

UNIT 519

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

July 1979



Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System General Plan



EL CAPITAN

department of parks & recreation

Division of Land and Resources Administration

1800 Box 2370, Sacramento, Calif.

PRELIMINARY - MAY 1979



Prepared By:

Robin Ettinger
Deborah Gates
Stuart Hong
Lester Maddox
Hank Ortmann
Wayne Caulkins
Bob Pecora
Dave Schaub
John Kelly
Peggy Akins
Deirdre Cahill
Jeff Cohen
Mary Lowe
Jess Grijalva, Jr.

Assistant Landscape Architect
Assistant Landscape Architect
Assistant Landscape Architect
Associate Landscape Architect
Associate Landscape Architect
Associate Civil Engineer
Associate Architect
Resource Ecologist
Archeologist I
Park Interpretive Specialist
Assistant Park and Recreation Specialist
Research Writer
Senior Graphic Artist
Graphic Artist

Supervised By:

Alan K. Kolster
Richard A. May
James P. Tryner
L. Lee Warner
Frederick Meyer
Frank Stedell
Anna Doyle

Senior Landscape Architect
(Project Manager)
Chief, Development Division
Chief, Resource Preservation and
Interpretation Division
Supervisor, Landscape Architecture
Supervisor, Natural Heritage Section
Supervisor, Cultural Heritage Section
Staff Park and Recreation Specialist

With thanks to:

Kerry Gates, Assistant Landscape Architect, Auburn-Tolson Planning Team

Gene Cone and Gary Quinn, Directors of the Parks and Recreation Public Information Office

Conrad Pankella and the Reclamation Section

The Word Processing Center

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Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System General Plan

VOLUME 5

preliminary

GENERAL PLAN

EL CAPITAN

STATE BEACH

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

HUEY D. JOHNSON
SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

RUSSELL W. CAHILL
DIRECTOR

department of parks & recreation

State of California—the Resources Agency
P.O. Box 2390 • Sacramento, 95811

MAY 1979



This is the fifth in an eight-part document which is the General Plan for seven coastal State Park System units in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. To obtain complete information for any one of the units, two booklets are needed -- the Summary, Introduction, and General Information booklet and the booklet that pertains specifically to the unit. Below is a list of all the booklets that make up the General Plan.

<u>Volume Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	Summary, Introduction, and General Information
2	Point Sal State Beach
3	Gaviota State Park
4	Refugio State Beach
5	El Capitan State Beach
6	Carpinteria State Beach
7	San Buenaventura State Beach
8	McGrath State Beach and Natural Preserve

El Capitan State Beach -- Volume 5

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811

Resolution 36 - 79
Resolution adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Santa Barbara
July 13, 1979

WHEREAS, The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for the Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System; 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 Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System, preliminary dated May 1979, subject to the following amendments:

1. Delete from Carpinteria State Beach Preliminary General Plan the final sentence of Paragraph 2 at Page 23 which presently reads as follows: "Provide parking for concession patrons."
2. Insert at Page 35 in the Gaviota State Park Preliminary General Plan after the heading "Access Roads" the following footnote:

* "See correspondence dated May 31, 1979 between Director of Parks and Recreation and the Public Utilities Commission on the subject which is attached hereto as part of the Appendix."
(Attachment H).

.....
[Condition 3 by the Commission related solely to San Buenaventura State Beach. It is four paragraphs long, and was deleted from this copy to save space.]

And 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.

[Note: See Volume 1 of the Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal Preliminary General Plan. Attached to that volume is a 26-page Addendum dated Feb 1980 that designates the Preliminary as the Final. A few excerpts follow.]

General Data

REVISIONS TO GENERAL PLAN

ADDENDA: SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA COASTAL STATE PARK SYSTEM GENERAL PLAN

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

page 26: Last paragraph, replace first and second sentences with the following:

"The existing visitor center includes several interpretive panels outside the visitor center."

page 27: Replace chart with attached chart.

Plan 5-7: General Plan:

- a) In Legend, replace "PROPOSED BICYCLE TRAIL" with "PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL".
- b) In box titled "BICYCLE TRAIL", replace that title with "MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL".
- c) The multi-purpose trail within El Capitan boundaries should be shown as having been completed from the parking area to the western boundary.

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FACILITIES

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Potential Acquisition</u>	<u>Total</u>
Family Campsites	145	0	0	145
Day-Use Parking	450	0	0	450
Picnic Tables	70	0	0	70
Comfort Stations	3	0	0	3
Group Camps	3	0	0	3
Trailer Sanitation System	1	0	0	1
Combination Buildings	5	0	0	5
Visitor Center	1	0	0	1
Bicycle Trail	2.01 km (1.3 miles)	0	0	2.01 km (1.3 miles)
Bicycle Rest Stops	0	2	0	2

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH GENERAL DATA

Location: Central coast of Santa Barbara County, adjoining Refugio State Beach to the west.

Size: 53.2 hectares (133 acres) with 2,820 meters (9,401 feet) of beach frontage.

Facilities: 145 campsites, 3 group campsites, 70 picnic tables, 450 day-use parking spaces, trailer sanitation station, restrooms and showers, bike and nature trails, laundry facilities, and snack bar-camping supply store below the campground. Drinking water, electricity, and telephones are available.

Vegetation: The riparian oak woodland which occurs along El Capitan Creek represents one of the most extensive stands of coast live oak and sycamores on the coastal side of Highway 101 and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks in Santa Barbara County. Coastal oaks dominate the zone between the sycamore stand and the upland coastal sage community which includes most of the terrace breaks. Vegetation beneath the canopy of the woodland community is composed of a wide variety of grasses and forbs. The coastal sage scrub community occurs in the unit on the terraces both east and west of the riparian woodland. Most of the species planted in the camping and day-use areas are not natives. The immediate coastline of El Capitan consists of salt-tolerant, strand-type vegetation.

Wildlife: Wildlife species possibly occurring include 235 species of birds, 38 species of terrestrial mammals, 19 species of reptiles, and 10 species of amphibians. This diversity is quite high for an area of relatively small size and is an indication of the importance of the area to wildlife.

Outstanding Natural Features: Beach area, flora and fauna, scenic values.



El Capitan State Beach offers ideal swimming and surfing conditions.

Historic and Archeological Values: The area surrounding the mouth of Canada del Capitan contains the poorly preserved remains of five cultural deposits which together make up the village of Ahwin (or Ajuahuilashmu).

Interpretive: At present there is no permanent interpretive facility in this unit. This General Plan calls for the conversion of the entrance station office into an interpretive center. There is a small campfire center behind the entrance station office in an area which provides a small but useful interpretation area. The potential is very great for self-guiding and guided interpretive walks because the unit has a wide variety of habitats in a fairly small area. The nature trail at El Capitan, which features self-guiding information/interpretive handouts, is very popular with visitors of all ages.

Ownership: When the unit was acquired in 1953, it was part of the El Capitan Ranch owned by the Gila Land Corporation and the Rhode Island Estates Corporation.

Before appropriation of the 1964 bond funds, El Capitan consisted of some 44.5 hectares (111.2 acres). Bond funds for acquisition of additions were appropriated by the Legislature in 1967, which made possible the acquisition of all land lying between the two existing beaches and the Southern Pacific railroad, bringing the current total to 53.1 hectares (132.84 acres).

Resource Element

RESOURCE ELEMENT

This document has been prepared pursuant to Section 5002.2 (amended September, 1978) of the Public Resources Code, which requires that a Resource Element be prepared following classification or reclassification of a State Park System unit. In meeting this requirement, this element contains: the declared purpose of the unit in terms of its classification as a state beach; a summary and evaluation of natural and cultural resources; a statement of allowable use intensity; and resource management policies necessary to protect important resource values of the unit for present and future generations to enjoy.

Unit Identification and Classification

El Capitan State Beach is located about 27 kilometers (17 miles) west and upcoast of Santa Barbara and 4 kilometers (2-1/2 miles) east of the entrance to Refugio State Beach. Access from both the east and west is by offramps from Highway 101 which parallels the state beach near its northern border. The property consists of about 53 hectares (133 acres) and has 2,873 meters (9,420 feet) of ocean frontage. Most of this state beach is a coastal headland terrace, 12 to 37 meters (40 to 120 feet) above mean sea level. The northern boundary of the unit is bordered by the Southern Pacific railroad tracks and the western boundary adjoins Refugio State Beach. El Capitan Creek cuts through the coastal terrace at about the midpoint of the unit and empties into the ocean. East of the creek mouth the coastline angles northward to form a cove. The terrain rises rather steeply from the creek in this area to about 24 meters (80 feet). The bluff east of this terrace drops nearly vertically to the cobblestone shoreline bordering the cove. Except for the point and western border of the cove, the shoreline of the unit is a sandy beach, between 15 and 60 meters (50 to 200 feet) wide.

El Capitan State Beach was classified in June 1962 as a state beach by the then State Park Commission. A state beach is a category of state recreation unit. The Public Resources Code (Section 5019.56) defines these units as follows:

State recreation units ...consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Such units shall be designated by the State Park and Recreation Commission by naming, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 (commencing with Section 5001) and this article relating to classification.

In the planning of improvements to be undertaken within state recreation units, consideration shall be given to compatibility of design with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics.

State recreation units may be established in the terrestrial or underwater environments of the State and shall be further classified as one of the following types:...

- (d) State beaches, consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, or scenic resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves.

Resource Summary and Evaluation

El Capitan State Beach is in the Coastal Strip Landscape Province. This province includes lands along the immediate coastline of California and offshore islands, the flora and fauna of which are directly influenced by the maritime climate.

The following resource information is summarized from the Inventory of Features prepared for El Capitan.

Scenic Values

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

The older campsites at this state beach are largely screened by vegetation. This is particularly true of the campground bordering El Capitan Creek, where many native species provide an atmosphere similar to that of the bordering riparian woodland. The newer campsites and day-use facilities on the open terrace in the western portion of the unit are readily visible from many areas in the unit and from the highway. Trees and shrubs have been planted in this newer area for landscaping; however, it will take approximately five years for them to provide an effective visual barrier. The new plantings will not appear as a natural feature of the land to the trained eye, since most of the species planted are ornamental varieties. However, the newer plantings are mostly similar to many of the plants which were cultivated among the older campsites.

Noise and vibration generated by trains on the Southern Pacific railroad line bordering the northern limits of the unit are significant negative factors in the visitor experience, particularly to those people camping nearest the tracks. Southern Pacific operates about eight to twelve freight trains through the area daily and Amtrak operates two passenger trains each day.

Climate

The climate of the region is a Mediterranean type characterized by partly cloudy, cool summers with little precipitation and mostly fair, mild winters with precipitation occurring as rain showers associated with passing storms.

The meteorological station nearest to El Capitan is located at the Santa Barbara Airport, 16 kilometers (10 miles) east of the state beach. Data recorded from the station are expected to be similar to those of El Capitan in seasonal variations in temperature and winds. During summer months, daytime breezes are from the southwest 70 percent of the time and average between 11 and 16 kilometers per hour (kmph) or 7 to 10 miles per hour (mph). During evening hours the weather is generally calm (40 percent of the time), but when breezes are present they come from the northeast as a result of colder air flowing down major drainages. During the fall, southerly breezes of 11 to 14 kmph (7 to 9 mph) are dominant (45 percent of the time). Evening breezes down drainages are less frequent during the fall.

Temperature data from the Santa Barbara Airport Station indicate that average daily high temperatures range from 21° to 24° Celsius (C), 70° to 75° Fahrenheit (F), from May through November, with average daily low temperatures in the 10° to 13° C (50° to 56° F) range, except for 7° C (44° F) in November. During summer months between 1941 and 1960, extreme highs were 35° to 38° C (95° to 101° F). During winter, average daily high temperatures average 18° C (60° F), with nighttime lows between 4° C (39° F) and 9° C (48° F). Extreme low temperatures for the months of November through March were slightly below freezing, -3° C to -1° C (26° F to 31° F).

Annual precipitation in the area is about 35 centimeters (14 inches), of which 90 percent falls between November and April. In about one year in ten, annual rainfall can be expected to be less than 23 centimeters (9 inches) or more than 71 centimeters (28 inches).

Geology and Seismicity

The data so far compiled on this unit are useful for general planning purposes but must not be considered an adequate base for actual construction decisions.

Geologic units in El Capitan State Beach include the Monterey Formation, terrace deposits, and alluvium (see Geology Map, Appendix).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Several active and potentially active faults lie immediately offshore; thus the chances for the occurrence of a tsunami (seismic seawave) are fairly high. Unfortunately, no detailed and specific analysis of this potential hazard to El Capitan State Beach has been made, and there is no time now for such an analysis.

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

Soils

The following is a brief description of principal soil series and other land types in the unit (see Soils Map, Appendix).

The lowlands along El Capitan Creek are overlain with Ballard variant stony fine sandy loam. This gently sloping to moderately sloping soil occupies alluvial fans. Typically the surface layer is dark grayish brown. Runoff in this area is medium and erosion hazard is slight. Native vegetation is a dense growth of large oak trees with annual grasses and forbs beneath.

The Diablo soil series overlays the terrace land in the western portion of the unit. These clay soils are well drained and are formed in soft shales and mudstones. Surface runoff is medium on slopes between 2 and 15 percent and rapid on 15 to 30 percent slopes. Erosion hazard is moderate on slopes of 9 to 15 percent and high on 15 to 30 percent slopes. Shrink-swell potential is very high for all Diablo clay soils.

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

The area office and service yard, and the campground to the south of these facilities are on Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loam. This complex consists of 45 percent Milpitas fine sandy loam and 40 percent Positas fine sandy loam. These are strongly sloping soils occupying unpredictable patterns. They typically have a rapid runoff rate and are highly erodible.

All soils in the unit have severe limitations as septic tank absorption fields, except for the Ballard series which is rated as moderate. For details refer to the section on building site development.

Biotic Features

Plant Life. There are several plant communities at El Capitan State Beach (see vegetation map). The riparian oak woodland community occurs along El Capitan Creek and represents one of the most extensive stands of coast liveoak (Quercus agrifolia) and sycamore (Platanus racemosa) on the coastal side of Highway 101 and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks in Santa Barbara County. The sycamores are dominant nearest the creek channel where surface water or high groundwater is readily available. Liveoak dominates the zone between the sycamore stand and the coastal sage on the upland terraces. Vegetation beneath the canopy of the woodland is composed of a wide variety of grasses and forbs. Shrubs, including coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis var. consanguinea), and poison-oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), occur beneath more open canopy areas.

The coastal sage scrub community is on the terrace both east and west of the riparian woodland. It is associated with shallower soils, and supports mixed stands of coyote bush and California sagebrush (Artemisia californica). Dense stands from 12 to 18 decimeters (4 to 6 feet) high are located on the terrace just east of the entrance road and on the slopes between the entrance station and area offices. Other scrub areas are generally more open with lower individual plants. Various species of grasses and forbs also occur in this community, including Haplopappus sp., buckwheat (Erigeron sp.), and foothill needle grass (Stipa lepida).

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

The western portion of the El Capitan headland is primarily developed with campgrounds and day-use facilities. These areas are landscaped with trees and shrubs including Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa), Monterey pine (Pinus radiata), Eucalyptus sp., toyon (Photinia arbutifolia), California peppertree (Schinus molle), Carmel creeper (Ceanothus griseus), and myoporum (Myoporum laetum). Most species planted are not native to the region.

A few grassland areas composed of various species of grasses and forbs are present in the unit. They are located in the floodplain of El Capitan Creek, near the mouth, and atop the upper portion of the high terrace east of the creek.

Kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) is found along the entire coastline of El Capitan. The submarine forest of kelp extends along the coast from 200 to 450 meters (700 to 1,500 feet) offshore and is large enough to be leased from the state for commercial kelp harvesting. This band is extensive, about 450 meters (1,500 feet) wide, off the westernmost end of the Refugio-El Capitan State Beach border, narrowing to only 60 meters (200 feet) wide near the mouth of El Capitan Creek. In addition to this kelp forest, small groups of kelp live in rocky inshore areas near the point.

No rare or endangered plant species noted by the California Native Plant Society are known to occur at this unit.

Animal Life. El Capitan State Beach supports several native plant communities which provide important habitats for a wide variety of animal life. The list of wildlife species which have been observed or are thought to occur in the unit includes 235 species of birds, 38 species of terrestrial mammals, 19 species of reptiles, and 10 species of amphibians. This diversity is quite high for an area of relatively small size, and is an indication of the importance of the area to wildlife.

The riparian oak woodland community provides habitats for a wider variety of species than probably any other single community in the unit. The oak stands are among the more important sources of food for wildlife in this area, including the band-tailed pigeon, common flicker, scrub jay, varied thrush, acorn woodpecker, raccoon (Procyon lotor), western gray squirrel (Sciurus griseus), Botta pocket gopher (Thomomys bottae), and California ground squirrel (Otospermophilus beecheyi). Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) are generally browsers, but rely heavily on the acorn mast crop during the fall. By contrast, sycamores in the riparian community are not nearly as important to wildlife as a source of food. However, they do provide significant shelter and resting habitat. Other wildlife common to the riparian oak community include California valley quail, dusky-footed woodrat (Neotoma fuscipes), opossum (Didelphis marsupialis), and striped skunk (Mephitis mephitis).

The coastal sage scrub community provides habitats for wildlife species adapted to brush-type environs. The most important sage scrub in the unit is found near the riparian woodland along El Capitan Creek. Birds are probably the most observed animals in this community due to the fairly dense nature of the habitat; however, a variety of reptiles and mammals are known to occur. Birds common to this type of habitat include bushtit, rufous-crowned sparrow, California thrasher, and wren-tit. Other animals which probably are present include Great Basin fence lizard (Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus), western skink (Eumeces skiltonianus skiltonianus), California striped racer (Masticophis lateralis lateralis), and southern Pacific rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis helleri). Rodents are the most common mammals in this region, including such species as the Pacific kangaroo rat (Dipodomys agilis), dusky-footed woodrat, California mouse (Peromyscus californicus), and California pocket mouse (Perognathus californicus). Larger mammals which probably frequent the area include long-tailed weasel (Mustela frenata), spotted skunk (Spilogale putorius), gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus), and coyote (Canis latrans).

Much of the unit's western portion has been developed for day use and overnight camping facilities. This region provides wildlife habitat for animal life typically associated with more urban environments. These species include scrub jay, rock dove (domestic pigeon), house sparrow, California red-sided garter snake (Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis), and Great Basin fence lizard. Mammals in these areas include deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), broad-handed mole (Scapanus latimanus), Botta pocket gopher, striped skunk, and the ubiquitous California ground squirrel.

The intertidal zone of sand and cobble beaches along El Capitan is suitable for a variety of shorebirds. Kelp fragments and other organic flotsam which are deposited along the intertidal area provide important habitat for organisms which these birds feed on.

El Capitan State Beach is not known to provide important habitat for any of the seven endangered or rare wildlife species which are known to range along the coastal region. However, the endangered brown pelican does feed in the nearshore waters off southern California, including the El Capitan area.

Cultural Resources

(Detailed regional information can be found in Volume 1 of this General Plan.)

Existing Sites and Features. The area surrounding the mouth of Canada del Capitan contains the poorly preserved remains of five cultural deposits which together make up the village of Ahwin (or Ajuahuilashmu). One of these, SBa-127, was excavated by William Harrison in 1957 under contract to the department. Harrison excavated 72 cubic yards of cultural deposit with a yield of fewer than 700 artifacts. Harrison interprets the site as Millingstone or Oak Grove, the early context for the area, with no late component.

At the mouth of Dos Pueblos Canyon in the eastern portion of the unit lie Dos Pueblos (Mikiw and Kuya'mu). The site of Mikiw was excavated in 1958 by a crew from the University of California, Santa Barbara. The site has been excavated by archeologists and vandalized by pot hunters since the 1870s. The 1958 dig removed 122.3 cubic yards of midden with an artifact yield of 10,775. This has to be one of the highest artifact per cubic yard ratios ever recorded for southern California.

Although all material from this deposit may be considered historic, this general time period can be divided into two phases. The earlier Pre-Mission Phase represents a time zone from first contact (1542) to permanent occupation of the Santa Barbara Coast by the Spanish (1782). The Mission Phase (post-1782) represents intensive contacts between the Spanish and the indigenous Chumash.

Recreation Potential

Recreation at El Capitan State Beach is mainly oriented toward beach and ocean activities. Swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, fishing, and beachcombing are popular pursuits in the unit. Most of the beach use is along the southwestern border of the unit. The shoreline east of the El Capitan Creek mouth, including the cove area, consists of a narrow sand and rocky beach. During high tide, waves in these areas wash up to the base of the bluff, making foot travel along the beach difficult. At low tide the rocky shoreline near the mouth of El Capitan Creek provides the visitor an opportunity to view a variety of marine invertebrates.

Interpretive Potential

El Capitan State Beach has strong and varied interpretive potential. Ocean-oriented recreation, along with scenic, natural, and cultural resources, are the highlights of this coastal unit. Important interpretive values include the riparian habitat and intertidal communities, beach and ocean safety, the historic use of the area by Chumash Indians, and the subsequent development along the coast.

Declaration of Purpose

El Capitan State Beach was established to make available the sandy ocean beach and related uplands in the vicinity of El Capitan Creek for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment. All public outdoor recreational activities which relate well to the ocean beach and adjacent uplands, and which can be accommodated without impairing the scenic or natural integrity of the site, may be provided. The natural values which exist along El Capitan Creek will be preserved as a part of the natural setting for beach recreation activities. All Native American resources occurring in the state beach will be preserved intact and interpreted.

Declaration of Resource Management Policy

It shall be the resource management policy of the State Department of Parks and Recreation to:

1. Perpetuate and enhance the recreational opportunities afforded by this outstanding coastline, together with the scenic and natural features on which such recreational opportunities depend.
2. Coordinate the various activities and uses in such a way that the area's resources are protected and perpetuated to ensure their continued availability to the public. In planning facilities for visitor use, consideration should be given to the use that it will encourage and the potential impact on the unit's natural and cultural values. In this regard, the department shall strive to ensure that developments in the unit and public use are in proper relation with the resiliency of the environment.
3. Regulate the various uses for the safety and enjoyment of the visitor.
4. Protect the scenic values of the property, including both interior views and views from adjacent lands. All developments shall be adequately screened by careful siting of facilities and by plantings. Camping and day-use facilities shall be screened from the view of travelers along Highway 101 adjacent to the unit.
5. Protect ocean bluffs and other upland areas from accelerated erosion. All facilities developed on the uplands portion shall be designed so that additional runoff from impervious surfaces (parking areas, roads, buildings, and trails) will not be concentrated on unprotected soils. Public access to the shoreline from terrace lands shall be restricted to a few designated access points. These points shall be designated and constructed to facilitate foot traffic to the shoreline with a minimum amount of modification to the bluff profile. Runoff from the uplands shall not be allowed to drain off the bluff along access points unless suitable measures are taken to ensure that accelerated erosion will not occur.
6. Identify and block off all volunteer trails that lead to the beach from the terrace and that may adversely affect the environment.
7. Establish a buffer zone of at least 15 meters (50 feet) wide, or twice as wide as the height of the bluff, whichever is the larger, on undeveloped terrace land adjacent to the coastal bluff. Any new recreational facilities in this zone shall be limited to access and interpretive trails. Native grassland or sage scrub-type vegetation shall be encouraged in this zone to completely reestablish a more natural landscape and native wildlife habitat, and provide a natural check on bluff erosion.
8. Avoid construction of permanent structures or overnight facilities in areas below the elevation of 8 meters (25 feet) until a more detailed analysis of the tsunami hazard can be made.
9. In landscaping, use plants native to California, preferably to the region, to provide a more natural setting and native wildlife foods, and to reduce the need for watering and other costly maintenance. No exotic plant shall be introduced that may naturalize and encroach into natural plant and animal communities.

10. Eliminate or control unwanted exotic (nonnative) plants and weeds. Hand, mechanical, and biological control measures shall be given preference over chemical methods of weed control. Herbicides proposed for plant control shall meet all requirements in the department's Pesticide Handbook. A program shall be developed and implemented to eliminate castor bean (Ricinus communis) throughout the unit, and hottentot fig (Carpobrotus edulis) in the riparian woodland and creek mouth areas.
11. Control animal populations, such as ground squirrels, when necessary to minimize potential health hazards to the public. The reduction or elimination of the preferred habitat of nuisance species shall be considered first when control becomes necessary. For example, hottentot figs in the unit provide an ideal habitat for ground squirrels and are thought to encourage the nuisance and health hazard problems which have been reported in the unit for years. A program to eradicate the solid concentrations of hottentot fig shall be prepared and implemented, particularly in and near any campground. Areas where hottentot fig has been removed shall be revegetated with native plants that do not encourage squirrel populations. Dwarf coyote brush is one possible native which is adapted to local climate and physical conditions and may be suitable for revegetation. Where ground squirrel colonies are deemed a problem at other locations in developed areas, special steps shall be taken to discourage them through habitat manipulation. These steps include planting bare areas, destroying burrows, and removing features such as logs or rocks that facilitate burrowing.
12. Review the status of cultural sites in the unit and undertake necessary stabilization procedures as rapidly as possible. Present understanding of the village sites is limited and sketchy. The sites have been severely affected by nature and human intervention. While development affecting cultural sites must be discouraged, allocations must be made for proper mitigation should development be deemed necessary. One of the campgrounds should be named "Ahwin" after the Chumash village site located in the unit.
13. Administer other values of the unit not specifically mentioned in this Resource Element, under guidelines set forth in the department's Policies, Rules, Regulations and Orders, and Resource Management Directives.

Allowable Use Intensity

California state law (Section 5019.5, Public Resources Code) requires that the department cause to be prepared a land carrying-capacity survey before any recreation development plan is completed. As a step in determining carrying capacity, the department is using "allowable use intensity," which is a more recreation resource-oriented term.

Allowable use intensity is determined by three basic interwoven components: (1) management objectives, (2) visitor perceptions and attitudes, and (3) impact of any development and use on natural and cultural resources (the determination of ecological and cultural resource sensitivity).

Management objectives for El Capitan State Beach were generally set forth in the statutes defining a state beach in the unit identification and classification section of this Resource Element.

Visitor perceptions and attitudes, the second component, are sometimes referred to in relation to "social carrying capacity" and involve assessing what the recreationists perceive as an acceptable recreational environment; what degree of isolation or crowding is acceptable; what amount of site deterioration is acceptable; and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to the quality of visitors' recreation experiences. These factors are very difficult to quantify and are related to social development and the environmental awareness of society.

The third component in determining allowable use intensity involves an analysis of the natural and cultural resources to determine the physical limitations of an area for development of facilities, and the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity). This analysis is based on a number of considerations including archeological and historical sites and features; scenic values; soils, their erodability and compaction potential; geologic factors, such as slope stability and relief; hydrologic considerations, including potential for pollution of surface water, flooding, or for depleting surface and ground waters through water use; vegetation characteristics, such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; occurrence of paleontological strata; and wildlife considerations, such as tolerance to human activity, wildlife population levels, and stability. Additional considerations in determining ecological sensitivity are rare and/or endangered plants and animals, unique biotic features or ecosystems, or examples of ecosystems of regional or statewide significance (marshes, riparian areas, and vernal pools).

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensity for El Capitan State Beach was determined and delineated (see Allowable Use Intensity Map, Appendix). Included in the figure is a general description of the types of activities which may be appropriate in the categories of high, moderate, and low uses. These activities are given for general planning purposes only. On-site field investigations by qualified resource specialists will be necessary before selection of specific sites and design of new facilities. Such investigations may indicate that higher or lower use intensity would be appropriate.

Basic data that were used in the analysis of use intensity with respect to various soils limitations and cultural resources sensitivity are now discussed in detail.

Considerations in Determining Allowable Use Intensity

Consideration of soil characteristics and qualities, including but not limited to permeability, shrink-swell potential, erosion potential, slope stability, and strength of substrata, is an essential part of planning for recreation use. The limitations of each soil type identified in El Capitan State Beach for small structures, local roads and streets, camping areas, picnic areas, paths and trails, and septic tank absorption fields are individually rated in Figure 1. This rating and the following discussion was largely excerpted from Shipman (1977), Soil Survey - Santa Barbara County, California, South Coastal Park Interim Report.

Data presented in this section are useful for land use planning and for choosing alternative practices or general designs that will overcome unfavorable soil properties and minimize soil failures. Limitations to the use of this data, however, should be well understood. First, the data are generally not presented for soil materials below a depth of 1.5 to 1.8 meters (5 to 6 feet). Also, because of the scale and details of the mapping, small areas of soils that differ from the dominant soil may not be included. Thus, these data do not eliminate the need for on-site investigations and testing.

Building Site Development

The degree and kind of soil limitations that affect small structures and local streets and roads are indicated in Figure 1. A slight limitation indicates that soil properties are favorable for the specified use; any limitation is minor and easily overcome. A moderate limitation indicates that soil properties and site features are unfavorable for the specified use, but the limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning and design. A severe limitation indicates that one or more soil properties or site features are so unfavorable or difficult to overcome that a major increase in construction effort, special design, or intensive maintenance is required. For some soils rated severe, such costly measures may not be feasible.

Small structures should be constructed on soils sufficiently stable so that cracking or subsidence from settling or shear failure of the foundation does not occur. Ratings in Figure 1 were determined from estimates of shear strength, compressibility, and shrink-swell potential of the soil. Soil texture, plus plasticity and in-place density, potential frost action, soil wetness, and depth to a seasonal high water table were also considered. Soil wetness and depth to a seasonal high water table indicate potential difficulties in providing adequate drainage for basements, lawns, and gardens. Depth to rock, slope, and large stones in or on the soil are important considerations in the choice of sites for these structures and were considered in determining the ratings. Susceptibility to flooding is also a serious limitation.

Figure 1
Rating of Physical Limitations
to Development by Soil Type

Map Symbol	Soil Description	Small Structures	Roads	Camping Areas	Picnic Areas	Paths and Trails	Septic Tank Absorption Field
BFC	Ballard, variant, stony fine sandy loam, 2-9% slope	<u>Moderate:</u> slope	<u>Moderate:</u> low strength	<u>Moderate:</u> large stones small stones	<u>Moderate:</u> large stones small stones	<u>Moderate:</u> large stones small stones	<u>Moderate:</u> large stones
WAC2	Concepcion fine sandy loam 2-9% slope, eroded	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Moderate:</u> percolates slowly	<u>Slight</u>	<u>Slight</u>	<u>Severe:</u> percolates slowly
WAE2	Concepcion fine sandy loam 15-30% slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> slope shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Moderate:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope percolates slowly
DIC	Diablo clay 2-9% slope	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey	<u>Severe:</u> percolates slowly
DID	Diablo clay 9-15% slope	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey slope	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey slope	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey	<u>Severe:</u> percolates slowly
DIE2	Diablo clay 15-30% slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> slope shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Moderate:</u> too clayey slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope percolates slowly
MSF	Milipitas stony fine sandy loam, 30-50% slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> shrink-swell	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> percolates slowly
MID2	Milipitas-Positas fine sandy 9-15% slope	<u>Moderate:</u> slope	<u>Severe:</u> low strength shrink-swell	<u>Moderate:</u> slope percolates slowly	<u>Moderate:</u> slope	<u>Slight</u>	<u>Severe:</u> percolates slowly

Source: Shipman (1977)

Local roads and streets referred to in Figure 1 have an all-weather surface that can carry light to medium traffic all year. They consist of subgrade of the underlying soil material, a base of gravel, crushed rock fragments, or soil materials stabilized with lime or cement; and a flexible or rigid surface, commonly asphalt or concrete. The roads are graded with soils material at hand and most cuts and fills are less than 2 meters (6 feet) deep.

The load-supporting capacity and the stability of the soil, as well as the quantity and workability of fill material available, are important in design construction of roads and streets. The AASHTO and Unified Classifications of the soil and soil texture, density, shrink-swell potential, and potential frost action are indicators of traffic-supporting capacities used in making these ratings. Soil wetness, flooding, soil, depth to hard rock or very compact layers, and content of large stones, all of which affect stability and ease of excavation, were also considered.

Recreation Development

Camp areas are used extensively for tent and small camp trailers and the accompanying activities of outdoor living. Little preparation of the site is required, other than shaping to heavy foot traffic and limited vehicular traffic. The best soils have mild slopes, good drainage, and surfaces free of rocks and coarse fragments, and are free from flooding during periods of heavy use. The surface is firm after it rains, but not dusty when dry.

Picnic areas are attractive natural or landscaped tracts used primarily for preparing meals and eating outdoors. These areas are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most of the vehicular traffic, however, is confined to access roads. The best soils are firm when wet but not dusty when dry; are free of flooding during the season of use; and do not have slopes or stoniness that greatly increase costs of site leveling or of building access roads.

Paths and trails are used for local and cross-country travel by foot or horseback. Design and layouts should require little or no cutting and filling. The best soils are at least moderately well drained, are firm when wet but not dusty when dry, are flooded not more than once during the season of use, have slopes of less than 15 percent, and have few or no rocks or stones on the surface.

Sanitary Facilities

Septic tank absorption fields are subsurface systems of tile or perforated pipe that distribute effluent from a septic tank into the natural soil. Favorable soil properties are needed for proper functioning. Only the soil horizons between the depths of 45 and 183 centimeters (19 and 72 inches) are available for this use. Soil properties and site features considered are those that affect the absorption of the effluent and those that affect the construction of the system.

Properties and features that affect the absorption of the effluent are permeability, depth to seasonal high-water table, depth to bedrock, and susceptibility to flooding. Stones, boulders, and a shallow depth to bedrock interfere with installation. Excessive slopes may cause lateral seepage and surfacing of the effluent in downslope areas. Also, soil erosion and soil slippage are hazards when absorption fields are installed in sloping soils.

Some soils are underlain by loose sand and gravel or fractured bedrock at a depth of less than 1.2 meters (4 feet) below the tile lines. In these soils, the absorption field does not adequately filter the effluent, and as a result, groundwater supplies in the area may be contaminated.

Percolation tests are performed to determine the absorption capacity of the soil and its suitability for use as a septic tank absorption field. These tests should be performed during the season when the water table is highest and the soil is at minimum absorption capacity.

In many of the soils that have moderate to severe limitations for septic tank absorption fields, it may be possible to install special systems that lower the seasonal water table, or to increase the size of the absorption field so that satisfactory performance is achieved.

If the degree of soil limitation is indicated in Figure 1 by the rating slight, soils are favorable for the specified use and limitations are minor and easily overcome; if moderate, soil properties or site features are unfavorable for the specified use, but limitations can be overcome by special planning and design; and if severe, soil properties or site features are so unfavorable or difficult to overcome that major soil reclamation, special design, or intensive maintenance are required.

Cultural Resources Sensitivity

Cultural resources of El Capitan State Beach have been rated in terms of their sensitivity and mapped on the Cultural Sensitivity Map, Appendix. Criteria that were used in the development of the sensitivity maps, and policies relating to each sensitivity category, are as follows:

High Sensitivity

These sites contain important information for interpreting Native American and Euro-American occupation in the project area. However, specific conditions prevent their eligibility for inclusion into the NRHP. These sites may include Native American middens; small town or village sites; small isolated Native American middens or features; and isolated structures or structure foundations.

Management recommendations for these sites are:

Future developments will be planned to minimize direct and indirect impacts on these resources.

Before any anticipated activities in these zones, a qualified archeologist will be consulted for recommendations on alleviating all direct and indirect impacts that may occur.

Projects may be allowed to have an impact on these sites, only if they can be proved necessary to fulfill an overriding public need, and then only after they have been professionally studied and results publicly disseminated.

Resources may be reclassified if justified by future studies.

Moderate Sensitivity

These sites contain limited information for interpreting past activities of Native American and Euro-American populations. These sites have been highly disturbed by erosion or human activities, and only limited archeological research is necessary to retrieve information present.

Resource management recommendations for these sites are:

Projects may be allowed to have an impact on these sites after they have been professionally studied and results publicly disseminated.

Resources may be reclassified if justified by future studies.

If any new resources in this unit are discovered to be of Native American or Euro-American significance, they will be classified in an appropriate sensitivity zone and managed appropriately.

Land Use and Facilities Element

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Existing Conditions-Assumptions

Recreation Values

- El Capitan State Beach offers excellent beach frontage for swimming, surfing, and fishing.
- The visual qualities of the ocean-related coastal area are outstanding. The steep cliffs, which border the state beach, make an impressive visual frame.
- El Capitan Creek, which runs through the unit, offers a riparian habitat that provides wildlife cover and suitable day-use areas.
- There are significant historic, archeological, and natural areas throughout the unit.
- El Capitan State Beach is one of the most popular coastal units in the State Park System.
- Overnight camping facilities constitute a major portion of the developed area of the unit.
- A bicycle trail runs through the unit and along the bluffs to Refugio State Beach. Excellent views are present along the entire trail.

Recreation Use

Principal recreation activities include:

- Swimming
- Skin/scuba diving
- Surfing
- Fishing
- Camping (recreational vehicles, tent, group)
- Hiking
- Walking for pleasure
- Jogging
- Nature and history study
- Picnicking
- Bicycling
- Beachcombing
- Sunbathing
- Participating in outdoor sports and games
- Viewing interpretive exhibit
- Attending interpretive program
- Photography
- Sightseeing

Physical Factors

- The primary recreation season is from April to September.
- Surfing conditions are exceptionally good at El Capitan with a steady flow of surfers year round.
- El Capitan Creek, which runs through the unit, provides a natural riparian area with wildlife habitat.
- The surrounding landscape consists primarily of scattered residences and undeveloped coastal land.
- Steep coastal bluffs make beach access extremely difficult, particularly at the narrow downcoast portion of the unit.
- Southern Pacific railroad tracks border the northern edge of the unit. A railroad trestle bridge built in 1898 passes over the entrance road.
- A number of arroyos exist throughout the unit.
- The downcoast strip of the park is narrow and steep with erodable soils. These conditions limit any development.
- During the whale migration, exceptional vistas of the whale run are available from the beaches and bluffs.
- A concrete sea wall about 375 meters (1,250 feet) long exists at the downcoast end of the park.



Shore fishing is popular year-round at El Capitan State Beach.

Planning Issues

From our communication with interested people, in letters, interviews, questionnaires, and public workshops, we were able to identify a number of planning issues concerning El Capitan State Beach.

Identification of Issues

The following significant issues were identified:

- Extend the nature trail upstream along El Capitan Creek
- Take advantage of the important and varied interpretive potential of the unit
- Expand the visitor center to accommodate the proposed increased interpretive programs and displays
- Leave bluffs and beaches open and natural
- Leave the unit as it is
- Provide a leach field for the trailer sanitation station (TSS)
- Provide more beach access points from the newly constructed bicycle trail

Facility Recommendations

Discussion

- Existing recreational facilities include a swimming beach, 145 campsites, 3 group campsites, 70 picnic tables, 450 day-use parking spaces, a trailer sanitation station, and bicycle and nature trails. Some facilities are substandard due to age and overuse.
- The state beach is heavily used in the summer months, operating at or near capacity. During peak use periods, demand exceeds capacity. In July and August there were on the average over 2,000 camper turnaways per month, or over 66 turnaways per day.
- Major development of this unit has been completed; however, some items need to be enhanced or upgraded to accommodate increased visitor use.
- The existing nature trail utilizes a very small portion of the riparian habitat along El Capitan Creek.
- El Capitan State Beach has important and varied interpretive potential. The recreational, scenic, natural, and cultural resources are the keys to this coastal unit. Important interpretive values include recreation, the riparian habitat and intertidal communities, sealife and ocean-oriented vegetation, and the historic use of the area by Native Americans.

Recommendations

- Do not expand existing camping facilities because it is not desirable to further urbanize the unit.
- Expand the nature trail upstream along El Capitan Creek and provide two footbridges, one located close to the mouth of the creek and the other located at a halfway point along the trail, so access is available to the riparian areas (see General Plan Map, appendix). The extension will enable more observation of vegetation and wildlife.
- Provide sewage disposal systems in the form of leach fields for the trailer sanitation station recently completed under contract. The proposed leach field will require a study to determine the best type of system for the heavy clay soils present in the area.
- Complete construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail between El Capitan State Beach and Refugio State Beach. The already completed portion of the trail has experienced problems of washouts and slides at certain points. This poses a very hazardous situation for trail users. These current problems are being corrected.
- Provide two rest stops along the newly constructed bicycle/hiking trail adjacent to the bluff (see General Plan Map, appendix). The rest stops will offer key vistas, interpretive panels, benches, drinking fountain, bike rack, portable toilets, and beach access where feasible.
- The existing visitor center is currently being partially used as an office for operations staff. Several interpretive panels are outside the visitor center. It is recommended that the visitor center be expanded to accommodate additional activities. Interpretive display panels describing historic, archeological, or visual features will be located at various points in the unit (see General Plan Map).



The visitor's center will be expanded to accommodate additional displays and programs.

Summary of Proposed Facilities

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Potential Acquisition</u>	<u>Total</u>
Family Campsites	145	0	0	145
Day-Use Parking	450	0	0	450
Picnic Tables	70	0	0	70
Comfort Stations	9	0	0	9
Group Camps	3	0	0	3
Trailer Sanitation System	1	0	0	1
Combination Building	1	0	0	1
Visitor Center	1	0	0	1
Bicycle Trail	2.01 km (1.3 miles)	0	0	2.01 km (1.3 miles)
Bicycle Rest Stops	0	2	0	2

Capacity of Facilities

Facilities at El Capitan State Beach now serve 255,000 visitors annually. Existing camping and day-use facilities are filled to capacity about 175 days of the year. The recommendations in this section involve upgrading and enhancing existing facilities over the next 20-year period. Since no new facilities (day-use parking or campsites) will be added, it is expected that annual visitation will continue to be about the same.

Transportation

The primary access to the state beach is via Highway 101.

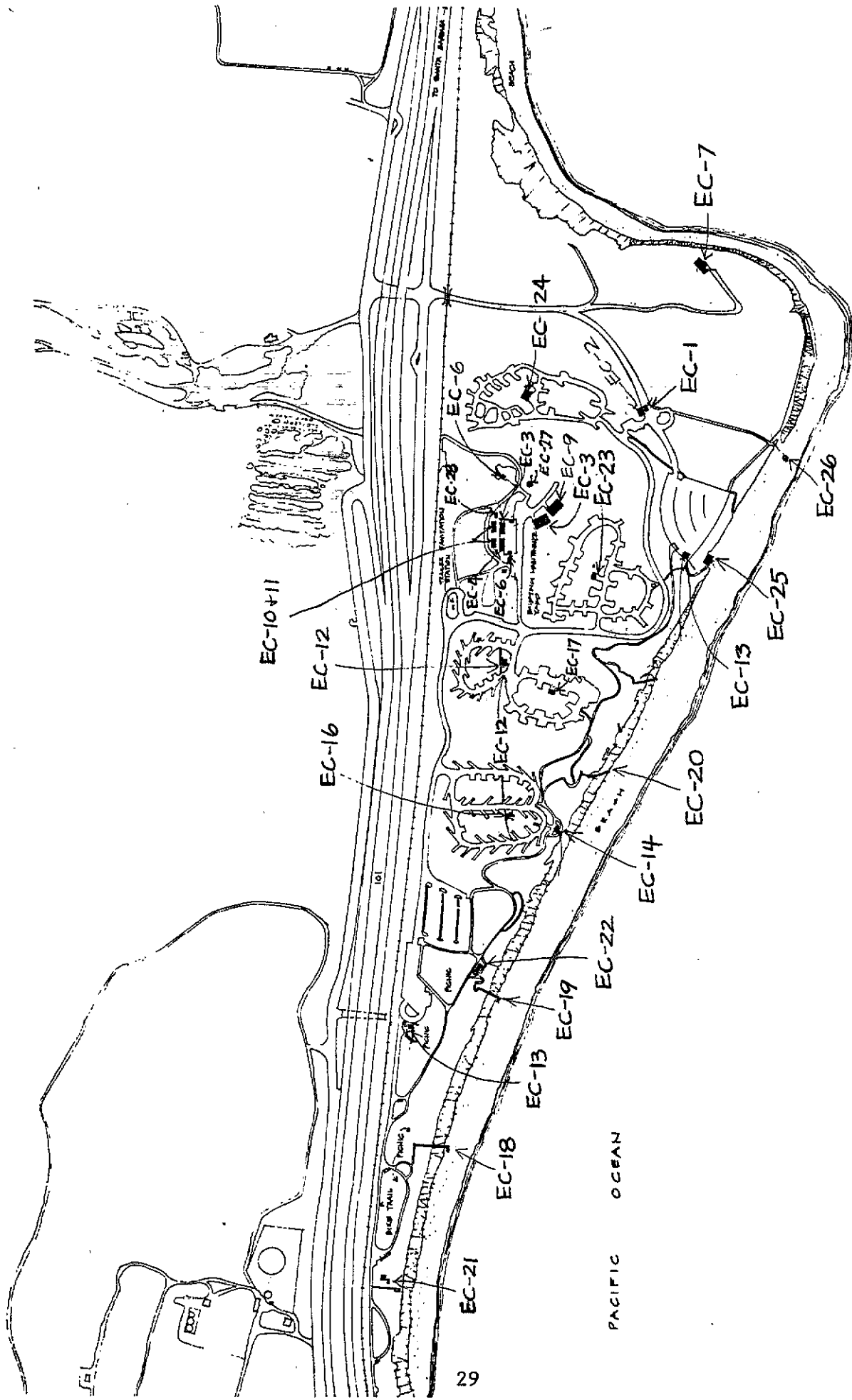
Public transportation to the unit does not exist. A desire for local bus service to the state beach has not been expressed by the general public.

A more practical method of public transportation, other than busing, would be a railroad shuttle system that would utilize the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Such a system would be a very scenic route to and from the park. Equipment for picnicking, surfing, and other activities could be easily handled and transported.

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH
SUMMARY OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
EC-1	Contact Station	Enlarge to accommodate more lanes of traffic
EC-2	Visitor Center	Maintain
EC-3	Maintenance/Storage Garage	Maintain
EC-4	Garage/Storage/Office	Maintain
EC-5	Flammable Storage Shed	Replace with a permanent building
EC-6	Storage Shed	Replace with a permanent building
EC-7	Ranger Residence	Demolish
EC-8	Ranger Residence	Maintain
EC-9	Ranger Residence	Maintain
EC-10 & 11	Mobile Home	Relocate mobile homes
EC-12	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-13	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-14	Central Lifeguard Tower	Maintain
EC-15	Concession Store	Replace
EC-16	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-17	Comfort Station	Maintain
EC-18	Stair #3 to the Beach	Maintain
EC-19	Stair #2 to the Beach	Maintain
EC-20	Stair #1 to the Beach	Maintain
EC-21	Pump Building	Maintain
EC-22	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-23	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-24	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-25	Combination Building	Maintain
EC-26	Lifeguard Tower	Maintain
EC-27	Concrete Tank	Maintain and landscape
EC-28	2 Plywood Sheds	Demolish

NOTE: Recommendations include removal of some 30-40 steel H pipes in the water between El Capitan SB and Refugio by the State Lands Commission.



EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

Interpretation

The interpretive purpose is to heighten the visitor's awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the recreational, cultural, natural, and historic resources of the area.

The primary interpretive themes will be:

Recreation and Safety
The Sandy Beach and Intertidal Communities
Riparian Habitat Ecology

The secondary interpretive theme will be:

Human Development and Use of the Land

Interpretive methods will include:

- Brochures on subjects of interest (e.g., geology, biota, wildlife, Indian culture) to be available at the entrance station and at the proposed interpretive/visitor center
- Self-guided and organized tours
- Campfire programs including audio-visual presentations
- Ranger-led "exploration" walks and demonstration workshops
- Outdoor information and interpretive panels
- Exhibits and programs to be housed in a proposed interpretive/visitor center and/or outdoor exhibit area
- The use of "whale flags" during whale migration season to let visitors know that whales have been sighted

Local Coastal Plan Recommendation

The department believes the local coastal Plan should reflect this recommendation:

The character of the surrounding land is coastal landscape with the following development: Shell Oil Company well site, El Capitan Ranch Campground, a private horse ranch, and several private residences. It is recommended that the surrounding area remain relatively undeveloped with no introduction of additional industrial or commercial development that would have an adverse impact on state beach resources or access.

Concessions

Providing adequate and desirable services and facilities for the use and convenience of the public at El Capitan State Beach is an important departmental objective. Limited project funding will be primarily used for basic facilities such as utilities, campgrounds, picnic facilities, and buildings and equipment required for park operation and the protection and interpretation of natural resources. State and federal funds will be spent on ancillary services and facilities; however, wherever feasible, these services are expected to be supplied primarily through the use of private capital investment.

Existing Situation

The existing small general store located near the beach at the day-use parking lot provides campers and beach users with retail sundries, beach rentals, and snacks. The present contract expires in May 1979.

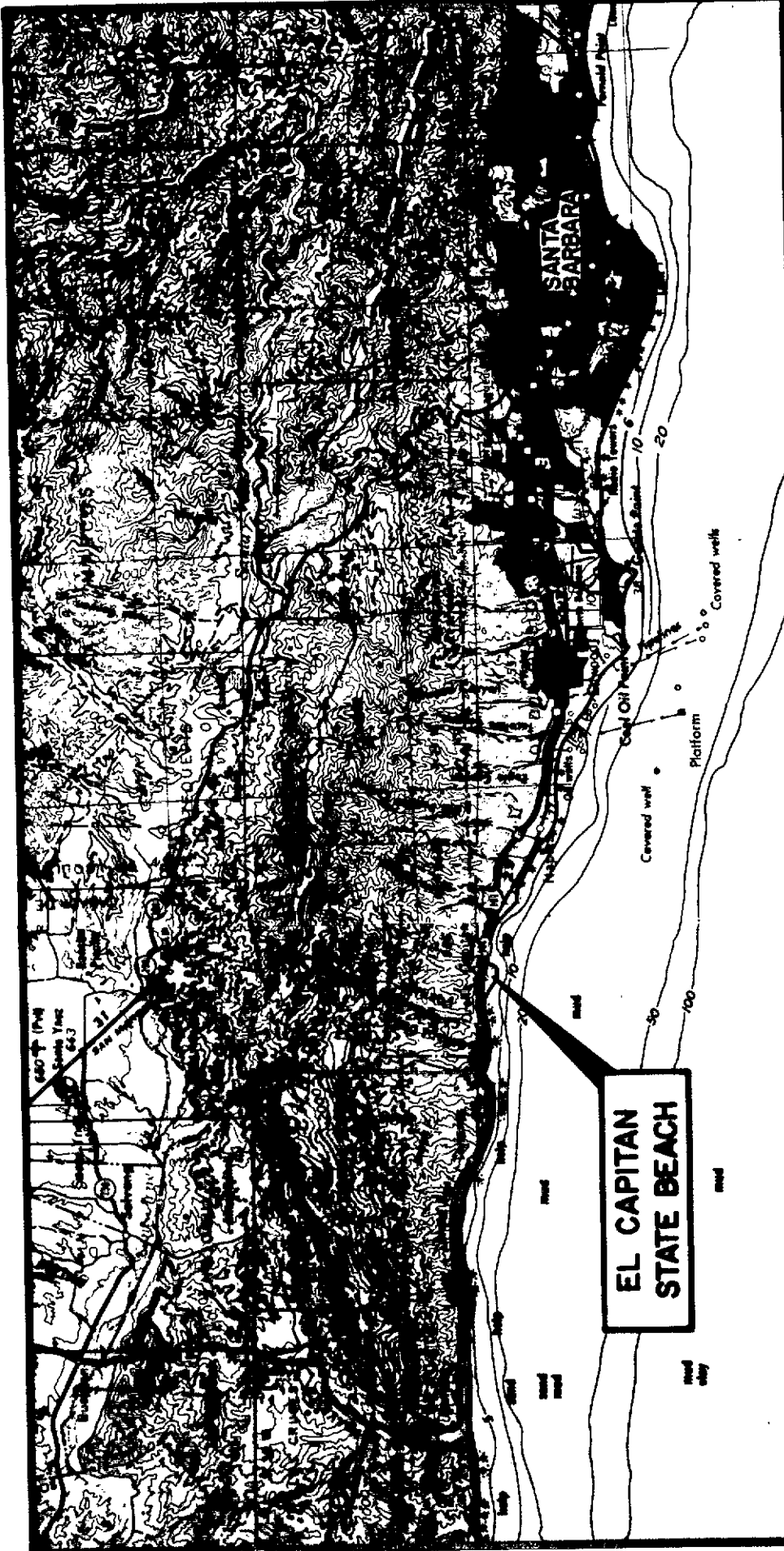
Assumptions

The recently completed expansion of camping and day-use facilities at El Capitan State Beach will increase visitor attendance with a resultant increase in use of the concession.

Recommendations

To provide increased service to the public, the concession operator should be encouraged to expand his services as use of the unit increases. Upon completion of the bike trail from Refugio State Beach through El Capitan State Beach and on to the University of California at Santa Barbara, bicycle rentals should be considered.

Appendix



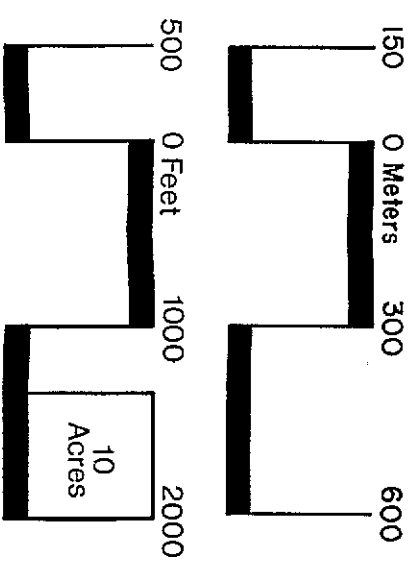
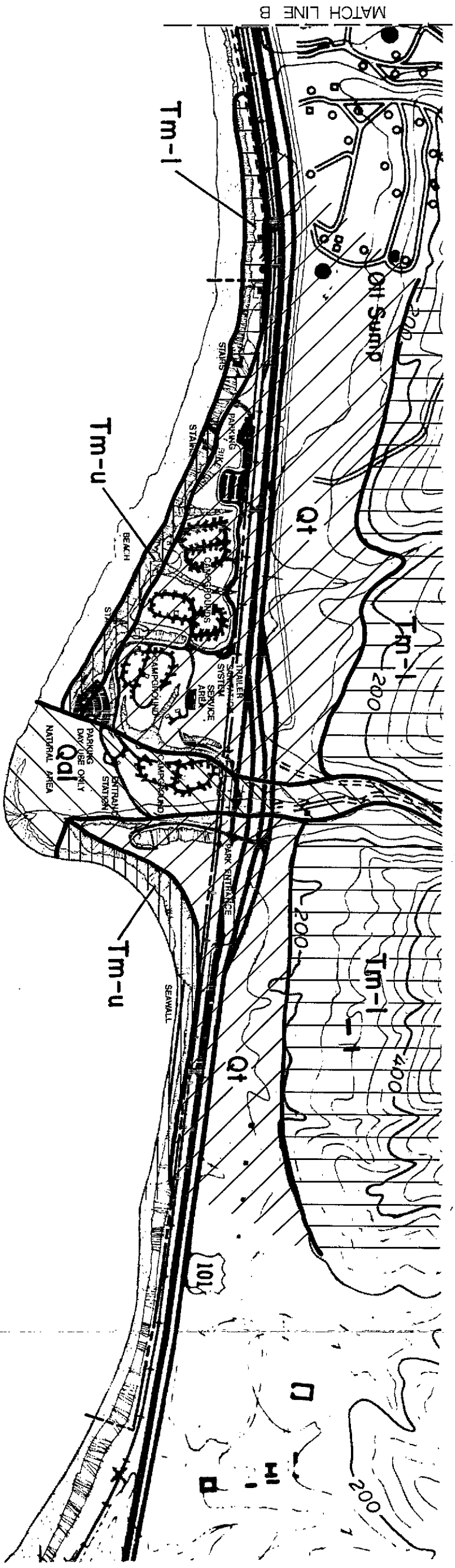
**EL CAPITAN
STATE BEACH**



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EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

VICINITY MAP



Legend EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH
GEOLOGY MAP

	Alluvium
	Terrace deposits
	Monterey Formation - upper
	Monterey Formation - lower

Source: Dibblee, 1950. Original map scale 1:62,500

5-2



Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan
GEOLOGY MAP
EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

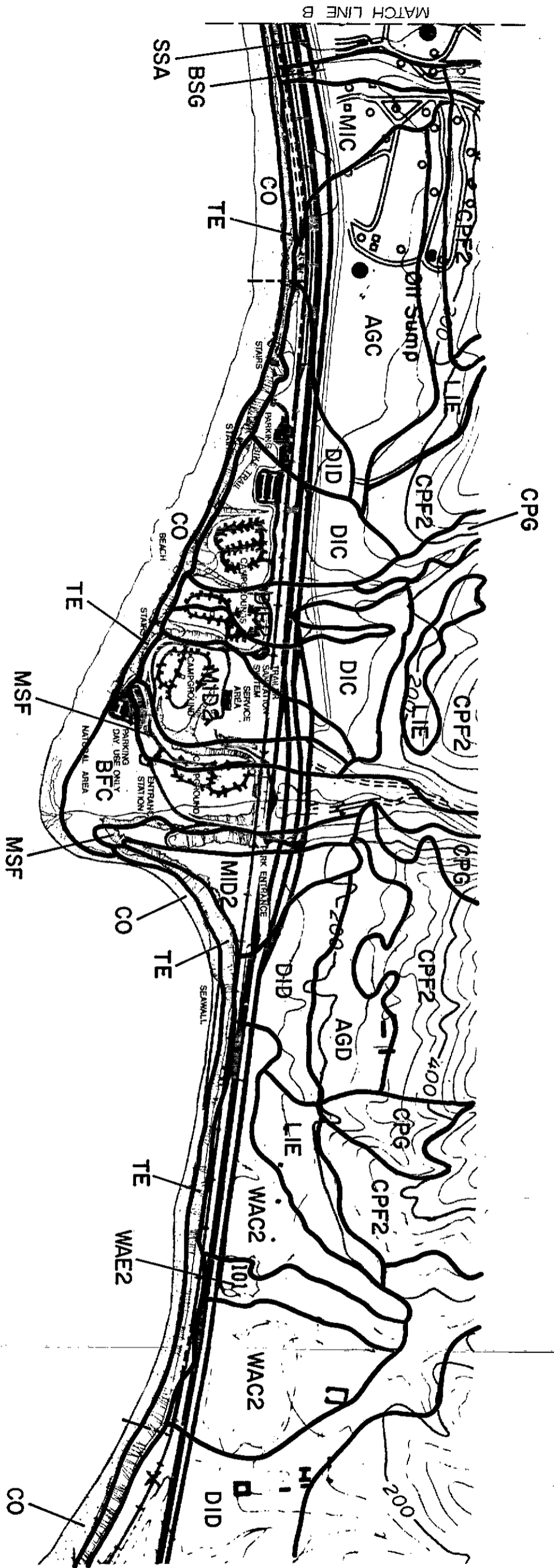
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

REVISIONS	DATE

DESIGNED
DRAWN
AUG. 1978
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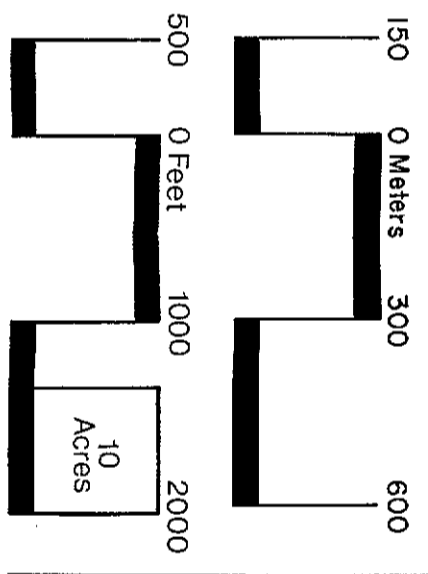
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Legend EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH
SOILS MAP

- AGC — Agueda silty clay loam, 2-9% slopes
- AGD — Agueda silty clay loam, 9-15% slopes
- BFC — Ballard stony fine sandy loam, 2-9% slopes
- CO — Beaches
- CPF2 — Captain cobbly clay loam, 30-50% slopes
- CPG — Captain — Rock complex; 50-75% slopes
- WAC2 — Concepcion fine sandy loam, 2-9% slopes
- WAE2 — Concepcion fine sandy loam, 15-30% slopes
- DIC — Diablo clay, 2-9% slopes
- DID — Diablo clay, 9-15% slopes
- DIE2 — Diablo clay, 15-30% slopes
- TE — Escarpment
- SSA — Goleta fine sandy loam, 0-2% slopes
- LIE — Linn clay loam, 15-30% slopes
- MSF — Milpitas stony fine sandy loam, 30-50% slopes
- MIC — Milpitas — Positas fine sandy loam, 2-9% slopes
- MID2 — Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loam, 9-15% slopes

Source: Shipman, 1977. Original map scale 1:24,000



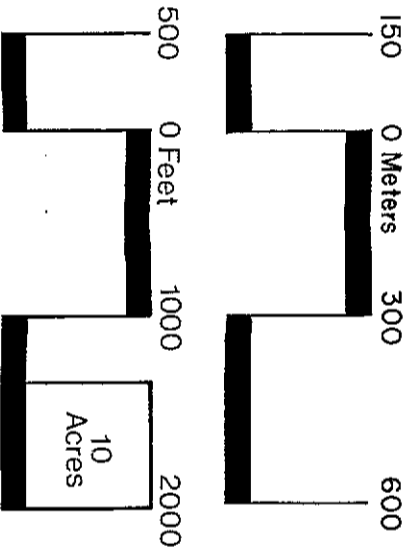
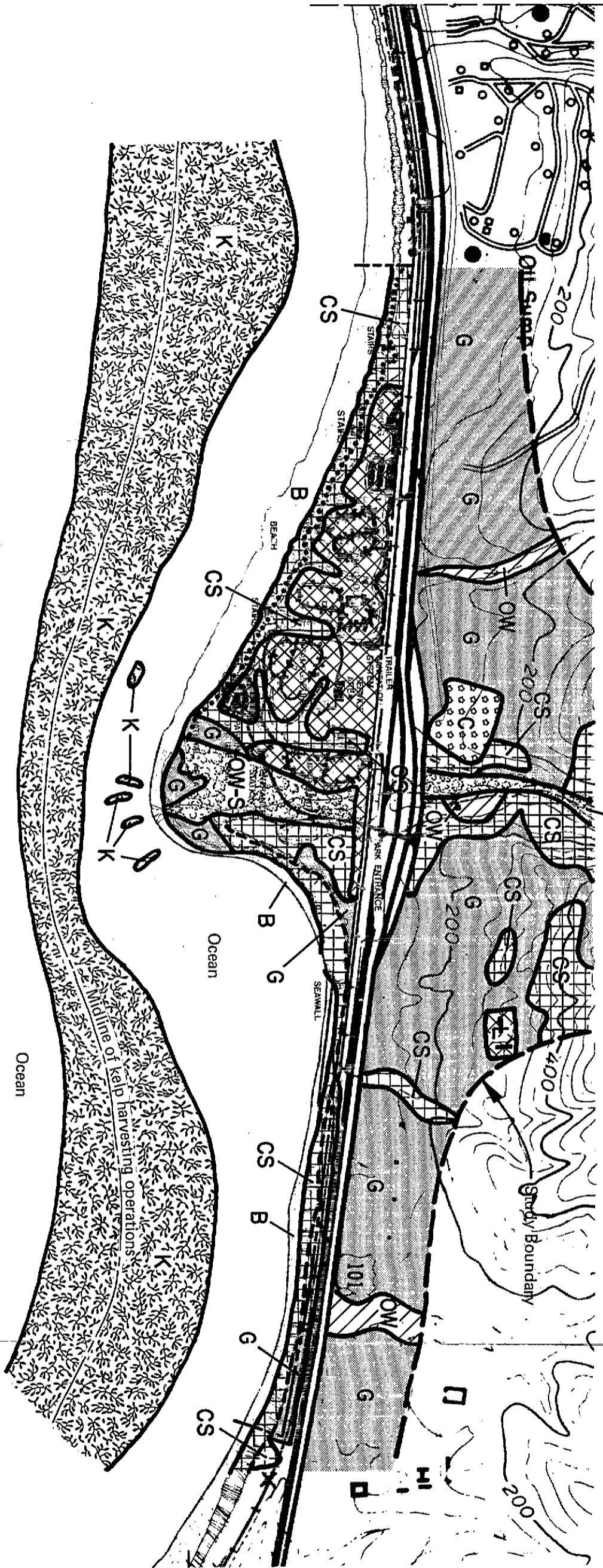
REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
		DRAWN AUG. 1978
		CHECKED

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan
SOILS MAP
EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

DRAWING NO.
SHEET NO.
10 OF



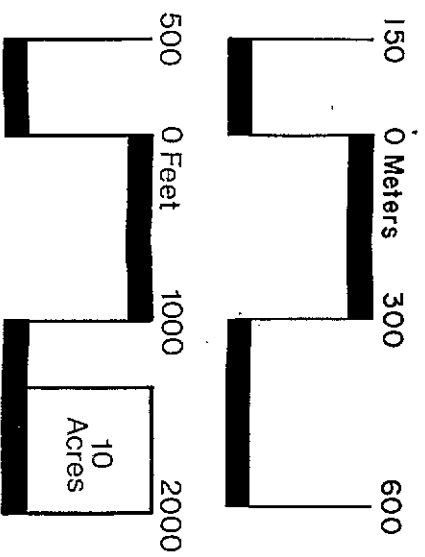
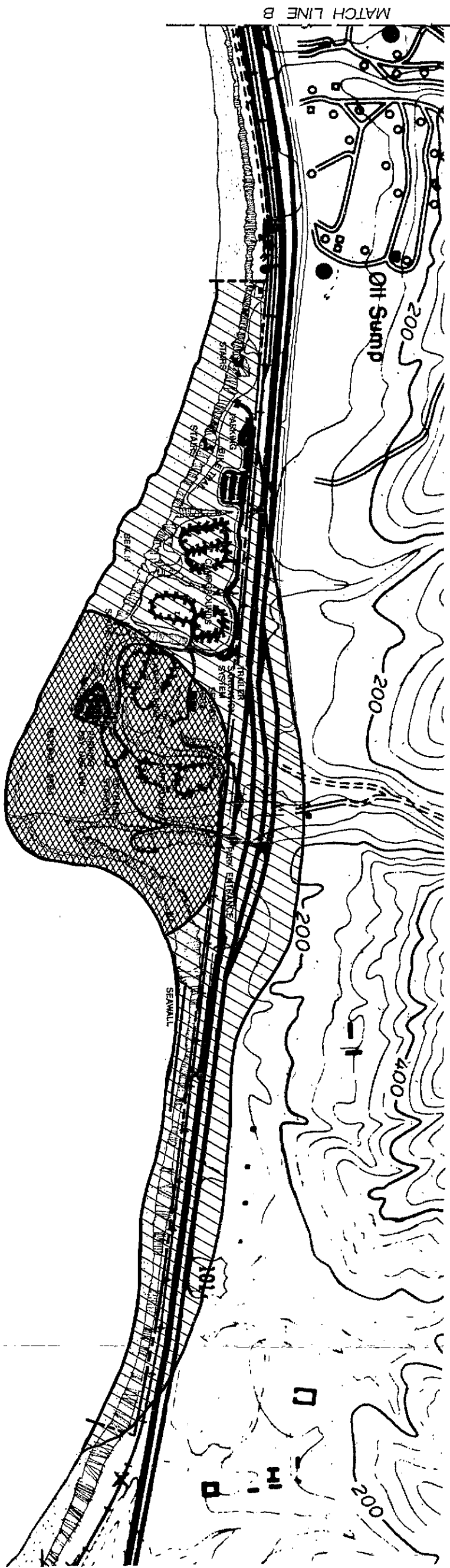
Legend EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH
VEGETATION MAP

- High coastal bluff (Greater than 10 meters)
- Low coastal bluff (Less than 10 meters)
- Kelp
- Oak Woodland - Sycamore Association
- Beach
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Oak Woodland
- Grassland
- Landscaped Areas
- Cultivated



REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED

DRAWN
AUG. 1978
CHECKED



Legend

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

	High
	Moderate

Refer to text for explanation of ratings

5-5



Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan
RESOURCE ELEMENT
 EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

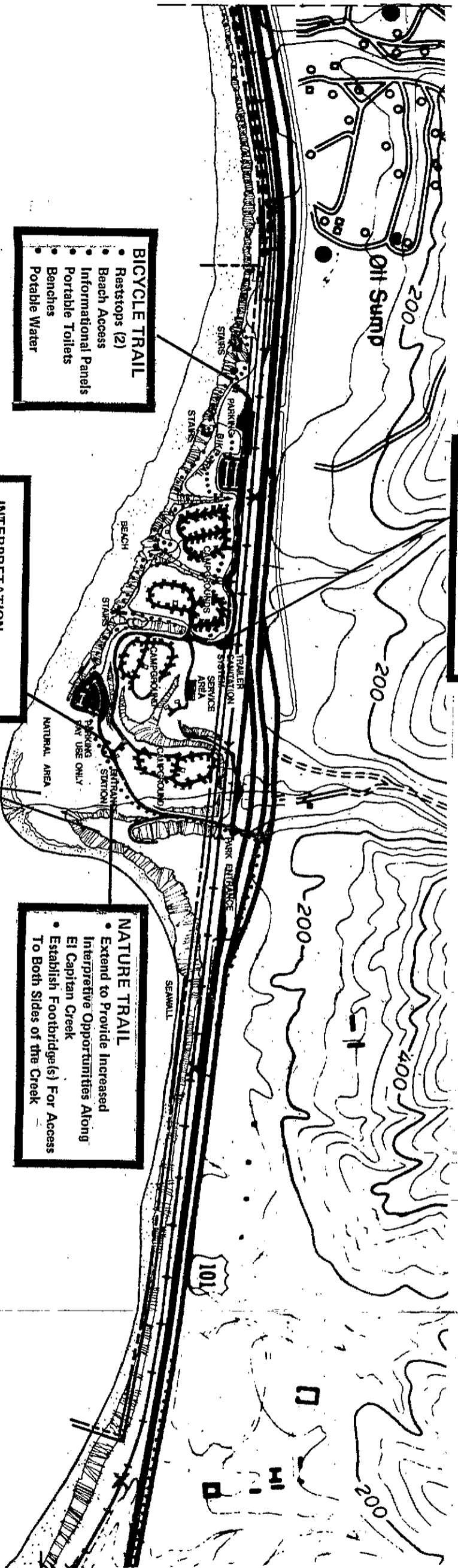
APPROVED _____ DATE _____

REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED

DRAWN	
CHECKED	

SHEET NO.
OF

DRAWING NO.



SEWAGE DISPOSAL
 • Leach field for trailer sanitation system (TSS)

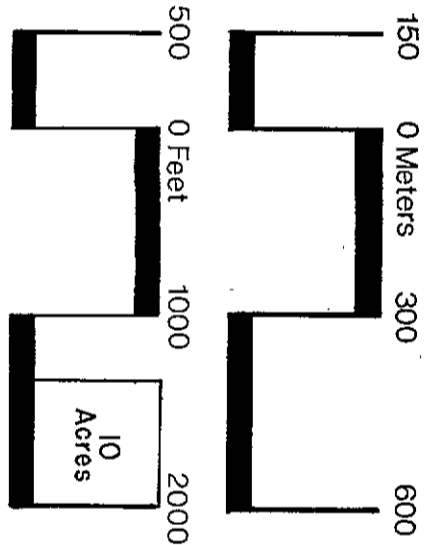
BICYCLE TRAIL
 • Reststops (2)
 • Beach Access
 • Informational Panels
 • Portable Toilets
 • Benches
 • Potable Water

INTERPRETATION
 • Expand Visitor Center
 • Accommodating Programs
 • And Displays

INTERPRETATION
 • Interpretive Display Panels

NATURE TRAIL
 • Extend to Provide Increased Interpretive Opportunities Along El Capitan Creek
 • Establish Footbridge(s) For Access To Both Sides of the Creek

Pacific Ocean



Legend

- POTENTIAL BOUNDARY
- STATE BEACH BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED BICYCLE TRAIL



REVISIONS	DATE	DRAWN
		CHECKED