mt Tamalpais is in the hands of people who will protect it from such destruction.

My one question, why no dogs on trails?

I have walked a succession of small dogs on Tamalpais trails for a great many years & none of them has ever bothered any of the wild life. They were ~~never~~ <sup>not</sup> too big. We do love the little wild creatures & protect them.  
To be a walker without a dog is not a real walk!

Thank you for the small map of Tamalpais & for the very kind notes you wrote on it.

I hope I may yet recover sufficiently to follow a trail again but it's quite a while now since I was restricted to a walker & a walker is really out of place on a trail.

Good luck to all four of you, & thank you again & again.

Yours sincerely

J. Stitt.

August 23, 1979

James M. Doyle  
Supervisor Environmental Review Section  
Dept of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca 95811  
Re: Mt. Tamalpais

Also most people do not view the park from the road, but off it, so please do not carried with the landscaping.

There are not many horses on Mt. Tamalpais now. There are more using the water district land. They are not allowed on the trails in Mt. Tamalpais. It is best to keep it this way and not to encourage their use, as a lot of horses tend to turn the trail into dust, and otherwise smell up trails.

As regards your suggestions of getting rid of "unsightly" fireroads, it seems to be you are only concerned with views from the road. If people are off the road they do not see these "unsightly" fire roads unless they are on them. I think you should worry less about the impression get from the road.

Also, the Golden Gate NRA is not going to pickup a lot of hikers at Mt. Tamalpais is much more enjoyable hiking than the open lands of the Golden Gate RNA.

As for your intention in one of your former letters to me about poor people using the park, I myself am not rich by any means.

Judy Webber  
3700 20th St. #34  
San Francisco, Ca 94110

One of the things I am most upset about in the master plan is the proposed cutting down of trees, both eucalyptus and also non-native conifers, Monterey pines etc. I like all these trees. People do not come to Mt. Tamalpais just for the open spaces, but for the wooded areas as well. It is the variety of terrain on Mt. Tamalpais that makes it the gem it is. Even where the eucalyptus is not spreading you say you want to cut it down because it is unsightly. Who is to decide if it is unsightly? I think they are very sightly. Why cut down beautiful trees, Nature's way of changing things is by the introduction of new species in an area by other animals. It has been that way millions of years. Why get too upset over it at Mt. Tamalpais?

The plan states that it takes two hours during heavy traffic through park. I think that is somewhat of an exaggeration as I have never seen traffic that heavy.

I do not like the idea of taking out the fireroads of McKinnon's Gulch and Willow Fire Road unless they are reconstructed into trails. McKinnon's Gulch is a lovely way to hike to Audubon Canyon Ranch from the State Park, especially during the spring when the birds are nesting at Audubon Canyon Ranch. Willow's Fire Road is an alternative route to Stinson Beach, taking some of the pressure off the Steep Ravine Trail.

Although I agree that there is a lot of dead wood around Mt. Tamalpais, I would be very careful with fires that it does not interfere with people's use of park.

Mt. Tamalpais is mostly suited for a day use park with little development and I would like to discourage any development of campgrounds, car or backpack or building of new buildings. The existing restrooms at Mt. Theater might be a good place for a small interpretative center. I would hate to see one built on Diaz Ridge and spoil the expansive views on that ridge. There are too many houses going up there anyway. I also believe it is an exaggeration that Panfoll Campground is heavily used, as everytime I have been by there, I have never seen more than 3-4 tents, if even that many. Any new employee housing that needs to be, should be from one of the surrounding communities. In fact I would recommend all employee's except for 1-2 rangers living in one of the surrounding communities.

I have noticed no crowding on Mt. Tamalpais trails or picnic area. They are spread out over the area. Also most enjoy picnicing by sitting on the grass, and please do not mar the views by putting in more picnic tables all over the place.

If West Peak is after acquired, I think all buildings not use by the Federal Aviation should be demolished, and the area returned to as natural as possible. Buildings should not block the view. Also it should only be necessary to drive up one peak, not both.

**BAGSHAW, MARTINELLI, CORRIGAN & JORDAN**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
SUITE 303 CITIZENS BUILDING  
950 HORTINGATE DRIVE  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903  
TELEPHONE (415) 472-4500

RODRICK A. MARTINELLI  
WILLIAM G. CORRIGAN  
LELAND H. JORDAN  
WILLIAM S. HOGGREN  
STEPHEN A. HIGGEE

A. C. BAGSHAW  
OF COUNSEL

HARRIET M. MARTINELLI, CORRIGAN & JORDAN

to Richard L. Humphrey

DATE 8/16/79 PAGE 2

August 16, 1979

Richard L. Humphrey  
Senior Landscape Architect  
State of California Department  
of Parks and Recreation  
Post Office Box 2390  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95811

RE: Park Host Concessions  
Mt. Tamalpais State Park

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of August 13, 1979, concerning the continued operations of our client, Park Host Concessions, at Mt. Tamalpais State Park in Marin County.

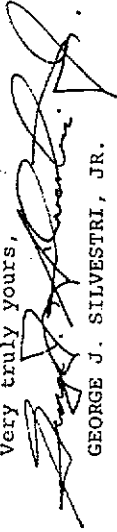
As you know, the preliminary draft general plan dated July, 1979, prepared by your department, discusses the possibility of the removal of our client's concession from the East Peak. You have indicated that the California Park and Recreation Commission has scheduled a hearing for October 12, 1979, in San Jose, to consider adoption of this plan. As I indicated to you, while I intend to represent my client's interest at that hearing, I have a longstanding commitment to chair an annual Columbus Day Civic Celebration Luncheon in Marin County on that date. I am therefore most appreciative of your suggesting the possibility that the Commission could schedule this item as its first order of business in order to accommodate my need to return to Marin County in time for my prior commitment.

This will also confirm my request that you provide me with copies of all reports, correspondence or other documents or records pertaining to the possibility of the termination of my client's concession which your department now has or which it may hereafter acquire. I would appreciate your providing me with any notices of applicable hearings and of the rules of procedure

under which those hearings are conducted. Finally, I would also appreciate your providing me with a current roster of Commission members and staff.

Your courtesy and prompt attention to this request are appreciated.

Very truly yours,



GEORGE J. SILVESTRI, JR.

GJS:kr

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Becker  
Park Host Concessions  
924 Sunnybrae Lane  
Novato, California 94947

August 22, 1979  
685 Shelter Creek Lane  
Apt. 306  
San Bruno, Ca. 94066

State of California - The Resources Agency  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Mt. Tamalpais State Park Planning Team  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca 95811

Gentlemen:

I started to write my comments on the questionnaire but believe they would be more legible typewritten here separately.

Regarding the Resource Summary:

I question the desirability of eliminating Eucalyptus, which have served aesthetic functions, have grown where no other trees could grow, provide needed shade in barren spots, are excellent wind-breakers, and prevent soil erosion.

Brooms also provide color, fragrance, beauty and variety. It would be a great loss to have them removed.

I do agree that thistles are a great pest, especially certain varieties, and I would suggest concentrating on eliminating as many of them as possible.

Let's not be inflexible, text-book purists in our approach to plant control. There are many introduced varieties which have added much to our enjoyment of Mt. Tamalpais. Let's use balance, taste, and caution in our planning, and not destroy everything which doesn't fit a rigid definition. I'd be very wary about a burning program - don't forget it may take generations to restore such an area.

Dogs should not be permitted; they are one of the worst marauders, and owners generally disregard leash regulations. Horses, motorcycles, cyclists, etc., also wreak much damage and are not being sufficiently monitored.

Regarding the Facilities Summary:

I think there's too much of a concentration along the Frank Valley Rd., too many facilities and car storage areas being planned. It will be a very crowded, busy area. I'd suggest not more than half that many sites. Otherwise, it will turn into a crowded, ramshackle camp slum, with a lot of undesirable overflow and deterioration in the rest of the park.

Regarding Transportation

Most of the emphasis seems to be on providing parking places somewhere on the mountain and from there shuttle services. Why not make the main emphasis use of the bus all the way from the city, from G.G. Bridge, from Marin City or Tam Valley. Let's keep cars off the mountain as much as possible. Frequent, attractive, inexpensive service could do that. There should also be mid-week service, particularly during summer months.

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## SUMMARY REVIEW

I have read the following summaries.  
 I agree with the summary.   
 I disagree with the summary.

Resource

Recreation

Facilities

Transportation

Plan Implementation

I have the following comments.

*I question the desirability of eliminating  
 several species which have served aesthetic functions, provided shade  
 for visitors, and been excellent wind-breakers. Program  
 also provide much color, fragrance and beauty and would be a  
 great loss. It's not be such blind, die-hard, priests -  
 almost everything we have in an interlope - they should not  
 in addition to the variety and beauty. I would suggest  
 much stricter regulation of dogs - they should not be  
 allowed within the park so. fields.*

Yes, I would like to review the preliminary General Plan for Mount Tamalpais State Park.

FOLD ALONG DASHED LINE

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

Please add me to the mailing list.

Place  
 Stamp  
 Here



State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
 Mount Tamalpais State Park Planning Team  
 P.O. Box 2390  
 Sacramento, CA 95811

PLAN REVIEW

COMMENTS

- 1. Bolinas Ridge
- 2. Rock Springs
- 3. Mountain Theater
- 4. West Peak
- 5. West Point Inr.
- 6. Boojack "
- 7. Pan Toll
- 8. Red Rock
- 9. Steep Ravine
- 10. Backcountry
- 11. East Peak
- 12. Mountain Home Area
- 13. Camp Eastwood
- 14. Diaz Ridge
- 15. Frank Valley
- A. Riley's Meadow
- B. Kent Canyon
- C. Diaz Meadow
- D. Warm Springs

I have reviewed the proposals for:  
 These proposals are acceptable.  
 These proposals are not acceptable.  
 I am not concerned with this area.  
 I have the following comments on:


*too much provision for cars, too much encouragement of car use.*

Presently I enjoy the following areas of the park. (see map and circle appropriate No.)

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ ⑬ ⑭ ⑮ A B C D

This plan will:  increase  decrease  not affect my enjoyment of the park.

The plan could be improved by: *providing more public transportation keeping out cars, eliminating half the number of planned camping and parking facilities, and keeping the beautiful surroundings and trees.*

MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK PLANNING TEAM  
 P.O. Box 2390 SACRAMENTO, CA 95811  
 State of California - The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

LORRAINE BURZLOFF  
 685 Shelter Creek Lane #306  
 San Bruno, California  
 94066



SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT  
MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN  
SCH 79072504

This Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Element is an amendment to the Draft Environmental Impact Element contained in the Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan of August 1979. Substantial changes to the General Plan have necessitated this amendment.

Description of the Project

The project has the following changes:

1. The "no change" alternative will be used for the concession at East Peak. The existing small concession would continue "as is" adjacent to the parking lot.
2. The hostel originally planned at Steep Ravine is now planned for a part of Kent Canyon in Frank Valley. This is the most substantial of the changes. The hostel development would be in addition to other developments proposed in Kent Canyon. See Appendix B, Figure 6 in the General Plan. As envisioned, the hostel would consist of approximately 30 beds initially and approximately 30 more may be added in the future. There would be an addition of approximately 15 parking places. Most hostellers are expected to hike or bike to Kent Canyon.

The hostel would be located near the present barn and out buildings behind the two existing residences. The hostel would have showers and kitchen facilities.

Three sources of water for the hostel are being explored. One possible source is from wells in Frank Valley, with the water being stored in tanks so it can be pumped in the winter and drawn from the tanks during the dry season (about April to November). The objective being to eliminate influences on summer flows in Redwood Creek and its tributaries. This first alternative would not use water from outside the Redwood Creek watershed.

The second possible source would be to use water introduced into Redwood Creek from the Marin Municipal Water District. Water would be piped directly to Kent Canyon facilities or piped into Redwood Creek and then pumped from the existing well in Frank Valley to the existing tank. There would be a tank in the headwaters area to process the water so as not to effect the stream ecology.

The third possibility is to bring water by water truck into Kent Canyon and store it in tanks for use during dry periods.

No matter which water source is used, the primary consideration would be to manage Kent Canyon and Creek and Redwood Creek in a natural ecological state. Nothing would be done to reduce or unnaturally add water to the watershed, other than the water introduced into Redwood Creek to replace the amount used by the hostel, if plan 2 or 3 are used. Everything possible would be done to protect the aquatic resource including the salmonid fish population in the streams.

### Description of Environmental Setting

Please refer to the description of the physical features in the Resource Element and the regional setting in the Land Use and Facilities Element, particularly in reference to Frank Valley and the Kent Canyon portion of Frank Valley.

### Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

Please refer to the Draft Environmental Impact Element, page 62-65, especially those headings referring to Frank Valley. Generally, the adverse effects in Kent Canyon will be increased by the addition of the hostel. Mitigation measures outlined below will reduce the possibility of these effects from becoming significant. The main concerns are related to water quality and quantity for the surface and groundwater in the entire Redwood Creek watershed. The quantity and quality of the water is most critical in late summer due to the young salmonids using the pools as nurseries and other aquatic life. At other times the flow of water in the creeks helps to reduce many impacts that impair water quality. There are also concerns relating to the possible effects on the wells in Frank Valley used as the source of water for the community of Muir Beach. Increases in people will increase effects on riparian vegetation and aquatic life in the creek by direct disturbance. Removing vegetation, causing erosion to the banks, etc., will lead to siltation, increases in water temperature, decreases in oxygen carrying capacity of the water, and other water quality problems that would reduce habitat for aquatic life including salmonids. It is believed that hostelers would spend less time near the stream banks than campers.

There would be a slight increase in traffic. This would be because of the few hostelers who would travel by car and because of maintenance vehicles servicing the hostel.

### Significant Environmental Effects that Cannot be Avoided

The possible adverse effects cannot be completely avoided, but they can be reduced so that they are not significant. Mitigation measures are listed below.

### Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize Significant Effects

Several measures were listed in the General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Element. In addition to those mitigation measures, the following are added specifically for the Kent Canyon hostel.

1. Work with the California Department of Fish and Game, the Muir Beach Community, the National Park Service, and other agencies to identify and to meet the management requirements of the Frank Valley watershed.
2. Close the hostel or ration water in the event of a severe drought, to prevent a reduction in the groundwater supply or stream flows.
3. Water obtained on the site will continue to be drawn from wells, rather than being pumped directly from streams.

4. Monitor surface water in Redwood Creek and Kent Creek and discontinue well operations during low water periods.
5. Fill storage facilities (watertanks) in winter, if alternative one is used, to avoid taking water from the watershed during the dry season for hostel and emergency use. (Specific amounts will be evaluated when specific plan is known.)
6. Water conservation would be practiced. Plumbing fixtures would be of a water conservation type. Limits on time in showers, etc., would be established.
7. Measures listed on page 66 in the Preliminary Report should help keep visitors from disturbing the riparian vegetation and aquatic life in Kent Creek and Redwood Creek. Along Kent Creek, barriers and interpretive signs in keeping with the character of the area will be constructed to keep hostel users and campers out of the streams.
8. Until the park residences are removed from Kent Canyon, water conservation measures will be implemented.

#### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Alternative sources for water, which would prevent impacts on the Redwood Creek and Kent Canyon ecology, have been discussed. Whichever domestic water source alternative is used, the objective is to prevent significant adverse effects to the streams and their associated biota and the ecological integrity of Frank Valley and Kent Canyon; this objective will be adhered to by the Department and will be the determinate factor in all departmental decisions.

The "No Action" alternative regarding the small existing concession at East Peak has been chosen by the California State Park and Recreation Commission. The concession will not be expanded and other proposed actions in East Peak will remain the same.

#### Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes That Would be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it be Implemented

The loss of open space, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and vegetation due to the development of new facilities in previously undeveloped area and from increases in visitation.

#### The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

There will be no significant growth-inducing impacts from the proposed actions. Only minimal economic gains from construction of proposed facilities are anticipated in the area. The greater opportunities for camping in the park may result in increases in trade for local service businesses.

#### The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Please see the Preliminary General Plan, page 69. The effect of removing the cabins from Steep Ravine will result in the area becoming more natural and esthetic and safer for the public. By moving the hostel to Kent Canyon there may be greater effects on the Frank Valley Area and Redwood and Kent Creeks. Mitigation measures must insure the perpetuation of long-term anadromous (salmonid) fish and other aquatic populations.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
FOR THE AMENDMENT TO PRELIMINARY MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK  
GENERAL PLAN.

Comments were received from:

American Youth Hostel, Inc.

California Department of Fish and Game

Marin County Comprehensive Planning Department

Marin County Fire Department

Sierra Club

Tamalpais Conservation Club

People for Preservation of the Natural and Wild in Bay Area Open Space

Ms. Judy Webber

Numbers adjacent to the responses correspond to numbers in the right margin adjacent to the comments.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FOR AMENDMENT TO MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK  
SUBSEQUENT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

1. These comments concerning potential impacts in Kent Canyon and proposed mitigation measures were addressed adequately in the General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan Amendment. Specific design features of water and sewer systems are not final. Water conservation features will be incorporated.
2. These comments and recommendations concerning human use in Kent Canyon were addressed adequately in the Draft Environmental Impact Report in the General Plan and Amendment and Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Report. Water facilities for consumption and for fire protection will be included in Kent Canyon, but the details are not known at this time.
3. These comments concerning riparian vegetation and protection of the fishery were addressed adequately in the General Plan Draft EIR and the Subsequent Draft EIR.
4. No streambed alterations are proposed in either Kent Canyon or Redwood Creek.
5. The California State Park and Recreation Commission has rescheduled the public hearing for the proposed amendments to Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan. It will be held in San Francisco.
6. The alternative of removing the 40 proposed campsites in Kent Canyon if the hostel was proposed for Kent Canyon, was not included because the California Park and Recreation Commission approved the plan for the campground at the October 12, 1979 Commission Meeting. Additional impacts could be expected if both the campground and the hostel proposal were implemented in Kent Canyon; however, with the probability of imported water and mitigation measures, both uses could be accommodated in Kent Canyon. The proposed development would be done on a phased basis. This would allow for monitoring of environmental impacts. If it were determined that increased development would result in significant effects on the environment, then additional phases would not be implemented. This phasing is stipulated in the General Plan.

The Subsequent Draft EIR discussed the demand and requirements for water in Kent Canyon, Redwood Creek, and areas outside the park in Frank Valley. The proposed hostel and other facilities in Kent Canyon would be screened and designed in order to reduce the visual impact. Designated existing buildings, discussed in the General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report, would eventually be demolished.

7. If additional overnight facilities were developed on Golden Gate National Recreation Area land, some of the demand for overnight facilities in Marin County could be met. It is not anticipated that GGNRA could meet all the demand for overnight camping, so proposed overnight hostel and camping facilities in Kent Canyon would remain an important supply in an area of overnight camping facilities deficiencies.

The cumulative effect on traffic that would result from use in Kent Canyon would be nonsignificant. The General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report recognized the fact that there are traffic problems in the Mount Tamalpais vicinity on peak days.

8. Any ownership or use consideration for these two buildings is considered too far in the future to be considered in this General Plan.
9. The Department of Parks and Recreation will work with other agencies to prevent fire and to protect the unit from wildfires. See Response #2.
10. The cabins in Steep Ravine are in poor condition and are located on slopes that are unstable. It would be expensive to refurbish these cabins and install a sewer or water system that would meet health and safety requirements. The future of these cabins is uncertain at this time.
11. A shuttle bus operating from a location such as the junction of Highway 1 and 101 should be considered further, as a way to reduce traffic and other impacts in Mt. Tamalpais State Park. (National Park Service, Marin County, Department of Parks and Recreation and others are co-operating towards this objective).
12. The State Park and Recreation Commission declined to eliminate the East Peak Concession from the proposed General Plan. If there were a proposal to expand the existing concession substantially, then an additional environmental assessment would be prepared.
13. There is no proposal to reclassify Mount Tamalpais State Park to a State Recreation Area or other classification. Camping is an activity that is permitted under the State Park classification. The California State Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to reclassify units. Title 14, Section 5019.53 of the Public Resources Code states that in units classified as State Parks "Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major modification of lands, forests, or waters." With proper mitigation measures, the proposed facilities for Kent Canyon can be developed and operated without major modification of lands, forests, or water.

# Memorandum

To : Russell W. Cahill, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street, 14th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Directors Office  
0-0 Date: April 28, 1980  
MAY 1 1980

Telephone: ATSS ( 9485-3531  
Public ( 916 445-3531

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Mount Tamalpais State Park, Proposed Hostel

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the plans for the proposed hostel and camping sites in the Kent Canyon area. We have several comments regarding this project as related to potential adverse impacts on the fishery resources of Redwood Creek and Kent Canyon Creek.

Redwood Creek supports spawning runs of steelhead trout and silver salmon. Kent Canyon Creek appears to support a small spawning run of steelhead trout. Additionally, these streams provide summer and fall nursery habitat for juvenile salmonids.

Development in the Redwood Creek drainage poses several potential impacts on these salmonid resources, specifically siltation, reduced water quality and quantity, reduced riparian habitat and increased human intrusion. To eliminate or mitigate these impacts, thorough planning and judicious project operational procedures will be required.

The potential for siltation of the streams can be reduced through proper timing and techniques of grading, reseeding of disturbed areas and controlled public access to surrounding lands. As mentioned in your April 1, 1980 memorandum, public access should be limited to established trails and precluded from areas sensitive to disturbance.

Water quality can be protected through proper use of comfort stations, disposal facilities, and overall maintenance of the area.

Increased human use of Kent Canyon will require additional water supplies, both for consumption and fire protection. We recommend water storage facilities be designed to collect and store excess winter runoff waters or that outside sources be employed.

Diversion of water from the streams or their underground aquifers during the spring, summer and fall months would be detrimental. It is imperative that maximum flows be maintained during this time to provide nursery habitat for young steelhead and salmon.

Russell W. Cahill, Director

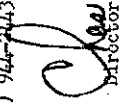
-2-

No removal of riparian growth should be allowed along the streams. The vegetation provides a canopy to help maintain cool water temperatures. Insect-falling from the overhanging vegetation provides forage for the young fish. Additionally, it provides shade cover for fish as well as discourages and/or lessens human disturbance along the stream channels.

As previously mentioned, human intrusion along the stream should be limited, especially during the winter and spring months when the salmon and steelhead are spawning. Access points across or to the stream should be limited to the absolute minimum.

As you are aware, the Department of Fish and Game has authority regarding any proposed streambed alterations. Operators will be required to submit notification of proposed channel modifications pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1601. Work cannot be initiated until streambed alteration agreements are executed.

Department of Fish and Game personnel are available to discuss our concerns in more detail. To arrange a meeting, please contact Mr. R. R. Rawstron, Fishery Management Supervisor, Region 3, Department of Fish and Game, P. O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, telephone (707) 944-2443.

  
Director

**Marin County  
Comprehensive  
Planning  
Department**

CIVIC CENTER SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903 TELEPHONE 479-1100 MARIORIE W. MACRIS AICP DIRECTOR

April 9, 1980

Mr. James H. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: AMENDED DRAFT EIR - MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK  
GENERAL PLAN

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Marin County Board of Supervisors on April 1 voted unanimously to adopt the following positions regarding the proposed amendment to the Mount Tamalpais State Park Plan which would add a 30-bed hostel to the already planned 40 campsites in Kent Canyon, off Franks Valley Road near Muir Beach:

1. The hearing of the State Parks and Recreation Commission on the amendment to the Mount Tamalpais State Park Plan for Kent Canyon should be held in Marin County, to allow adequate input from the public most affected.
2. The attached statement from the March 5 meeting in the Marin County Planning Department is recommended for further consideration by the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission.
3. All requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act must be fully complied with before further decisions are made on the Mount Tamalpais State Park Plan and before further development occurs.

Regarding the amended EIR, I would strongly recommend that you analyze the effects of another alternative which you have not considered, but which the March 5 meeting group recommended. That is to delete the 40 campsites in favor of the hostel, rather than adding the hostel. This alternative should be evaluated especially with respect to water quality and quantity. I do not feel that the present draft addresses these issues adequately, particularly in the light of heavy summer visitation to the Muir Beach/Muir Woods area.

I would also strongly urge that the hearing on the draft EIR and plan amendment be held in Marin County.

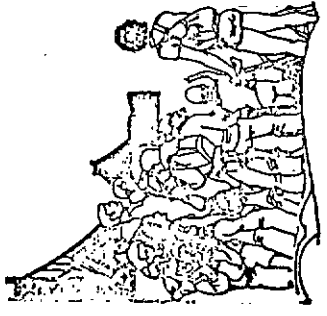
Sincerely,  
*Mariorie W. Macris*  
MARIORIE W. MACRIS, AICP  
Planning Director  
RWH:sib

cc: Meeting participants  
Rick Borgwardt

RECEIVED

APR 15 1980

Att. RPI



**AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.**  
Golden Gate Council  
Building 240, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 771-4646

March 12, 1980

Greetings:

The statement attached is my best effort to capaulize our discussibns on March 5, 1980.

Should there be any major additions or substantial disagreement with this account, your comments should be registered by March 30. You may call me at 771-4647 or Amy Meyer at 752-2777. Unless we hear differently, we will circulate this report as the consensus of all.

Sincerely,  
AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC. - Golden Gate Council

*Mark W. Analt*  
Mark W. Analt, Hostel Development Manager

- cc:
- Sue Beittel
  - Robert Brown
  - Nina Eloesser
  - John Holtzclaw
  - Dick Humphrey
  - Mariorie Macris
  - Amy Meyer
  - Doug Nadeau
  - Yvonne Rand
  - Lotte Schiller
  - Bert Schwarzschild
  - Martha Freebairn - Smith
  - Judy Yamamoto



Report on Meeting  
March 5, 1980  
Marin Civic Center  
Marin County Planning

Marjorie Macris, Marin County Planning Director, convened a meeting of the participants listed (see attached) at the Marin Civic Center to discuss proposed plans developed by the State of California for the development of the Kent Canyon area along Franks Valley Road. Representatives from Federal, State and local planning agencies as well as spokespersons from Muir Beach, Green Gulch, the Sierra Club, and AYH were on hand. A number of issues were discussed and it was the general consensus of those present that the following items be included in any further planning and implementation of proposed plans:

1) The intensive discussion of Frank's Valley was centered around an overall concern for the number of campsites which this area could accommodate as part of the overall management plan for State lands in this area. It was the consensus of the participants that to add a 30 bed hostel facility and also develop 40 multi-use campsites in the Kent Canyon area would create a strain on Franks Valley if the State were to develop other proposed sites in the area, namely, Santos Meadows, Riley Meadows, Warm Springs, and Hidden Meadows.

2) Traffic, water availability, and general environmental and demographic conditions warrant a closer look at the future plans for this area. Specifically noted was the awareness of planning efforts to accommodate public camping in alternative areas being considered by GGNRA. If such efforts are successful the planned use intensity of Frank's Valley should be carefully studied and reduced accordingly.

3) Observations were made concerning the future use of the leased areas opposite Muir Woods, specifically the Cameron House and Hillwood School. Since these leases do not expire for 21 years such alternatives as may be considered must inevitably be part of a long range plan, but should not be omitted from current discussions.

4) In specific and focusing on the Kent Canyon area, the participants agreed that a hostel facility was preferable to the 40 campsites originally planned for the following reasons:

- a. A hostel produces controlled use with minimum impact on the natural vegetation and wildlife.
- b. A hostel in Kent Canyon can make the best public use of the previously disturbed site.
- c. There is no need to impact the area of Kent Canyon with campsites beyond the area of the already existing structures where the proposed hostel would stand.

d. There is a possibility that for hostel usage one or more of the existing structures could be saved and complement the hostel operation as either ranger residence or hostel managers. It was agreed by all that modifications and some removal of unrecyclable buildings will be necessary to achieve an openness and alleviate the current feeling that Kent Canyon is private. (This effect was referred to as the portal between the residences.)

e. The Kent Canyon area is a perfect location for a hostel being easily reached by trail or bicycle from the nearest hostel in the Marin Headlands. It is also close to Muir Woods, an increasingly popular tourist site.

f. Hostels have traditionally catered to those of the public using public transportation or their "own steam" to get from place to place. This would alleviate greater congestion of vehicle traffic in the area.

5. When considering the implementation of a 30 bed hostel at Kent Canyon as opposed to the development of 40 multi-use sites it was the belief of this group that the following concerns should be addressed:

- a. Water usage should not adversely affect local streams or encroach substantially upon the water supply to serve existing residences in Muir Beach.
- b. Waste water must be treated appropriately.
- c. Parking should be limited and access by other means should be encouraged.
- d. Camping in Kent Canyon be prohibited.

##

PARTICIPANTS

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Golden Gate Council  
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San Francisco, CA 94123

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Marin County Hostels  
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San Rafael, CA 94903

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California Coastal Commission  
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San Rafael, CA 94903

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Sierra Club  
2121 Lyon St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115

John Holtzclaw  
Sierra Club  
1508 Taylor  
San Francisco, CA 94133

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Senior Landscape Architect  
California Parks & Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

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Marin Civic Center  
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San Rafael, CA 94903

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San Francisco, CA 94121

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GGNRA  
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Star Route  
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Citizens Advisory Committee  
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Mill Valley, CA 94941

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San Francisco, CA 94123

Martha Freebairn-Smith  
Muir Beach  
Box 200  
Muir Beach, CA 94965

Judy Yamamoto  
Muir Beach #268  
Sausalito, CA 94965

NEW ADDRESS  
ROOM 562 FLOOD BLDG  
870 MARKET ST  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA 94103

**Tamalpais Conservation Club**  
(founded 1922)

828 Pacific Building — 821 Market Street  
San Francisco, California 94103



Member #6:  
Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs

May 8, 1980

Mr. James Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Dear Mr. Doyle: The board of Directors of the Tamalpais Conservation Club voted at its April 9, 1980 meeting to send you a letter expressing their continued opposition to the concession at the east peak of Mt. Tamalpais. It degrades the highest value of the site which is a resource for enjoying peace, quiet, and distance from the noisy enterprises of the City while contemplating one's thoughts and marvelling at the view.

The board reaffirms its position that the cabins at Steep Ravine should come down. The site cannot support any kind of habitation without extreme damage to its delicate shifting eco-system.

Upon close examination of the issue the T.C.C. Board cannot support the hostel nor camping with cars proposed for Kent Canyon. Either activity will damage the environment regardless of mitigations planned. We look forward to provision of a car-parking area at the junction of Highways 1 and 101 with a shuttle bus to provide access to the Park.

Thank you,  
*Leonore M. Bravo*  
The Board of Directors of  
The Tamalpais Conservation Club  
by Leonore M. Bravo, Sec'y.

-12-

-10-

-6-

-11-



MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

33 CASTLE ROCK \* P.O. BOX 518 \* WOODACRE, CALIFORNIA 94973  
TELEPHONE (415) 488-0123

CHIEF  
Richard D. Pedrolli

April 18, 1980

Mr. James M. Doyle  
State Department of Parks & Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: DIER for Mt. Tamalpais State Park Plan (Hostel)  
at Kent Canyon

Dear Mr. Doyle:

In reviewing the above titled document and the subsequent DIER dated 4-7-80, we are submitting the following comments and/or recommendations:

- 1) We recommend that in conjunction with the installation of a water storage facility (domestic purposes), that consideration be given to the installation of a fire hydrant. This fire hydrant should be located within 350' of the proposed "hostel" structure and should be positioned along the access road, which will permit ready access to fire department apparatus. Our department will be happy to recommend the type and size of the hydrant, as well as suggest the location, should our recommendation be considered.
- 2) Because of the location of the hostel being within what we have determined to be a "hazardous" fire area, we would recommend, in addition to the above, that consideration be given towards the installation of an "automatic sprinkler system" that would provide protection for the outside as well as the interior of the proposed structure(s).

Both items #1 and #2 are being suggested as preventative measures, keeping in mind the high value of the watershed area and the enormous potential loss that could result from a wildland fire emanating from the hostel area. It is also important to note that the "normal" response time for our apparatus to arrive to this area is considered to be an "excessive response time", and therefore requires that some additional protection measures, such as suggested above, be implemented within the final plan.

We are available, should your agency have any questions pertaining to the above data and solicit your comments, if any.

Very truly yours,  
Michael J. Shields  
Michael J. Shields  
Fire Marshal

APR 22 1980

RPI



PEOPLE FOR PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL  
AND WILD IN BAY AREA OPEN SPACE

May 4, 1980

47 LEVANT ST. SAN FRANCISCO CA. 94114  
PHONE 415-861-5686

James M. Doyle, supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Replying to your letter of April 7: I wish that I could believe that the cabins at Steep Ravine were to be dismantled. At midnight on April 10 at the North Central Coastal Commission meeting, Michael Wormum requested the Commission write a letter to Parks and Rec asking them not to dismantle them. He has a strong personal interest in using the cabins and perhaps even an interest in that the Yosemite Institute exploit the site in due course. I was there having heard about his intentions via "the Grapevine" and challenged him. Furthermore, remarks by Mr. McClellan at the Mar. 22 meeting at Kent Canyon suggested that the cabins might be developed as a "weekend retreat". Steep Ravine will not be saved until they are DOWN.

Regarding the concession at the top of the Mountain we are againt it on environmental grounds in any size, way shape or form and attach our March 14 letter to the Park Commissioners on this subject. Please note our objections. Also we have collected over 2000 signatures part of which have already been presented to the Commissioners and part of which will be delivered later. Bay Area citizens feel that we are fighting off the making of a Disney-land or Yosemite out of our precious Mt. Tam.

Regarding the hostel in Kent Canyon we object to that also. See attached letter on that subject to our legislators. As outlined there, we have concluded that exploitation of State Parks unnecessarily as in the case of Tam where there is plenty of opportunity for concessions on adjacent public land, i.e. the GGNRA must be attacked.

We aren't the only resource conservers who feel that way! We note from a recent brochure of the Sempervirens Fund that they want to keep all auto traffic out of Castle Rock State Park, describing their plan as "the Park of the future", one with radiating hiking trails, no auto traffic.

That's what Tamalpais State Park has been essentially and that's what we will strive for! and thankyou for asking our opinion!

*Leonore M Bravo*

Leonore M Bravo for  
PFENW in Bay Area Open Space AND  
the Average man on the Street in this area.

RPI

- LEONORE M BRAVO
- STEPHEN BRICKLEY
- ENGEL PRESERVERS
- KARL & NAOMI BAUMANN
- DESMOND BURNINGTON
- RICHARD L BOWER
- ANNE BRICKLEY
- PAUL COVEL
- DUARTE
- ARTHUR B EMMES
- JEAN GLASER
- RAY & MILLIE GOULD
- MILLICENT HUGHES
- JAMES JOHNSON
- ESMOND MILLSNER
- NAN TUNISON
- LOUISE RICHTER
- DR EDWARD S ROSS
- LEONORE M BRAVO
- MICHAEL M WORMUM
- CALLIP. NATURAL PLANT SOCIETY

13

1027



# SIERRA CLUB

Northern California Regional Conservation Committee

5300 BARTON STREET SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95808-6453

ROBERT MARK  
705 CALIFORNIA STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811

April 10, 1980

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

SUBJECT: Comment on Draft EIR "Subsequent Draft Environmental Impact Report to the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Development of Mount Tamalpais State Park"

This EIR need consider as mitigation/alternative action the reduction in the proposed number of campsites in Kent Canyon/Frank Valley.

Sincerely,

*Robert Mark*

Dr. Robert Mark, Chairman  
State Parks Committee

cc: Bay Chapter Sierra Club

April 15, 1980

James M. Doyle, Supervisor  
Environmental Review Section  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, Ca 95811

Dear Sir:

The idea of having the youth hostel at Kent Canyon is not much better than having it at Steep Ravine. Especially, in view of the water problems you talk about, it sounds like it would have an adverse effect on the environment. In fact, having any kind of campgrounds there would. I think they should find a place for the hostel in the town of Stinson Beach. If the hostel is placed at Kent Canyon, the least destructive way for them to get water is by water truck into Kent Canyon and stored there.

Thank You

Judy Webber  
3700 20th St. #34  
San Francisco, Ca 94110

RECEIVED

APR 21 1980

RPI

RECEIVED

APR 15 1980

RPI

*Our response to the plan to continue the concession at East Peak - to Mr Doyle*



PEOPLE FOR PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND WILD IN BAY AREA OPEN SPACE

March 14, 1980

47 LEVANT ST. SAN FRANCISCO CA. 94114  
PHONE 415-361-5636

To the California State Park Commissioners:

Ladies & Gentlemen:

On Oct. 12th, at the San Jose meeting, you voted to permit the concessionaire, who has a refreshment stand at the top of Mt. Tamalpais, to continue his business there contrary to the Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53 which states that "Improvements that do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resources (a state park) which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks." Tamalpais State Park was so classified by the then State Park Commission in May of 1962.

The above was cited to you by the Park & Recreation staff at the Oct. 12th meeting as the reason why they recommended against continuation of the concessionaire's permit.

There is no need for a "refreshment stand at the top of the mountain. A Mountain Home parking lot can be achieved between breakfast and lunch, or lunch and dinner. Or food can be carried as is customary for hikers, if one wants to eat while looking at the view or to hike on further.

Let's start teaching our children that there are other values than a coke at the end of the trail; there are the matchless sights of nature and the symphony of her sounds including that increasingly rare value, freedom from man-made noise!

Furthermore, the refreshment stand can easily become an attraction in itself with nearby residents taking a ride to the top of the mountain to have a cup of coffee or whatever else is being sold.

There are alternatives to the refreshment stand which are less threatening than what now stands, and can easily grow into a commercial entertainment complex. A mobile truck vending refreshments there is one. Or better yet, such a vendor as the truck can station himself at "I Corners" where the roads from Mill Valley to Fair Woods and from San Francisco to the top of the Mountain intersect with a sign, "Just chance for food". The vendor will do more business there as more people pass that spot.

With the formation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and subsequent acquisition of lands for that unit of the National Park Service, Bay area people petitioned the governor to veto a measure that would have included Tamalpais State Park in the GGNRA for the very reason that said people wanted the Park to remain always a park, safeguarded by the provisions of Section 5019.53 of the Public Resources Code.

*Mr Doyle - This relates to PD- the concession at East Peak - your letter of Apr. 7, 1980 - J. Bran*

PAGE 2

We are well aware of demands on the Department of Parks & Recreation and the State Parks Commission by motorcycle and off-road vehicle and recreational vehicle owners and enthusiasts, not to mention horse riders and people who think only in terms of the individual automobile as a means to enjoyment of the outdoors. We assume that these desires will be met on Grana land; it is, after all, recreational land and is suitable to be used for these purposes. We also assumed, as above, that State Parks staff and the State Park Commission would abide by what we considered a statement against such uses in the State Park. It is quite a shock to see an action to the contrary and someone to us a need to have what is now Mt. Tamalpais State Park reclassified as a "preservation or wilderness area."

We have plenty of recreational opportunities in this area. What we need is to save this little piece of relatively unspoiled land for the kinds of values to be attained otherwise only by travelling a long distance to a wilderness area! Something which is out of reach for many city people.

In approving continuance of the refreshment stand at the East Peak parking lot, you seemed to be especially impressed by the concessionaire's claim to "2000 signatures" secured at his stand in favor of it.

Obviously the population using the refreshment stand is a special segment of the population, i.e. those using such a facility and does not represent the public at large nor any of the public that doesn't need on use such a facility and that prizes the natural scenic, and ecological values afforded by the nature of the site more than its own convenience.

News of the refreshment stand has been brought to the attention of Bay Area people via a petition addressed to you asking that you and the State Department of Parks and Recreation comply with the expectation that Park values will be retained in Mt. Tamalpais State Park. There has been a great outpouring of public indignation as people signed this petition which we present to at this time.

A frequent response to the information that there was a refreshment stand at the East Peak was of disbelief such as "you're kidding!". That it was terrible and ugly and certainly the wrong way to go insofar as the public here looks to the mountain as a retreat from the City and its refreshment stands.

In response to the point of view expressed by Commissioners and Staff that the Park must serve people from all over, not just the Bay Area, let us say that we welcome visitors, we take them hiking, and we expect them to be as gratified and amazed as we are at this wondrous unspoiled scenic Mountain in our crowded area as we are! And they are!

Another observation worth considering expressed by signers was "What kind of concession will we have next?" i.e. if they can have a refreshment stand why not a greeting card and souvenir shop and brand postoffice and so on. Finally we'd have a situation such as at Yosemite National Park and the wonderful natural treasure that has been ours would be gone.

Respectfully submitted,  
LEONORE M. BRAVO  
LEONORE M. BRAVO, PRES.  
People for the Preservation of the Natural and Wild  
in Bay Area Open Space

Copy to Mr. Russell Cahill, Director  
Calif. State Dept. of Parks and Recreation

Mr Doyle - These are our comments about the hostel

PEOPLE FOR PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND WILD IN BAY AREA OPEN SPACE

March 25 1980

47 LEVANT ST. SAN FRANCISCO CA. 94114  
PHONE 415-861-5636

To Bay Area Legislators:

Given the population explosion and the soaring number of motorists who expect to be able to drive anywhere and find a parking space and "conveniences", extreme efforts will be needed to preserve the natural beauties of our State Parks in the face of the greed for development and profit.

Based on enjoyment of the Mountain for its quiet and beauty and as a place to walk and reflect since the 1890's, people say fib to raise money to purchase 1,000 acres on the South side for a park when it was threatened by development in the 1920's. LEONORE M BRAVO This was the nucleus of Mt. Tamalpais State Park which was eventually classified a Park by the State Park Commission in 1962. STEPHEN BRICKLEY

That quiet use remains the expectation of Bay Area people is verified from the thousands of people who signed a petition asking that a refreshment stand at the top of the Mountain be removed. Current campaign of PPNW.

The Public Resources Code clarifies that a Park is to preserve the natural, scenic, and cultural values of an area, and continues that "improvements" undertaken to enhance the public enjoyment of it can be undertaken only as long as they do not involve a major modification of lands, forests, or waters.

Lately this land-use policy and henceforth the natural beauties of the mountain have been jeopardized by decisions of the State Park Commissioners such as that allowing the concession at the East Peak, and by suggestions from developers within the department of Parks and Recreation for projects such as hostels and large numbers of parking spaces.

On Saturday, March 22, interested citizens found themselves faced with the proposition that it would be well to acquiesce to a 30-bed hostel in Frenks Valley in order to avoid the 90 auto access campsites planned for the site. NEITHER OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS belongs there nor anywhere else in Tamalpais State Park according to its classification as a Park and the provisions of the resources code to protect its natural values. Nor, indeed, according to considerations about the site in the DRAFT MASTER PLAN published July 1979 by the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

We voted for the GGNRA and worked for it so that we would have land for auto camping and hostels in this area along with other kinds of heavy recreational use not appropriate to the fragile and overloaded Tam State Park. Faced with the over-development proposed to the State Park Commissioners on October 12, we asked that they get together with the GGNRA and work out a way to meet the public's desire for a hostel and for camping on land adjacent

to the Park. We also asked that the information center planned for Diaz Ridge be put outside the Park on Caltrans land at the junction of Highways 1 and 101. We were assured that this action would be taken and have reason to believe that this will be done. And that a shuttle service will be provided for people for access to the park from that point.

If people want to sleep in the beauty of Frenks Valley, let there be a limited number of campsites for people who walk in, arrive by shuttle bus or bicycle. People travelling the Pacific Coastal trail will be on foot and these, plus those planned for the "Christmas Tree Farm" at the top of Kent Canyon as well as some others already established near Muir Beach should be adequate. And this will be consistent with preserving for their enjoyment and that of future generations the wonderful natural beauty of Mt. Tamalpais State Park in the midst of an ever encroaching urban environment.

For others there is ample hostel space already at Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite, a few miles away, and a large number of beds to be established at Fort Mason in San Francisco. People who must have a roof over their heads can move out to the park via the public transportation as the rest of us do, from these hostels in this case.

Mt. Tam is ideally suited to day use. Those of us who have lived here all of our lives understand this and accept it. Visitors should do likewise.

The comment of a commissioner on October 12 indicates that the objection to hostels and other auto-oriented and commercial development in State Parks is a general, not a local phenomenon. This indicates the high value placed on the "natural and the wild" by most people. Especially as it is increasingly difficult to find.

We have been told that we must have the hostel program because the State Legislature has mandated it. That they have voted over 900 thousand dollars for such a project. Therefore it must go on regardless of public opposition. This doesn't make any sense since money that is appropriated frequently is not spent, as in the case of that for demolition of the cabins at Steep Ravine. Furthermore, as frequently happens, the appropriation may have been made due to pressure from narrow interest groups and away from the public view that might have countered such a move if they had known about it. Or even though it seemed like a good idea, concerned citizens haven't wanted it.

We want you to know that a hostel within the boundaries of Tamalpais State Park is not needed and will interfere with the visual integrity of the landscape wherever it is sited not to mention put an unbearable strain on water resources and waste disposal. Furthermore there is ample opportunity to satisfy the hostelling public's need by expanding the hostels at Fort Barry & Fort Cronkhite, especially the latter.

Thankyou for your attention to this matter which has great importance for the quality of life in the crowded bay area. We need an uncrowded, undeveloped place to go in our times of a need for peace and quiet and the beauty of nature. And may I hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Leonore M. Bravo

# Appendixes







## APPENDIX A

### ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY CLASSES

Of the seven allowable use intensity classes (A through G), the least restrictive class is "A"; the most restrictive is "G". Generally, any recreation use or facility development allowed in one class is likely to be appropriate in all other classes above it. For example, if "hiking trails" are permitted in areas of Class E, then they are probably appropriate in areas of Class D, C, B, and A.

#### Class A Destination Use -- Unrestricted

Destination use refers to recreation activities which take place at a specific location as opposed to those that involve movement through the landscape, usually over a large area. Destination uses concentrate human activity both in the sense of space and time. Impacts on natural vegetation and soils are usually greater. More facilities are usually required, particularly for parking and sanitation.

Areas in this class are unrestricted by physical constraints or sensitivities. Extent of use is confined by the area available. Department resource management and protection policies guide development and use.

#### Class B Destination Use -- Possible Restrictions

Areas in this class are suitable for destination use, but there are some restrictions on development according to type, size, or density. Limiting resource factors are mainly soil characteristics, which limit septic systems. Other criteria which can limit use intensity are the topographic form or the characteristic of immediately surrounding areas. Department resource policy personnel should be consulted for clarification of restrictions. Additional detailed investigation is not likely to be needed.

#### Class C Destination Use -- Restrictions

Areas in this class are suitable for destination use, but major constraining factors limit use. These include the same criteria as in Class B or other criteria such as wildfire hazard, tsunami zones, and flood zones. Limitations to use may include type of access, number, density of use, types of use or facilities (particularly septic systems), amount of grading, etc. Department resource specialists should be consulted for identification of specific limitations. There may be a need to make further detailed investigations. Sites included in Class C are not necessarily suited for uses allowed under Class D.

Class D Transitory Use -- Possible Restrictions

Transitory uses include those recreational activities which involve moving through the landscape, particularly along roads, paths, and trails. These types of activities usually are less concentrated than destination-type uses, cause less wear to natural resources, and usually require a lesser degree of facility development.

Areas in this class are suitable for transitory uses with the possibility of some restrictions on the type or size of facilities. Slope is a major limitation separating this class from the destination use classes (A, B, and C). This class includes areas at or near the limit of their stability or where erosion problems are likely to occur if proper precautions are not taken. Roads, both improved and unimproved, pipelines, and similar improvements will require department resource specialist consultation during siting and design phases. Class D areas may also be those with some ecological or esthetic sensitivities.

Class E Transitory Use -- Restrictions

Areas in this class are most suitable for transitory uses of low intensity development. Limiting factors include sensitive ecological, cultural, or esthetic resources, or highly erodible areas and areas of low stability. Appropriate development includes well-designed hiking and riding trails. Fuel breaks may be installed in selected areas upon approval by department resource policy personnel.

Class F Unstructured or Controlled Use

Unstructured refers to recreation activities which take place in an unspecified area and are not centered at facilities. Nature exploration away from a trail is an unstructured activity. Areas which fall within this class are those containing extremely fragile or valuable cultural resources and very sensitive ecological resources, and where it is not desirable to invite concentrated use or where resources may be directly affected by facility developments.

Other areas in this class include those with highly active landslides or those subject to severe coastal erosion. Development in such areas will be very expensive and costly to maintain. All development in this zone along the coast should be "expendable," in accordance with Resources Agency policy defined in the geologic section of the Resource Element.

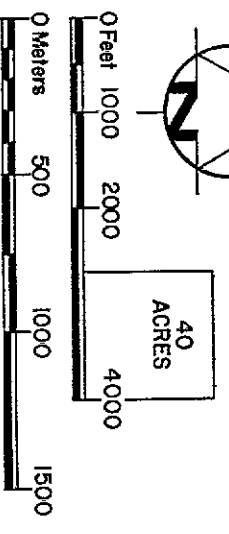
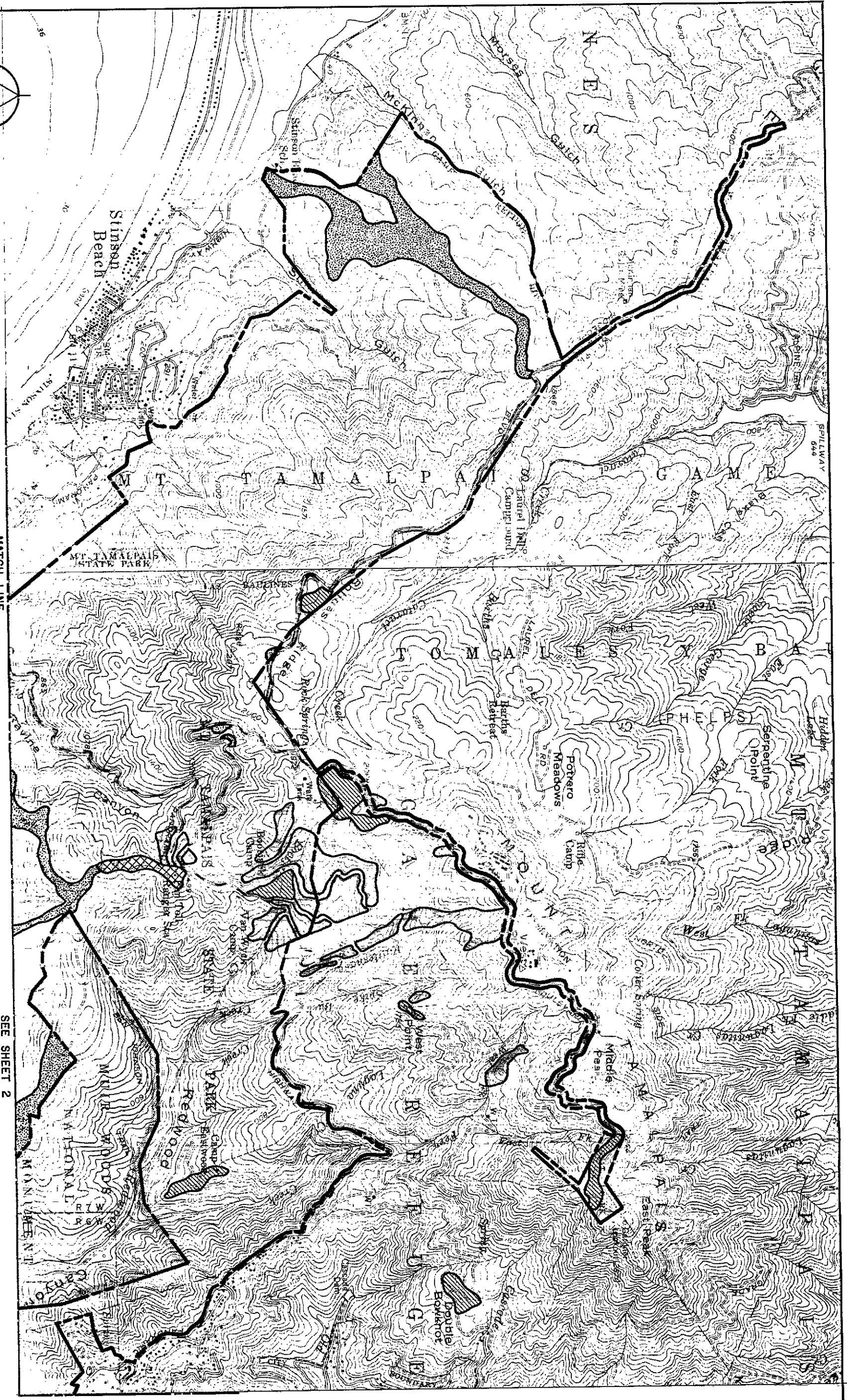
Controlled-use areas are those where recreation use should be limited to specific times and places, usually under guidance or supervision. An example of such use is a ranger-conducted tour.

Class G Closed to Use

Such areas are hazardous to human safety because of severe geologic or other hazards.

APPENDIX B

MAPS



NOTE:  
 ● CONTOUR INTERVAL - 40'  
 ● FOR LEGEND SEE SHEET 2

MATCH LINE

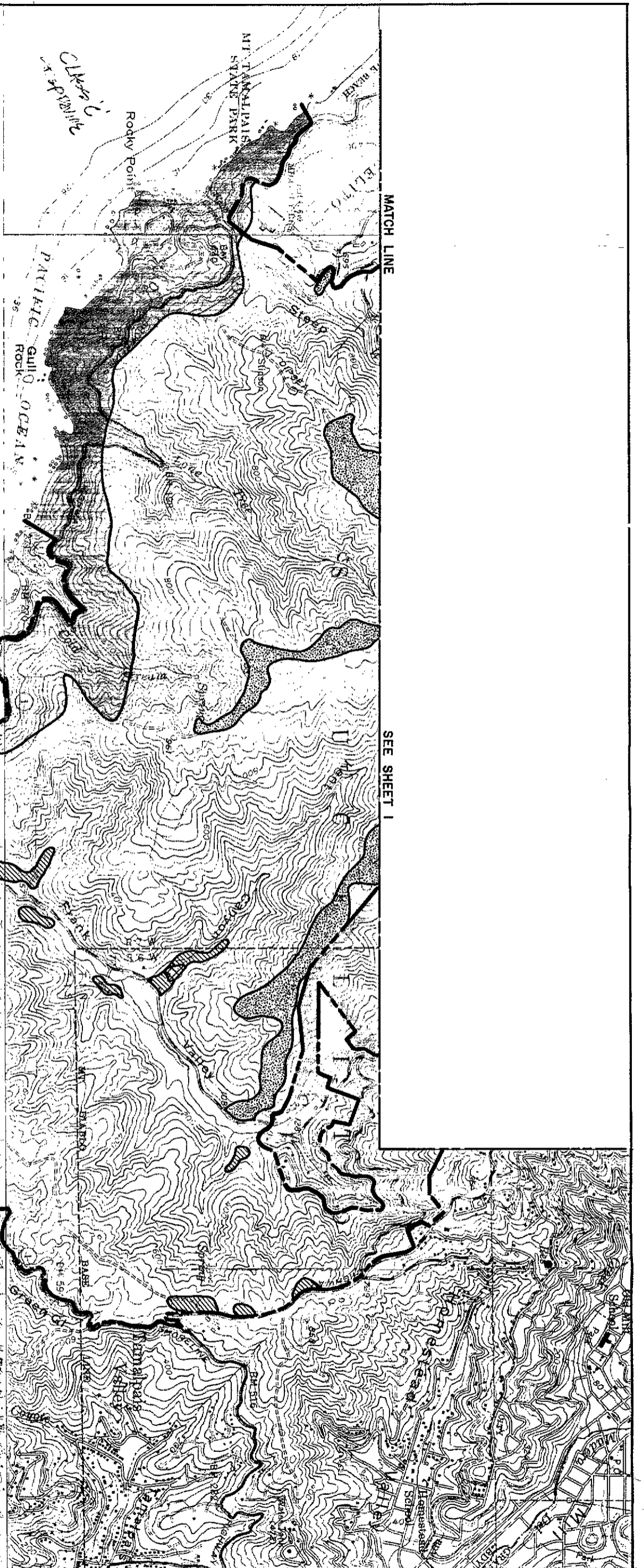
SEE SHEET 2

FIGURE 1  
 1 of 2  
 SHEET NO.

**MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK  
 ALLOWABLE  
 USE INTENSITY**

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

REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
		DRAWN DEC. 1978
		CHECKED



**LEGEND**

----- State Park Boundary

**Class**                      **Intensity**

**B** Destination Use—Possible Restrictions

**C** Destination Use—Restrictions

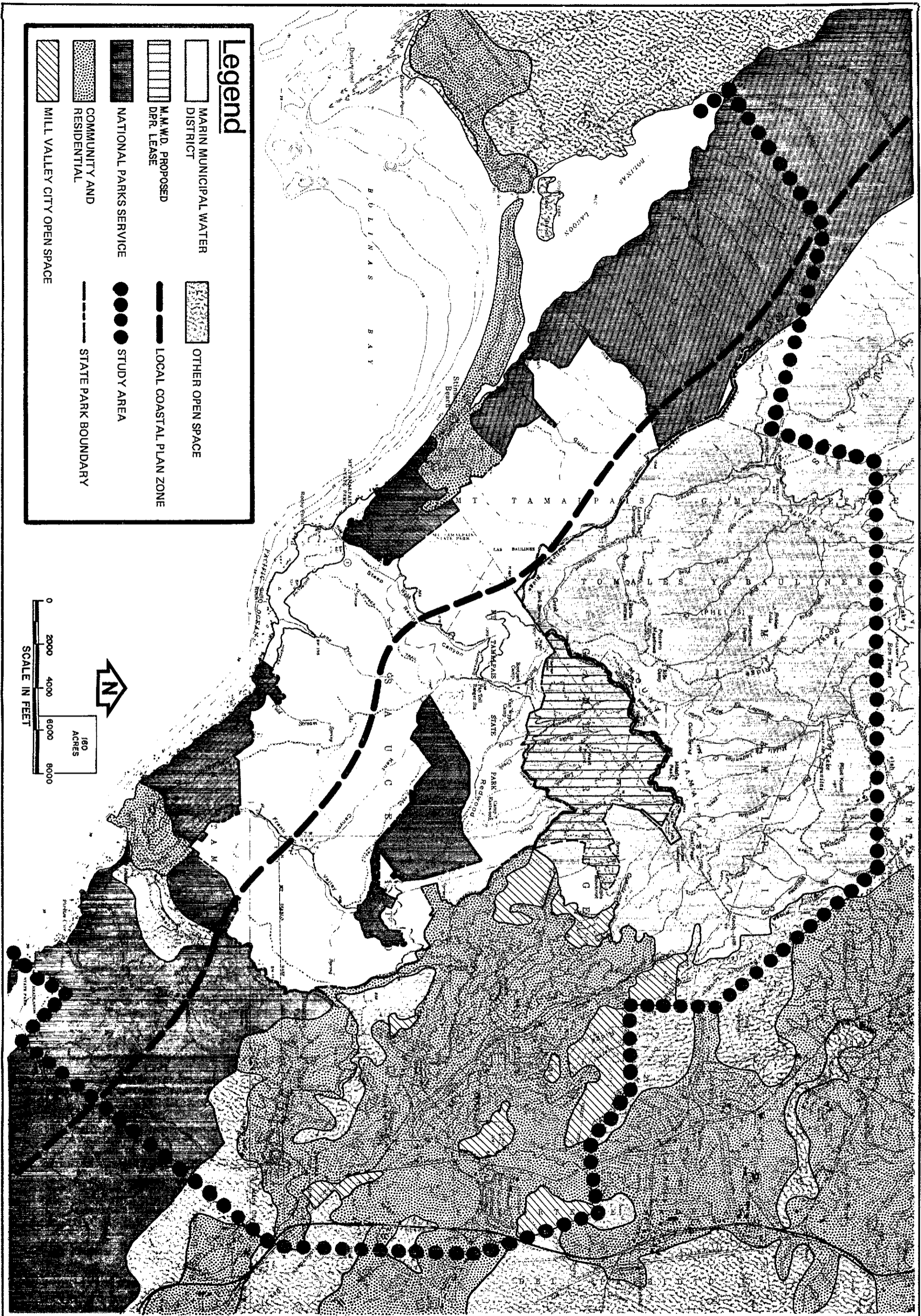
**D** Transitory Use—Possible Restrictions

**E** Transitory Use—Restrictions

**F** Unstructured or Controlled Use

SHEET NO. <b>2</b> OF <b>2</b>	DRAWING NO. <b>16885</b>	<b>MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b> <b>ALLOWABLE</b> <b>USE INTENSITY</b>		RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	REVISIONS  	DATE  	DESIGNED  
		APPROVED _____ DATE _____	DATE _____	DRAWN <b>DEC. 1978</b>	CHECKED		

FIGURE 2



**Legend**

- MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
- OTHER OPEN SPACE
- M.M.W.D. PROPOSED DPR. LEASE
- LOCAL COASTAL PLAN ZONE
- NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE
- STUDY AREA
- COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTIAL
- STATE PARK BOUNDARY
- MILL VALLEY CITY OPEN SPACE

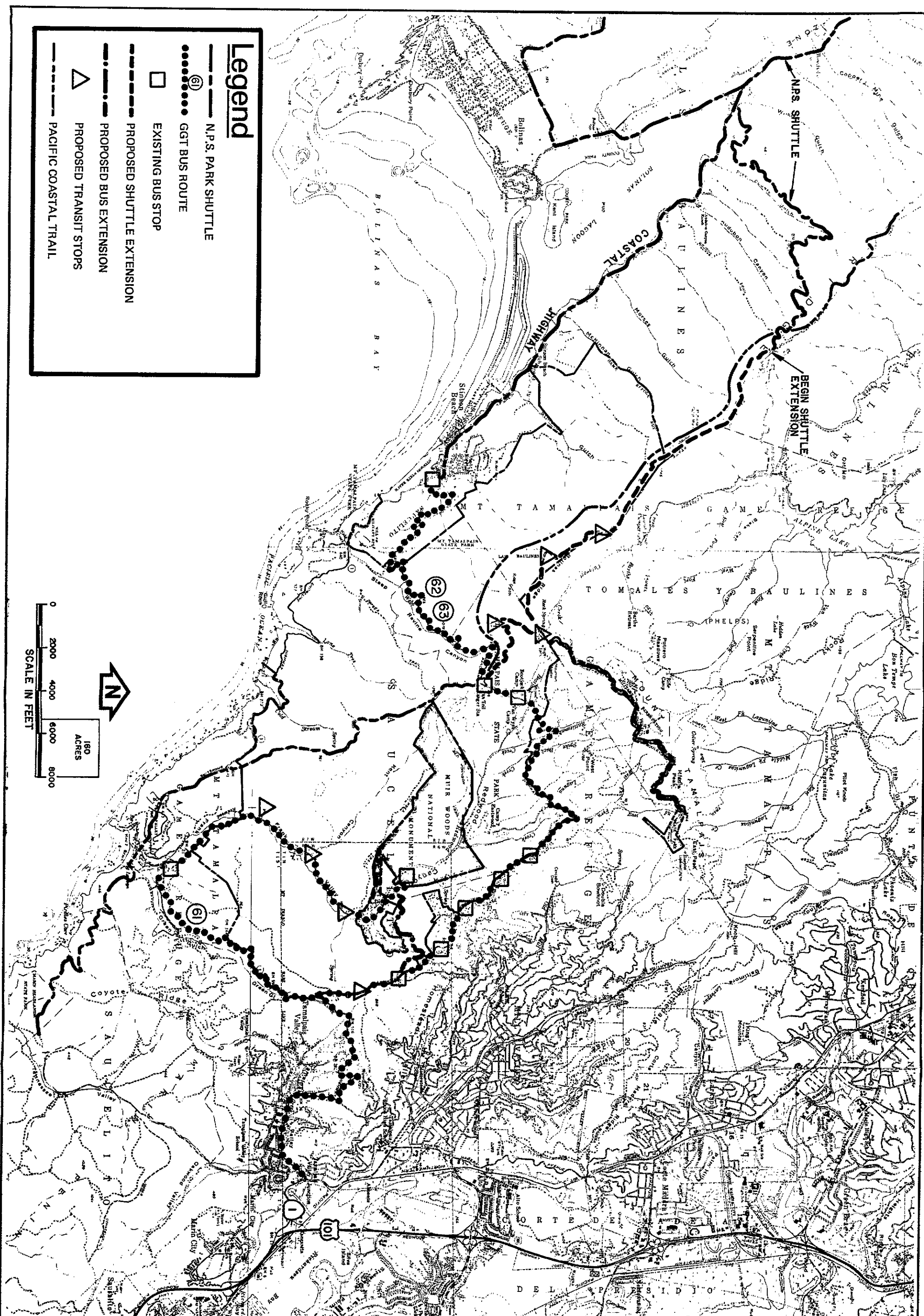
0 2000 4000 8000 8000

SCALE IN FEET

180 ACRES

FIGURE 3

<p><b>Mt. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b></p> <p><b>STUDY AREA</b></p>	<p>RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION</p> <p>APPROVED _____ DATE _____</p>	<p>REVISIONS</p>	<p>DATE</p>	<p>DESIGNED</p> <p>DRAWN FEB. 79</p> <p>CHECKED</p>
<p>DRAWING NO. <b>16884</b></p> <p>SHEET NO. OF</p>				



**Legend**

- N.P.S. PARK SHUTTLE
- (61) ●●●●●●●●●● GGT BUS ROUTE
- EXISTING BUS STOP
- PROPOSED SHUTTLE EXTENSION
- PROPOSED BUS EXTENSION
- △ PROPOSED TRANSIT STOPS
- PACIFIC COASTAL TRAIL

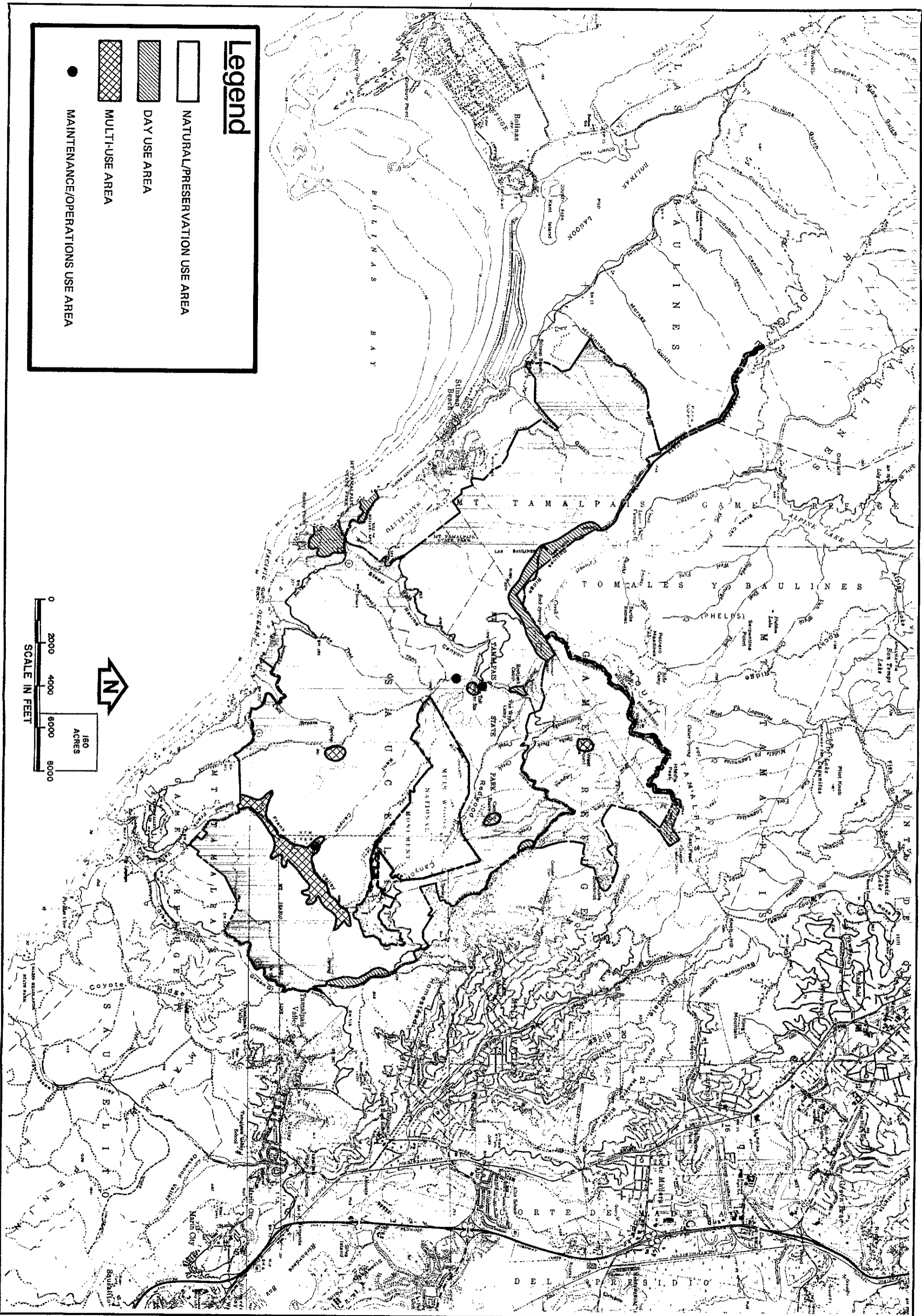
0 2000 4000 6000 8000  
SCALE IN FEET

180  
ACRES

N

FIGURE 4

DRAWING NO. <b>16884</b> SHEET NO.	<b>Mt. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b> <b>TRANSPORTATION PLAN</b>		RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
	APPROVED _____		DATE _____		DRAWN <b>FEB. 79</b>	CHECKED	CHECKED
	OF _____		OF _____		OF _____	OF _____	OF _____



**Legend**

- NATURAL/PRESERVATION USE AREA
- DAY USE AREA
- MULTI-USE AREA
- MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS USE AREA

0 2000 4000 6000 8000  
SCALE IN FEET

N

180  
ACRES

FIGURE 5

<p><b>Mt. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED LAND USE</b></p>	<p>RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">REVISIONS</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DATE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DESIGNED</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">DATE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DESIGNED</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	DATE	DESIGNED			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">DRAWN</th> <th style="text-align: center;">FEB. 79</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">CHECKED</th> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	DRAWN	FEB. 79			CHECKED	
REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED																		
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CHECKED																				
<p>DRAWING NO. 16884</p> <p>SHEET NO. 07</p>	<p>APPROVED _____ DATE _____</p>																			



- 1 **BOLINAS RIDGE**
  - Formalize 45-car parking along Bolinas Ridge
  - Formalize 30-car parking at Trojan Point
  - Improve 40-car pullout parking
  - Provide 15 picnic sites
  - Provide appropriate comfort stations
  - Provide public transportation access
- 2 **ROCK SPRINGS**
  - Formalize 60-car parking
  - Improve 30-car overflow parking
  - Restore remaining area to a natural condition, to be used as overflow parking for special events at the Mt. Theater
  - Provide 5 picnic sites
  - Provide appropriate comfort station
  - Provide public transportation access
- 3 **MOUNTAIN THEATER**
  - Continue special events,
  - Formalize 10-car parking and passenger drop off zone at entrance
  - Provide overflow parking at MMWD parking area to accommodate peak-use days
  - Retain comfort station
- 4 **WEST PEAK (MMWD)**
  - Potential Environmental Education Facility
  - Potential information office
  - Potential overflow parking for Mt. Theater events
  - Potential residences and maintenance/storage area
- 5 **WEST POINT INN (MMWD)**
  - Potential State Park multi-use facility.
- 6 **BOOTJACK**
  - Retain 49-car parking
  - Retain 20 picnic sites
  - Retain comfort station
  - Enhance with appropriate landscape planting
- 7 **PAN TOLL**
  - Formalize 50-car parking with 30-car overflow area
  - Rehabilitate 16 camping sites.
  - Retain contact/information office
  - Retain 2 residences
  - Retain maintenance/storage area
  - Retain comfort station
- 8 **RED ROCK**
  - Retain 55-car parking
  - Provide comfort station

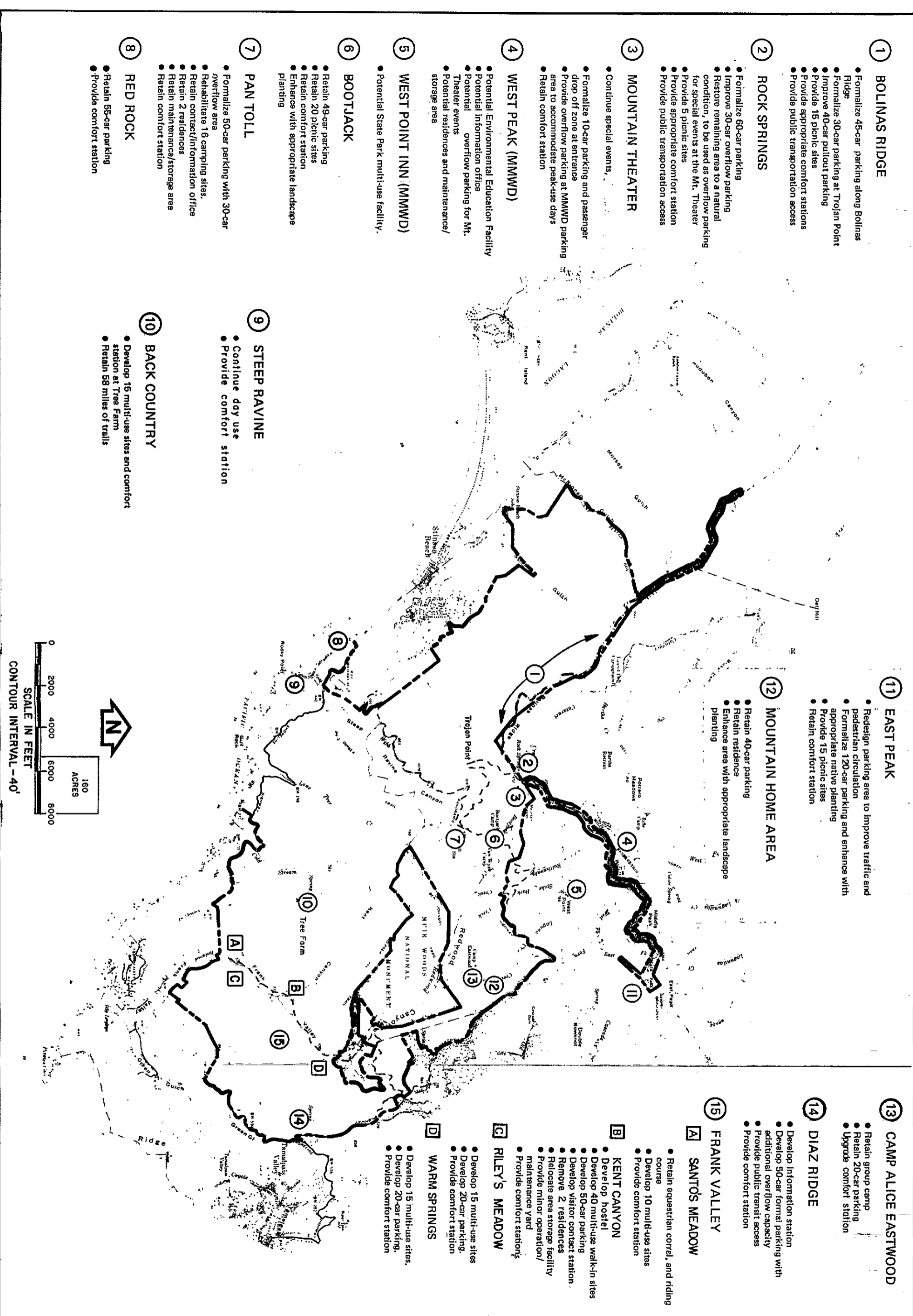
- 9 **STEEP RAVINE**
  - Continue day use
  - Provide comfort station
- 10 **BACK COUNTRY**
  - Develop 15 multi-use sites and comfort station at Tree Farm
  - Retain 58 miles of trails

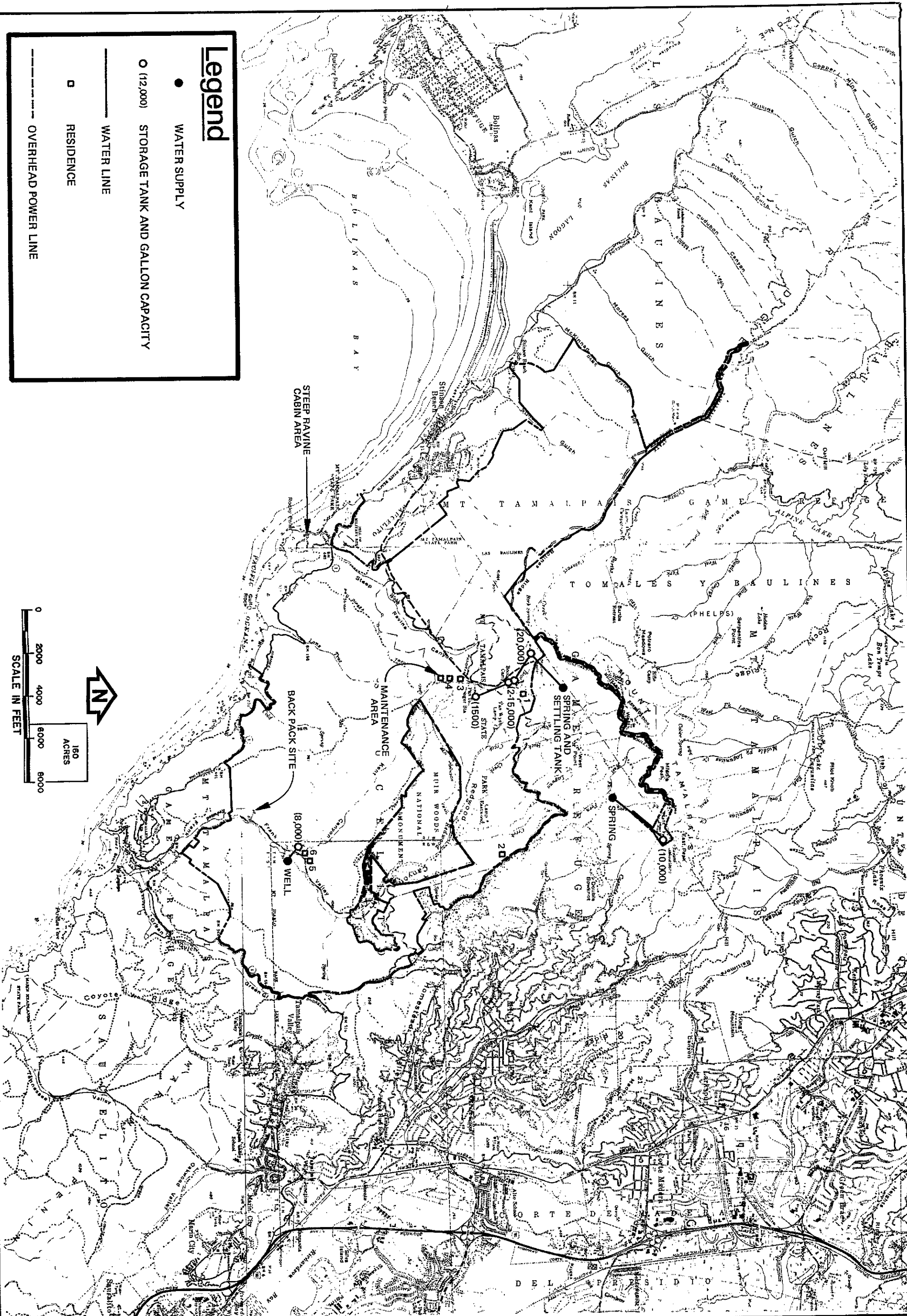
- 11 **EAST PEAK**
  - Redesign parking area to improve traffic and pedestrian circulation
  - Formalize 120-car parking and enhance with appropriate native planting
  - Provide 15 picnic sites
  - Retain comfort station

- 12 **MOUNTAIN HOME AREA**
  - Retain 40-car parking
  - Retain residence
  - Enhance area with appropriate landscape planting

- 13 **CAMP ALICE EASTWOOD**
  - Retain group camp
  - Retain 20-car parking
  - Upgrade comfort station
- 14 **DIAZ RIDGE**
  - Develop information station
  - Develop 50-car formal parking with additional overflow capacity
  - Provide public transit access
  - Provide comfort station

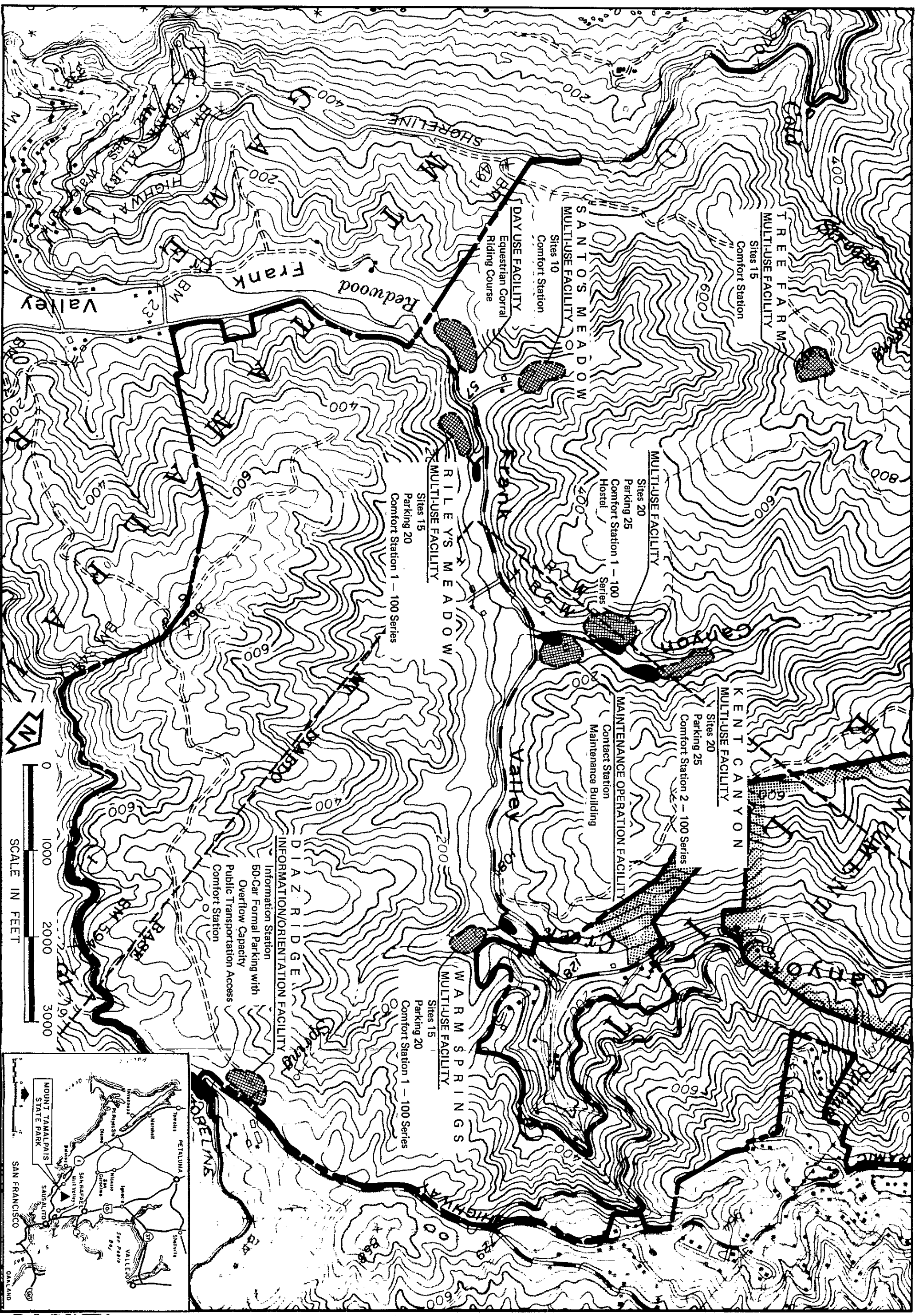
- 15 **FRANK VALLEY**
  - A** SANTO'S MEADOW
    - Retain equestrian corral, and riding course
    - Develop 10 multi-use sites
    - Provide comfort station
  - B** KENT CANYON
    - Develop hostel
    - Develop 40 multi-use walk-in sites
    - Develop 50-car parking
    - Develop visitor contact station.
    - Remove 2 residences
    - Relocate area storage facility
    - Provide minor operation/maintenance yard
    - Provide comfort stations
  - C** RILEY'S MEADOW
    - Develop 15 multi-use sites
    - Develop 20-car parking.
    - Provide comfort station
  - D** WARM SPRINGS
    - Develop 15 multi-use sites.
    - Develop 20-car parking.
    - Provide comfort station





DRAWING NO. <b>16884</b>	SHEET NO. OF	<b>Mt. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b> <b>ENGINEERING</b> <b>CONSIDERATIONS</b>	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		DESIGNED
			APPROVED _____	DATE _____	DRAWN <b>FEB. 79</b> CHECKED

FIGURE 7



<b>FIGURE 8</b> OF SHEET NO. _____ DRAWING NO. _____	<b>Mt. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK</b> <b>GENERAL PLAN</b> <b>SUPPLEMENT</b> <b>FRANK VALLEY AREA</b>	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		REVISIONS  	DATE  	DESIGNED  
		APPROVED _____	DATE _____	DRAWN <b>MAY, 1979</b>	CHECKED	

THE GENERAL PLAN WAS PREPARED BY STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION...

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Donna Pozzi, Interpretive Specialist  
David Schaub, Resource Ecologist  
Theodore Smith, Geologist  
Jim Trumbly, Resource Ecologist

The Operations Division:

Curt Mitchell, Regional Director  
Jack Hesemeyer, Manager, Marin Area  
Members of the Marin Area Staff

Acknowledgment and thanks are extended for assistance of:

Local, state, and federal agencies  
Conservation organizations like the Marin Conservation League and the  
Tamalpais Conservation Club  
The many individual contributions of citizens in review and comment on  
the General Plan