

UNIT 530

EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

July 1976

EMMA WOOD

STATE BEACH

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

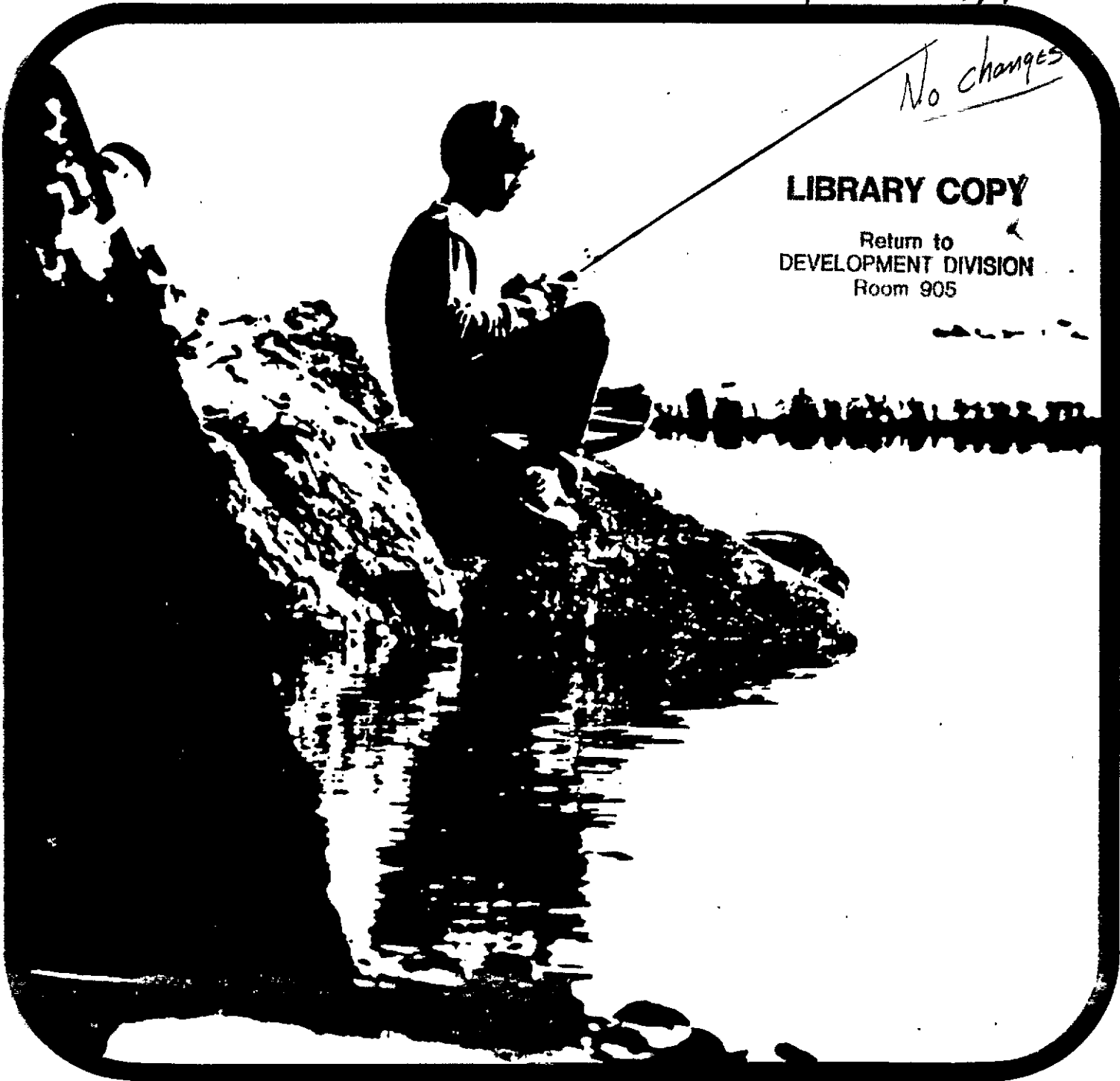
December 1975

PRELIMINARY
FINAL APPROVED
By DPR COMMISSION
7/9/76

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**EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH
General Development Plan and
Resource Management Plan**

December 1975

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
*Governor
State of California*

Claire T. Dedrick
Secretary for Resources

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*Director
Department of Parks and Recreation*



**State of California – The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
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STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF JULY 1976
Emma Wood State Beach
Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan

The Chairman closed the public hearing for comment on Emma Wood State Beach at 5:15 p.m.

The Commission discussed the natural lagoon and decided it would be kept in a natural condition. There was considerable discussion between Mr. Capelli and the Commission about the footpath and it was decided to leave it up to the expertise of the Department's staff to determine where it should be so people can have access to the ocean.

It was moved by Commissioner Iutz and seconded by Commissioner Starkey that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed general development plan and resource management plan for Emma Wood State Beach; and

WHEREAS this reflects the long-range development plan so 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 "Emma Wood State Beach General Development Plan and Resource Mangement Plan, Preliminary" dated December 1975, 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 keeping in mind the following objectives: (1) maximize overnight camping facilities, (2) minimize shrubbery planting, (3) use the term multiple use area instead of group camping, (4) narrow the bikeway path, (5) plan screening trees at the northern entrance, (6) protect the natural pond, and (7) that the progression uses from the ocean will proceed in the following fashion: ocean sand, campers, greenery, bikeway and road, if feasible.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote and the motion carried unanimously.

* * *

CONTENTS

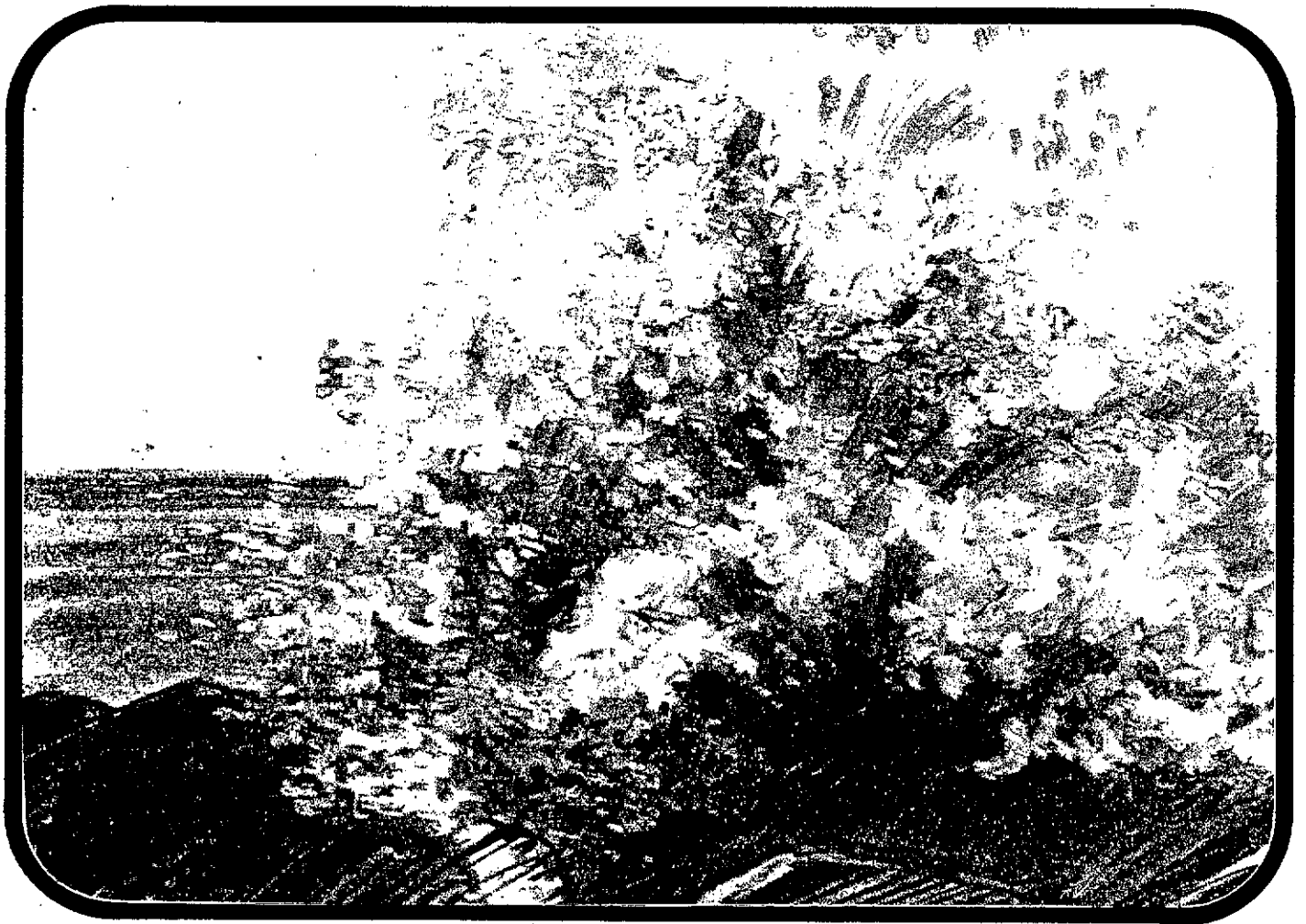
1.	Introduction	1
	Introduction	3
	Summary	3
2.	Resource Inventory and Analysis	5
	Cultural Resources	7
	Archeological Values	7
	Historical Values	7
	Recreation Resources	7
	Natural Resources	9
	Geologic and Edaphic Features	10
	Climatic Features	12
	Vegetation	15
	Wildlife	16
	Scenic Resources	16
3.	Resource Management Plan	17
	Introduction	19
	Declaration of Purpose	19
	Declaration of Resource Management Policy	20
	Land Use Plan	20
4.	General Development Plan	23
	The Rincon Parkway and Day Use Area	24
	The Overnight Camping Area	24
	The Old Pipeyard and Wetlands Area	24
5.	Environmental Impact Report	27

List of Figures

Figure 1	— Vicinity Map	3
Figure 2	— Ventura River Drainage Basin	4
Figure 3	— Flood Plain	8
Figure 4	— Soil Characteristics and Qualities	10
Figure 5	— Soils Map	11
Figure 6	— Monthly Normal Air Temperatures	12
Figure 7	— Time of Monthly Onset of Land and Sea Breeze	12
Figure 8	— Climate Map	13
Figure 9	— Vegetation Map	14
Figure 10	— Proposed State Natural Preserve	18
Figure 11	— Land Use Plan	21
Figure 12	— General Development Plan	25
Figure 13	— Estuary and Wetlands Map	28



1. INTRODUCTION





Introduction

The purpose of the Emma Wood State Beach Resource Management and General Development Plans are to provide policies for the preservation of the natural resource values within the unit and guidelines for the development of facilities.

This plan is a general plan in that it is both comprehensive and flexible. It is comprehensive in that it is based on a thorough knowledge and analysis of all the known natural and recreational resource values. It is flexible in that, as new information becomes available or as the demands being made on the beach resources change, the plan can be modified to reflect these current conditions.

The planning for Emma Wood State Beach is based on the following assumption: that the primary importance of this area is the beach resource, both for its natural values and for its ability to satisfy recreation demand.

Summary

Emma Wood State Beach is a narrow coastal strip located in Ventura County and stretching some 14,400 linear feet (approximately 2.7 miles) from the mouth of the Ventura River to the community of Solimar. It contains 115 acres.

Emma Wood State Beach has been a popular camping and fishing area for many years, and receives heavy use in the existing overnight camping area.

Recent acquisition (1964 bond funds) near the mouth of the Ventura River has provided an opportunity to expand the recreation facilities through the construction of group camping and to develop a program interpreting the natural resources along this stretch of the Ventura Coast.

Other development proposals include improving the existing camping facilities, constructing day use facilities and adding a 12-foot-wide bike lane along the existing old Coast Highway.

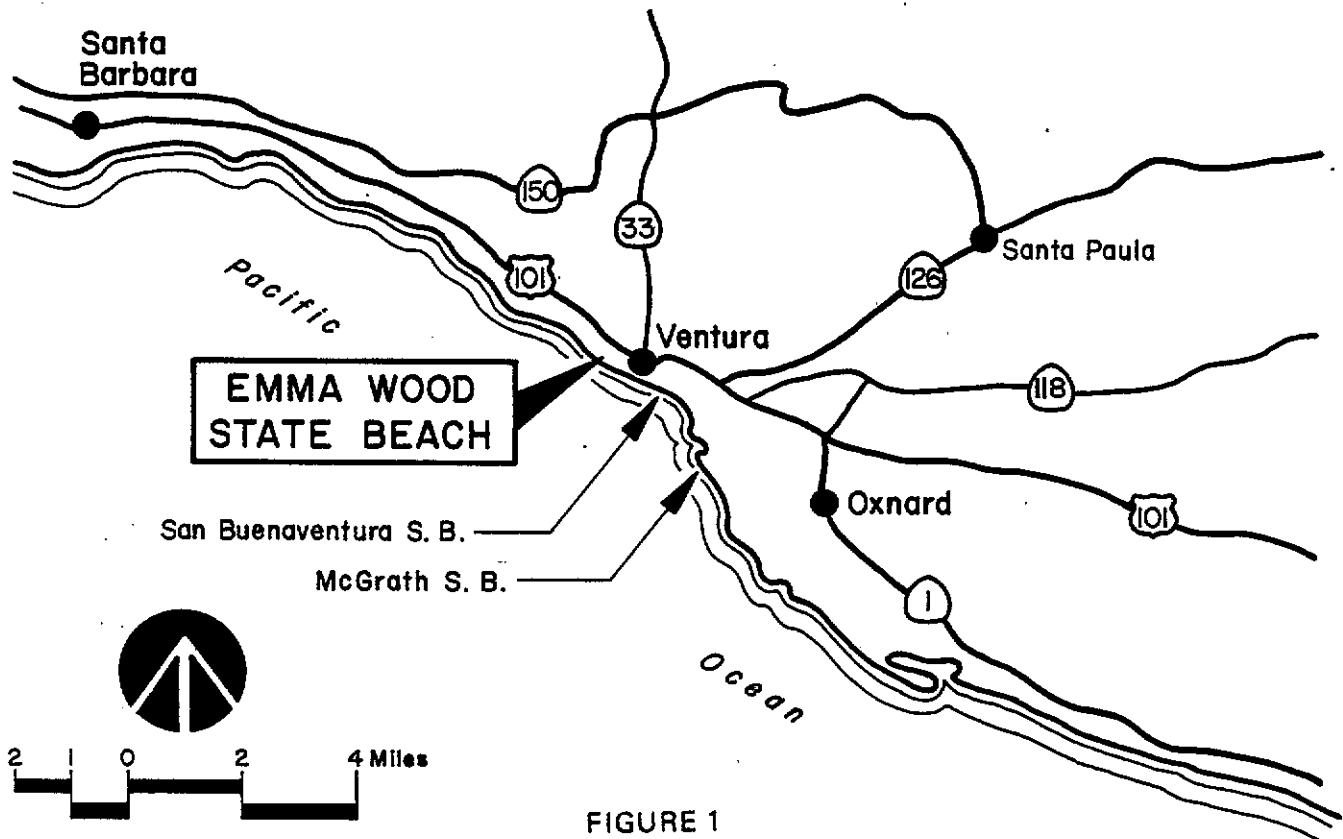
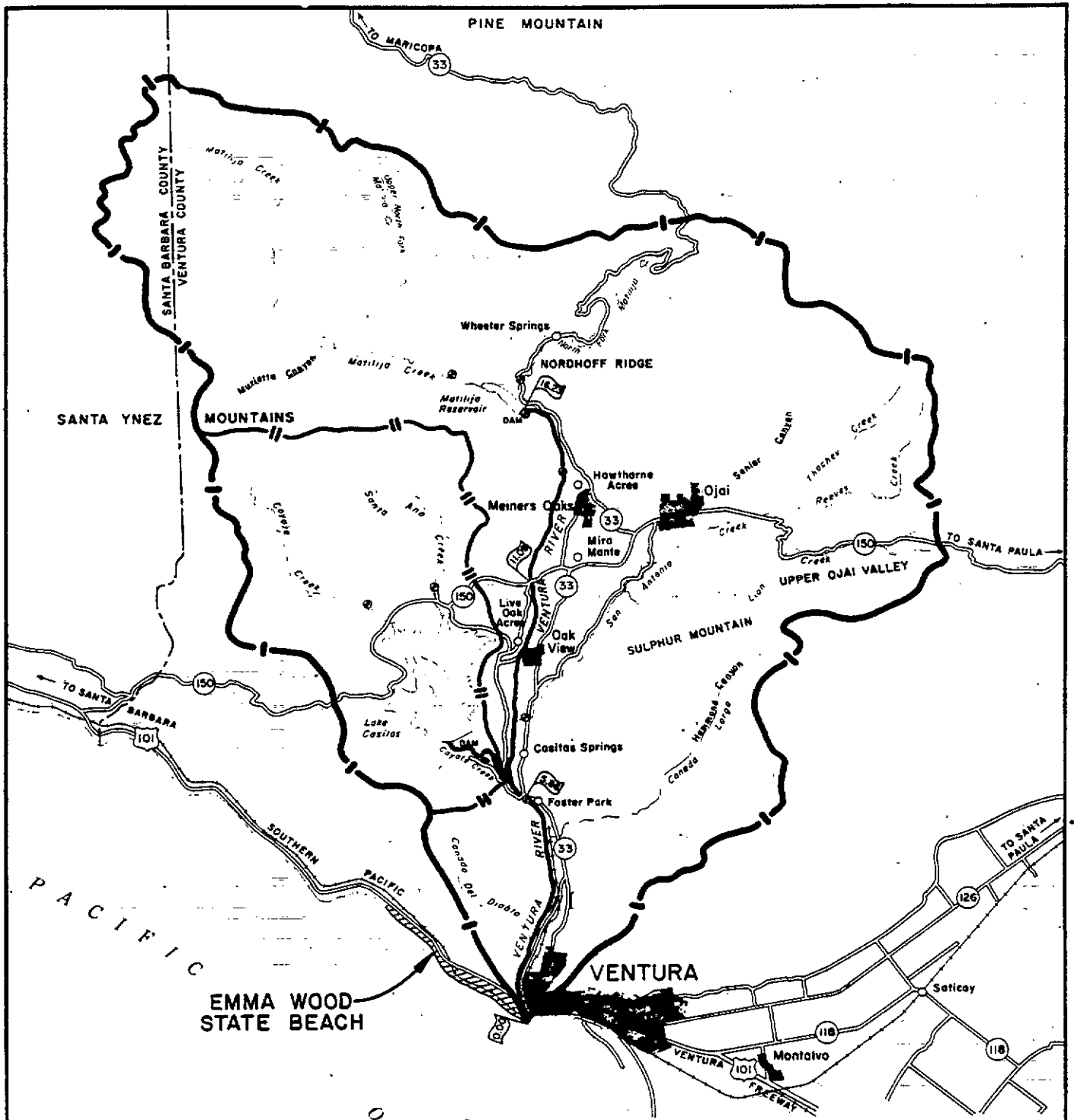







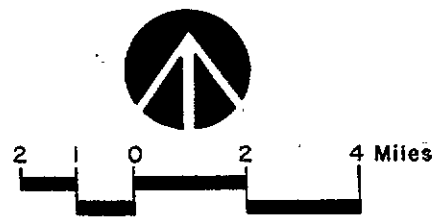
FIGURE 1
VICINITY MAP



VENTURA RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN
LAND UNIT MAP
FIGURE 2

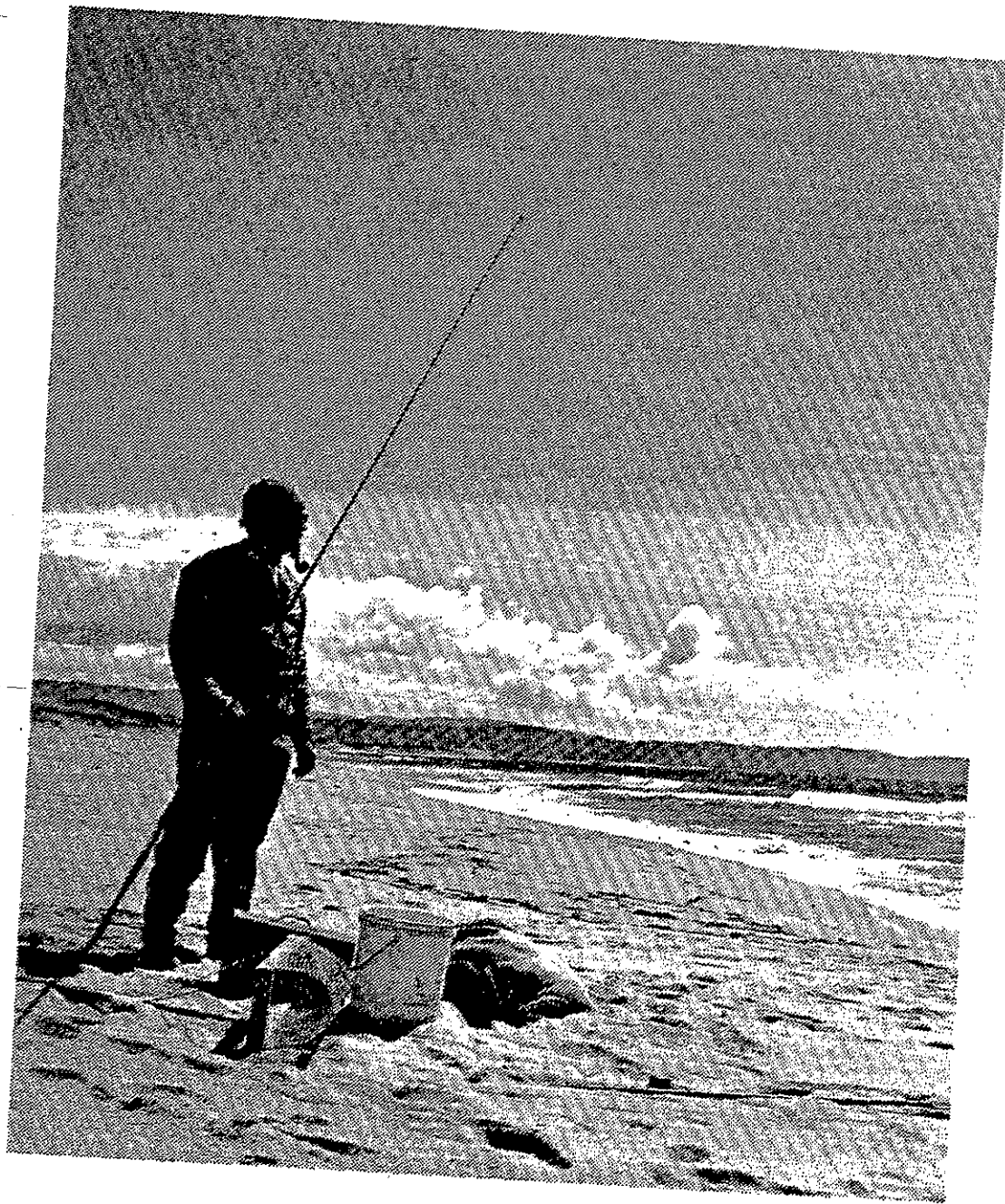
LEGEND

-  STREAM
-  BOUNDARY OF DRAINAGE AREA
-  SUB BOUNDARY OF DRAINAGE AREA
-  MILES ABOVE MOUTH OF RIVER
-  STREAM GAGE



2. RESOURCE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS





RESOURCE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Values

In late prehistoric times the Ventura coastal zone was inhabited by the Chumash Indians. This once populous people are considered to have been one of the most culturally complex groups in native California. They are noted for their ability in stone working (tools and utensils), basketry, house construction, plank canoe making, and their coastal and island commerce.

One archeological site has been found at Emma Wood State Beach. This site, 4 VEN 196, is located alongside the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way in the Clobberstone Beach area.

Historical Values

Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, in 1542, was reported to have stopped at San Buenaventura where he saw an Indian village near the sea. It is believed that this is the village he called Pueblo de Las Canoas, since these people used canoes.

Since San Buenaventura was the site of a mission, numerous other explorers, soldiers and traders passed by this locality on their way up the California coastline.

The only known historical resource existing on Emma Wood State Beach are two gun emplacements dating back to World War II. These two installations are located on the eastern or downcoast end of Emma Wood State Beach.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The recreation resources at Emma Wood are quite varied.

The 2.7 miles of ocean frontage allows the visitor an ample area for beachcombing; however, good beaches do not extend the entire distance. During high tide in the winter period, some of the upcoast beaches cannot be traversed as the waves come right up to the rip-rap or seawall.

The only swimming beach utilized at the present time is near the Pacific Coast Highway overcrossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The beach area here is not large.

An offshore reef at the swimming beach makes it one of the best beaches in the immediate vicinity for surfing. Other surfing areas are offshore from Clobberstone Beach, downcoast from the swimming beach, and at the mouth of the Ventura River. Clobberstone Beach gets its name from the rounded cobbles that tend to roll around on the rather steep sloping sand beach. In general, most of the beaches at Emma Wood are covered with rounded cobbles.

The existing camping at Emma Wood State Beach takes place along an abandoned roadway adjacent to the beach. Because of the road surface it is primarily used by recreation vehicles such as campers, trailers and motorhomes. Considering the primitive nature of these camping facilities, the heavy use of these facilities is surprising.

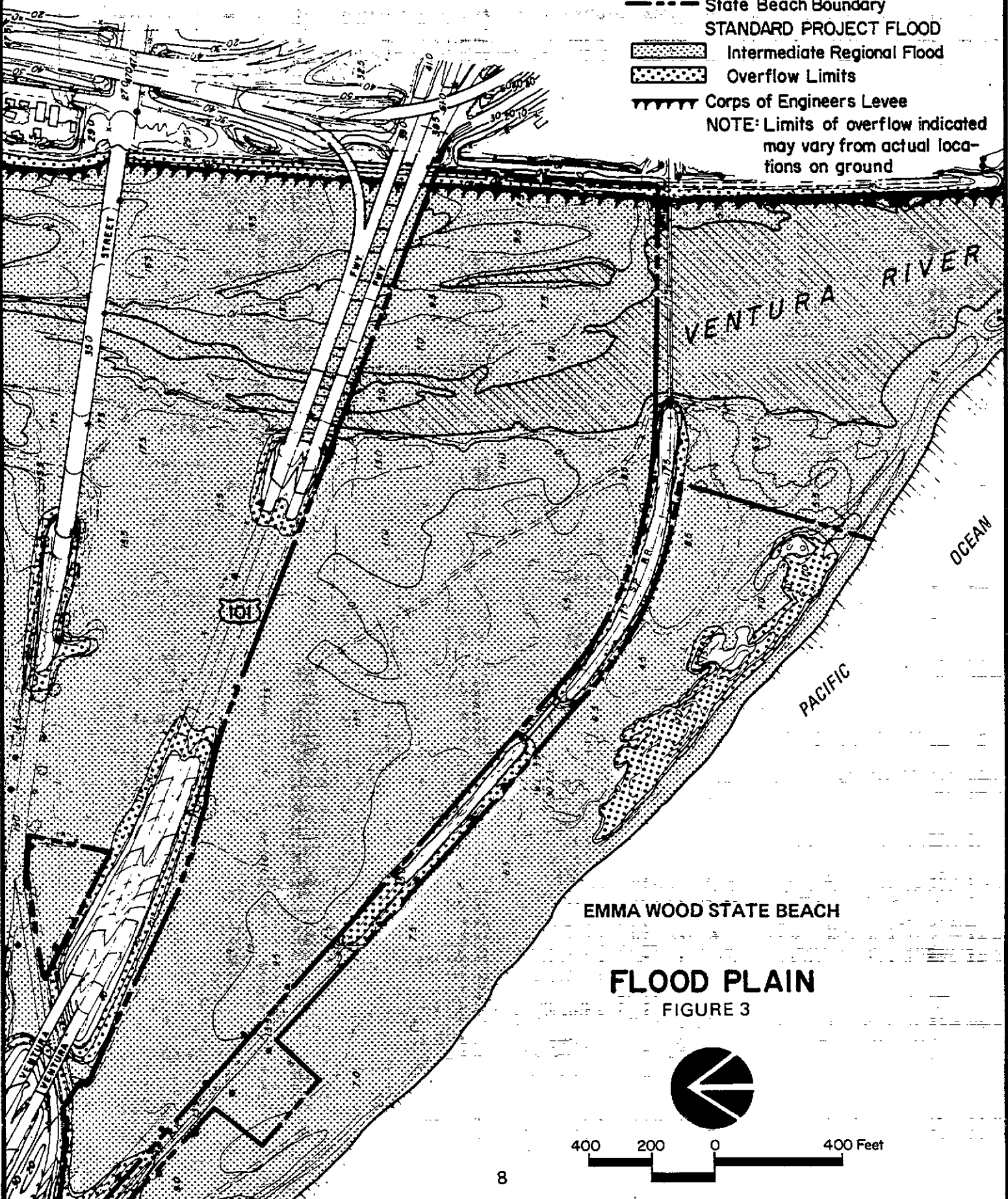
The entire oceanfront of Emma Wood State Beach offers opportunities to fish either in the surf from the sandy beaches or from the rock rip-rap or seawall. The fishing is only considered fair, but it does attract a large number of anglers due to the overnight camping facilities. Clamming for littleneck clams at low tides is also popular.

Since the mouth of the Ventura River and its associated habitat provides a good area for many bird species, it should become a popular nature study area. The river mouth estuarine area can be used to interpret for the public the animals and plants found in this coastal community. Careful consideration should be given to preserving this portion of Emma Wood State Beach. Upcoast from Clobberstone Beach, the nature study possibilities would be limited to the intertidal areas.

LEGEND

- State Beach Boundary
- STANDARD PROJECT FLOOD
- [Dotted pattern] Intermediate Regional Flood
- [Cross-hatched pattern] Overflow Limits
- [Hatched pattern] Corps of Engineers Levee

NOTE: Limits of overflow indicated may vary from actual locations on ground



EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH

FLOOD PLAIN

FIGURE 3



NATURAL RESOURCES

Emma Wood State Beach is in the Coastal Landscape Province.

Emma Wood State Beach has a shoreline of 14,440 linear feet and consists of 115 acres located immediately upcoast from the Ventura River. A 20-acre parcel of city property is located at the mouth of the Ventura River. This is the only land on the coast not in state ownership between the mouth of the Ventura River and the community of Solimar. For most of the unit, the total depth of property from the ocean inland is less than 150 feet. The Pacific Ocean is constantly battering the shoreline, and to protect this narrow strip of property together with the Old Coast Highway and the Southern Pacific Railroad, rock rip-rap or seawalls have been constructed along about 55 percent of the ocean front. At high tide, there is very little beach available in the portions protected by rock rip-rap and seawalls. This is more pronounced in the winter period when the beaches are at their minimum width.

Along the shoreline of Emma Wood State Beach, there are five oil-drilling sites, each of which is about 1-1/3 acres in size. The state has been granted use permits for the two downcoast sites.

The Ventura River is the only major water course in this area and it drains approximately 228 square miles. The last major flood in the area occurred in January, 1969. The river brings down deposits of silt, sand, gravel and rounded cobbles. These alluvial deposits build up at the mouth of the river and are then washed downcoast by the ocean's littoral drift.

A sand bar frequently forms at the mouth of the river, impounding the water in the river. This impoundment at the mouth of the Ventura River makes a very good resting and feeding area for a multitude of waterfowl and water-associated birds.

The estuarine floodplain of the Ventura River with its dense vegetative cover contrasts with the heavy residential and industrial development in this area.



Geologic and Edaphic Features

The main geological feature of the area is the alluvial floodplain of the Ventura River, with its deposits of silt, sand, gravel and cobbles. Depending on the duration and intensity of the runoff, there is either a deposition or removal of material in the river channel. Periodically, the mouth has to be dredged out for flood protection reasons.

The sand coming from the Ventura River is an important source of sand for the beaches in this region.

The river also deposits stream-rounded cobbles at the mouth of the Ventura River. Over the years the buildup of these cobbles has developed an offshore reef. This reef stimulates wave action which provides good surfing from the mouth of the river downcoast. There is another rocky reef located upcoast about 150 yards offshore from the Southern Pacific Railroad overcrossing. A small sand dune formation is located just up the coast from the mouth of the river.

There are no known earthquake faults running through the unit, but the presence of a number of faults nearby makes damage from a severe earthquake probable.

With the exception of a small area near the mouth of the Ventura River, the soil in this project area is sand. Therefore, the chief soil problems have been the protection of the shoreline from the ocean during winter storms. Soil erodibility is moderate in the floodplain area. See Figure 4 for soil characteristics.








**Figure 4
SOIL CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES**

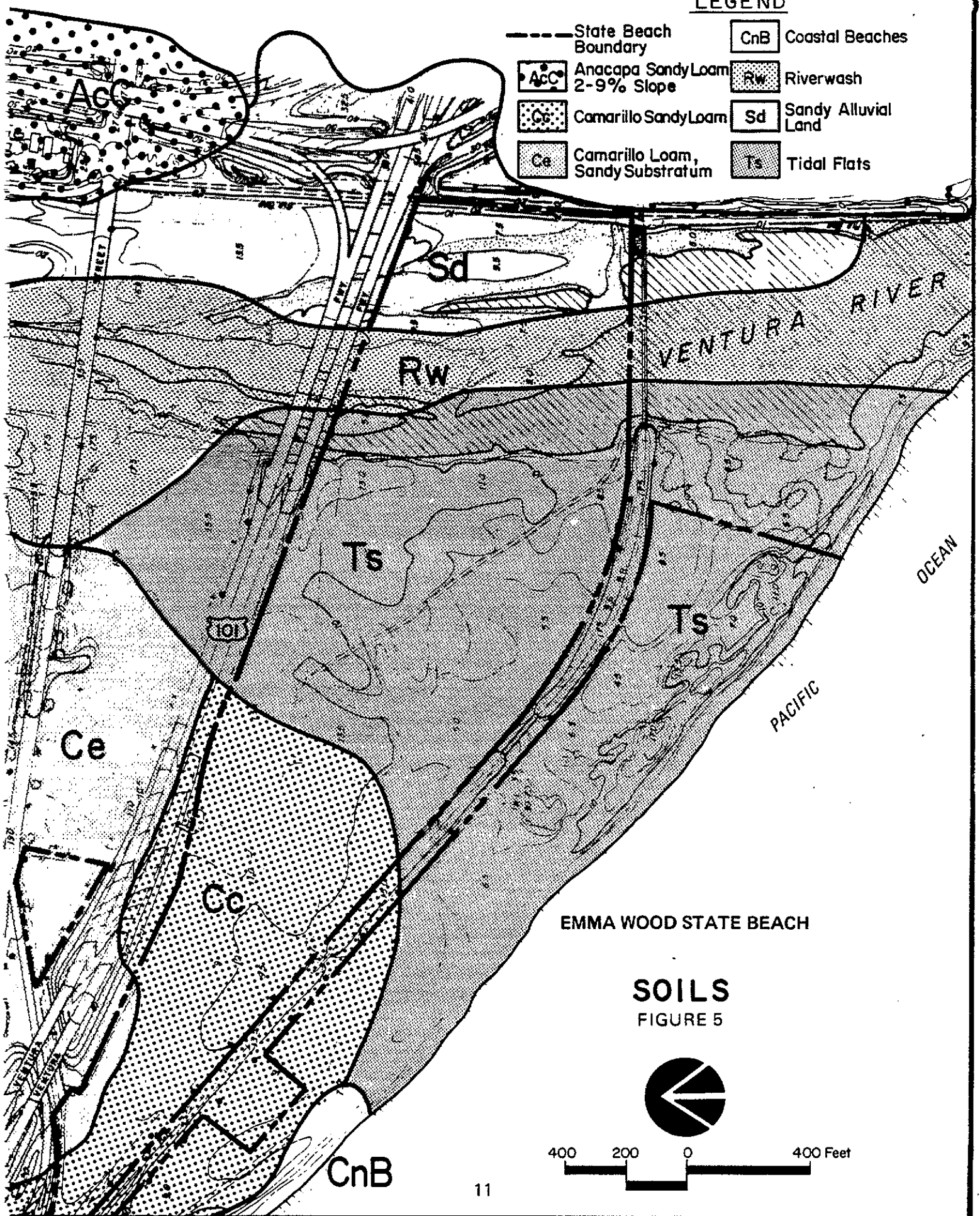
Map Symbol	Soil	Position	Natural Drainage	Subsoil Permeability	Runoff	Erosion Hazard*	Effective Depth Inches	Available Water Holding Capacity Inches for Total Profile	Inherent Fertility
Cc	Camarillo sandy loam	Level to nearly level alluvial plains	Poor	Moderate	Very slow to ponded	None	60	7.0-8.5	High
CnB	Coastal beaches	Coastal beaches	Variable	Very rapid	Slow	Very severe	60	2.0-3.0	Low
Rw	Riverwash	River and stream channels	Excessive	Very rapid	Rapid	Severe	60	2.0-3.5	Low
Ts	Tidal flats	Tidal flats	Very poor	Moderately slow	Ponded	None	**	**	Medium

* Mainly water erosion

** Variable

LEGEND

- State Beach Boundary
-  Anacapa Sandy Loam 2-9% Slope
-  Camarillo Sandy Loam
-  Camarillo Loam, Sandy Substratum
-  Coastal Beaches
-  Riverwash
-  Sandy Alluvial Land
-  Tidal Flats



EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH

SOILS
FIGURE 5



Climatic Features

The Climate of this coastal area is typical of southern California, being mild with average monthly temperatures ranging between 53°F in January to 65°F in August. Occasionally there are early morning and late evening fogs. See Figures 6 and 7.

The winter, or cool, wet season, extends from October through March and the rest of the year is usually rain free and comparatively warm.

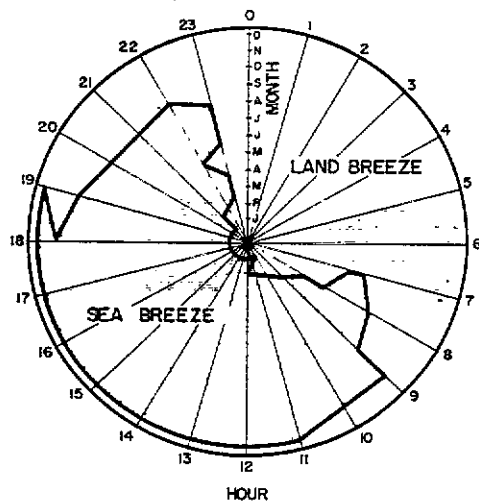
The mean annual rainfall in Ventura is 15.42 inches.

FIGURE 6
MONTHLY NORMAL AIR TEMPERATURES (°F) AT
SELECTED STATIONS (30 YEAR AVERAGES)

VENTURA

January	53.3
February	53.9
March	55.2
April	57.2
May	59.4
June	61.5
July	64.8
August	65.2
September	64.5
October	62.2
November	58.6
December	55.2
Annual	59.3

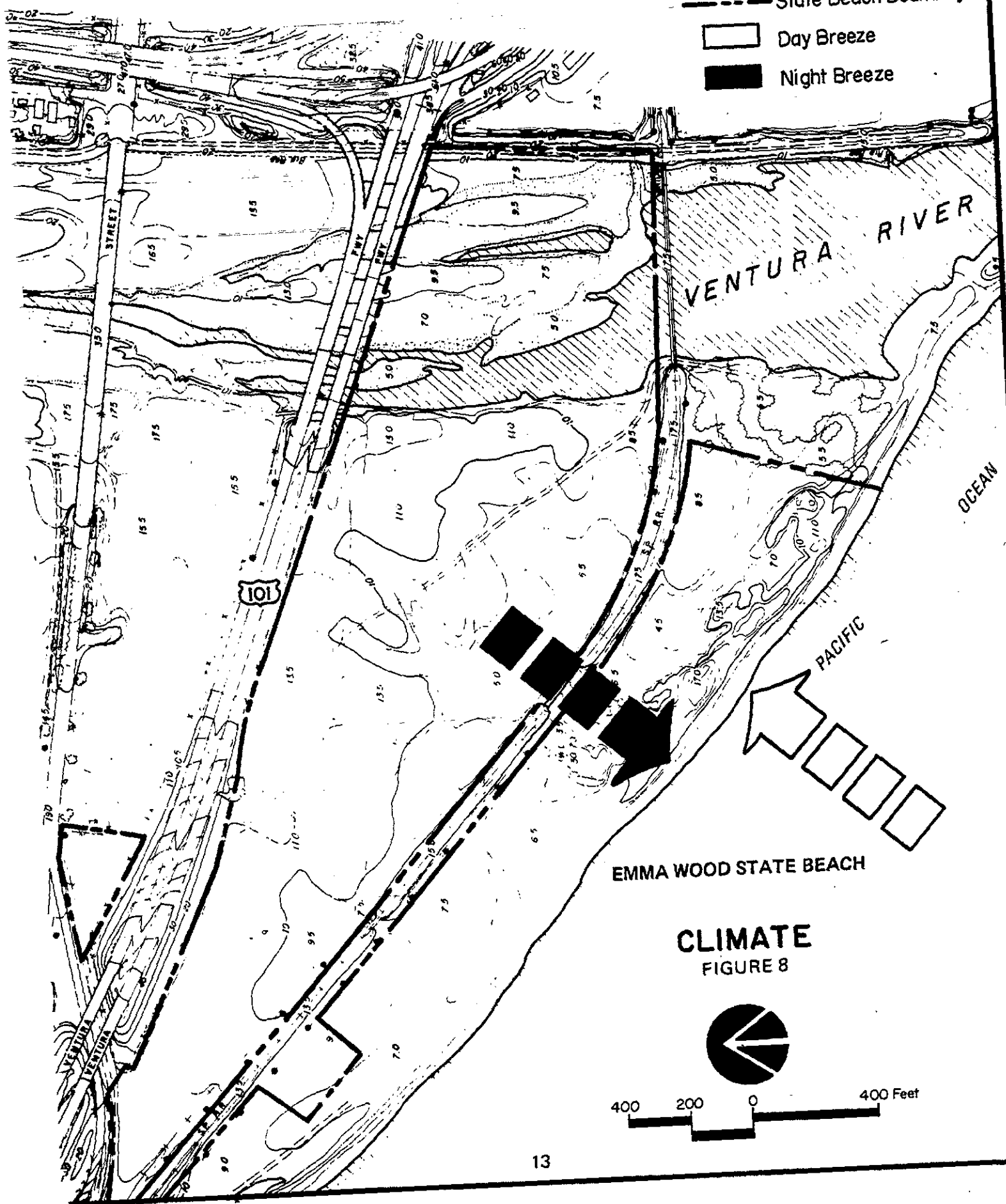
FIGURE 7



TIME OF MONTHLY ONSET OF LAND AND SEA BREEZE

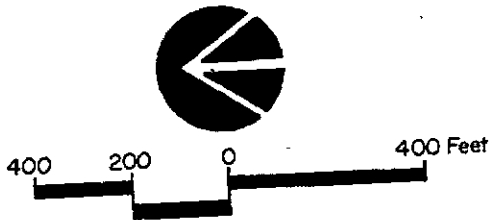
LEGEND

- State Beach Boundary
- Day Breeze
- Night Breeze





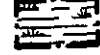



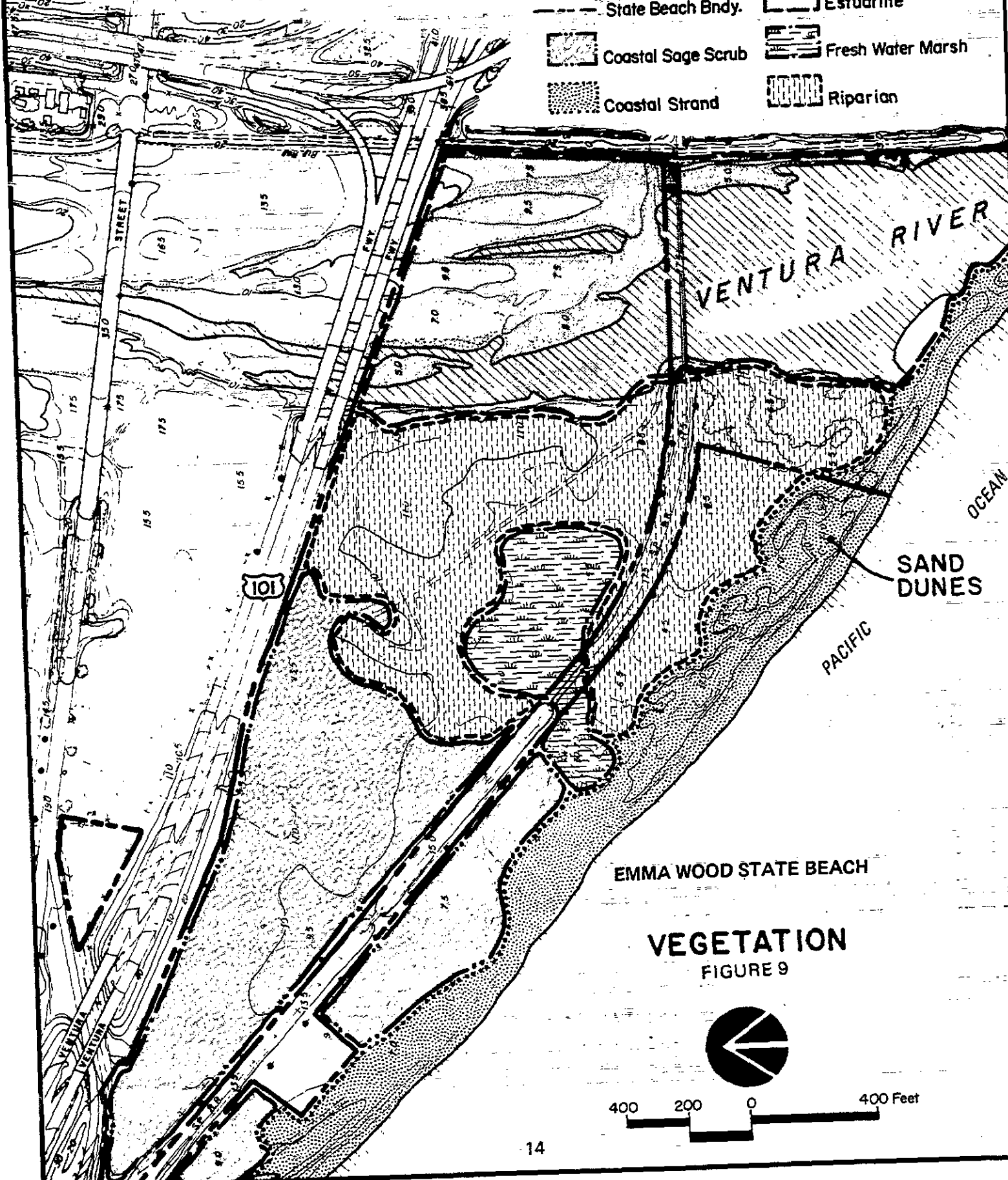
EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH

CLIMATE
FIGURE 8



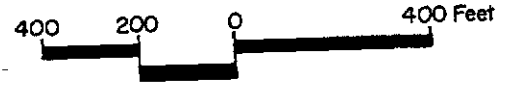
LEGEND

-  State Beach Bndy.
-  Coastal Sage Scrub
-  Coastal Strand
-  Estuarine
-  Fresh Water Marsh
-  Riparian



EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH

VEGETATION
FIGURE 9



Vegetation

A number of different plant communities are present in the relatively small area of Emma Wood State Beach. This is partly due to the Ventura River which acts as a reservoir and transporter of plant species from its watershed upstream.

The plant communities found at Emma Wood State Beach include:

Kelp beds: Kelp beds are relatively small in the vicinity of Emma Wood State Beach, since they require rocky outcroppings on the ocean floor for attachment. There is reported to be about 120 acres of kelp in Kelp Bed No. 18 (so designated by the Department of Fish and Game), which is located in the area from the Ventura River to Pitas Point. The most common species present is the giant bladder kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*.

Coastal Strand: The coastal strand community, limited to an area just upcoast from the mouth of the Ventura River, is characteristically devoid of almost all plant life because the soil is loose sand. A few grasses and scattered plants may be found.

Coastal Sand Dunes: The only sand dunes in this area are located just upcoast from the mouth of the Ventura River, inland from the coastal strand. A common plant in this community is the little ice plant, *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*.

Coastal Sage Scrub: The coastal sage scrub plant community is found in that portion of the floodplain of the Ventura River that seldom gets inundated and along the fringe areas of the hillsides next to the boundary of the unit. Dominant plants include: black sage, *Salvia mellifera*; Coyote bush, *Baccharis pillularis*; and salt bush, *Atriplex lentiformis*.

Salt Water Marsh: There are several small areas of salt water marsh vegetation in the floodplain of the Ventura River. These are low places that have soils with a high salt content. When these locations get wet, even from rainwater runoff, the high salt content of the soils permits only salt-tolerant plants to grow. Dominant species here are: pickle weed, *Salicornia pacifica*; and salt grass, *Distichlis spicata*.

Fresh Water Marsh: There is one small area of fresh water marsh vegetation just seaward of the Southern Pacific Railroad near the road that crosses under the tracks from the pipeyard. The dominant species here are: cattail, *Typha latifolia*; and sedge, *Carex sp.*

Riparian: The vegetation along the banks of the Ventura River represents the riparian community. Dominant plants are: the black willow, *Salix laevigata*; seep willow, *Baccharis glutinosa*; and tree tobacco, *Nicotinia glauca*.

No rare or endangered plants have been identified at Emma Wood State Beach.

Wildlife

The faunal resources at Emma Wood State Beach are quite diversified at the downcoast end, since this portion has a variety of vegetative habitats. The narrow upcoast end lacks the varied habitats, and so the number of species present is limited.

Oceanic mammals are present in offshore waters, but the California sea lions are the only ones generally seen from shore.

The most common fish taken while shore fishing is the barred surf perch where the ocean bottom is sandy and cabezon where the bottom is rocky. There are usually three or four runs of grunion along the sandy beaches of Emma Wood each year.

Littleneck clams are found in the rocky cobble areas near the mouth of the Ventura River and small numbers of Pismo clams are found in the sandy beach areas.

The most common animals found along the shore are the numerous shore birds and water-associated birds. During the winter period, the migratory species are found in large flocks feeding along the beaches and around the mouth of the Ventura River. Common species include: the long-billed curlew, semi-palmated plover, American golden plover, blackbellied plover, whimbrel, sanderling, Western sandpiper, least sandpiper, California gull, ring-billed gull, Western gull, Heermans gull, avocet, black-necked stilt, and surf scoter.

Typical land mammals include the broad-handed mole, a number of different bat species, black-tailed hare, brush rabbit, beechy ground squirrel, California mouse, black rat, house mouse, gray fox, raccoon, long-tailed weasel, and striped skunk. Amphibians include such animals as the California toad and the Pacific tree frog. Reptiles include the Great Basin fence lizard, California alligator lizard, San Diego gopher snake, and the California king snake.

No rare or endangered animals are resident within the area. The brown pelican that nests on Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands are quite often seen flying up or down the coastline.

Scenic Resources

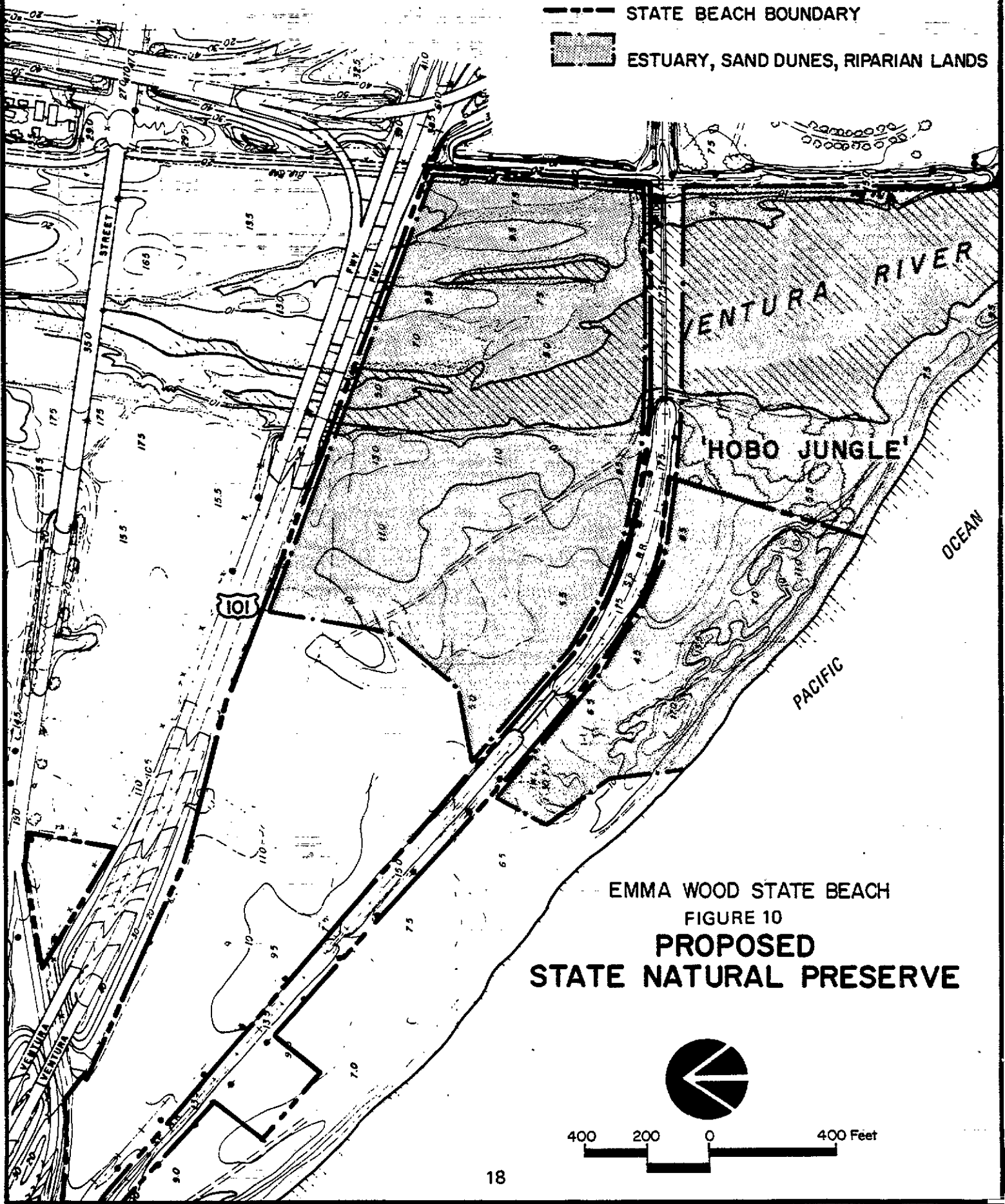
The scenic resources along this stretch of the Ventura Coast have been impaired and compromised by the freeway and, to a lesser degree, by the railroad right-of-way.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



LEGEND

- STATE BEACH BOUNDARY
- ▨ ESTUARY, SAND DUNES, RIPARIAN LANDS



EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH
FIGURE 10
**PROPOSED
STATE NATURAL PRESERVE**



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

Emma Wood State Beach consists of 115 acres of coastline property extending upcoast from the mouth of the Ventura River in Ventura County and embracing 14,400 linear feet of ocean frontage. The unit is restricted generally to the area between the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way and the ocean. Initial acquisition occurred in 1957, and the unit was classified and named "Emma Wood State Beach" by the State Park Commission on June 21, 1962.

The objective in acquiring the unit was to provide public ownership of and access to the ocean shoreline so that people could make use of the recreation opportunities that existed along the ocean shore upcoast from the mouth of the Ventura River.

Emma Wood State Beach is in the Coastal Landscape Province. The mouth of the Ventura River, in pristine times, was fan-shaped and the actual flow of water in flood stages would take the course of least resistance. Due to the development of the railroad (with its raised rock-protected bed), of the roads and freeway, and of levees, the Ventura River mouth location has been restricted to only a portion of its former broad zone. This restriction, plus the upstream control of some of the water flow and movements of sand and gravel, has allowed some of the vegetative types to become more permanently established. The Resource Inventory Report on Emma Wood State Beach contains more detail on the resources of the unit.

The primary values of the area are the relatively natural shoreline, the sand dunes and the vegetation that grows there, and the various habitats that occur in the vicinity of the Ventura River, which include saltwater marsh, freshwater marsh, riparian and coastal sage scrub communities.

Use concepts should emphasize visitor use of the shoreline, the sandy beach, and the ocean for recreation purposes, which may include such activities as beachcombing, sun-bathing, picnicking, swimming, surfing, clamming, fishing, grunion catching, sightseeing, nature study, and photography. The important natural habitats will need to be restricted in use to nature study, sightseeing, photography, or other passive activities, and access through these areas should be limited to planned and defined trails. The restricted use of the natural areas will result in a better environment for migratory and resident birds and other animals. Development of facilities should be restricted to areas already highly modified by past human activities, where natural values will not be affected. *Resource protection of the shoreline should be a continuing process to keep the present beach from further depletion.*

The Department of Parks and Recreation should work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the State Department of Navigation and Ocean Development to accomplish this goal. The mouth of the Ventura River should be monitored and kept in as natural condition as possible, while, at the same time, the necessary work should be done on the channel to keep water from backing up and causing flooding within the City of Ventura. When acquisitions in and adjacent to the Ventura River are completed, consideration should be given to requesting the State Park and Recreation Commission to classify this riparian and floodplain land as a Natural Preserve.

Declaration of Purpose

The primary purpose of Emma Wood State Beach is to make the ocean shoreline available for the public recreation uses that the ocean and its beaches can provide. Developments, operational activities, and management programs should be directed to enhancing the ocean-oriented recreation resources for their optimum use and enjoyment by people.

Of primary importance also, is the preservation in a natural state of the mouth of the Ventura River and of the small habitat types that exist adjacent to the river. This area has great significance as a place for people to enjoy the observation of migratory shore birds and waterfowl as well as the resident birds and animals. The whole area provides an interesting and productive plant and animal community, and should be managed as a Natural Preserve.

The one known archeological site, and any others which may be discovered on the property, should be given adequate protection and professional study to prevent loss of value and to permit the effective interpretation of those values to the public.

The area within the State Beach that has been filled and greatly modified by man may be used for developments designed to enhance the public enjoyment of the recreation and natural values.

Declaration of Resource Management Policy

Emma Wood State Beach can be developed for overnight and day uses, with these use activities emphasizing the enjoyment of the ocean shore. Intensive developments should be confined to the highly man-modified uplands which are adjacent to the shoreline. Only those areas that have lost their identity as natural areas should be considered for intensive development. The areas which embrace natural features, natural vegetative types, and wildlife habitats should be protected and managed for passive and non-destructive human uses; these areas of special natural or ecological significance should be delineated and protected, and their values interpreted for public enjoyment.

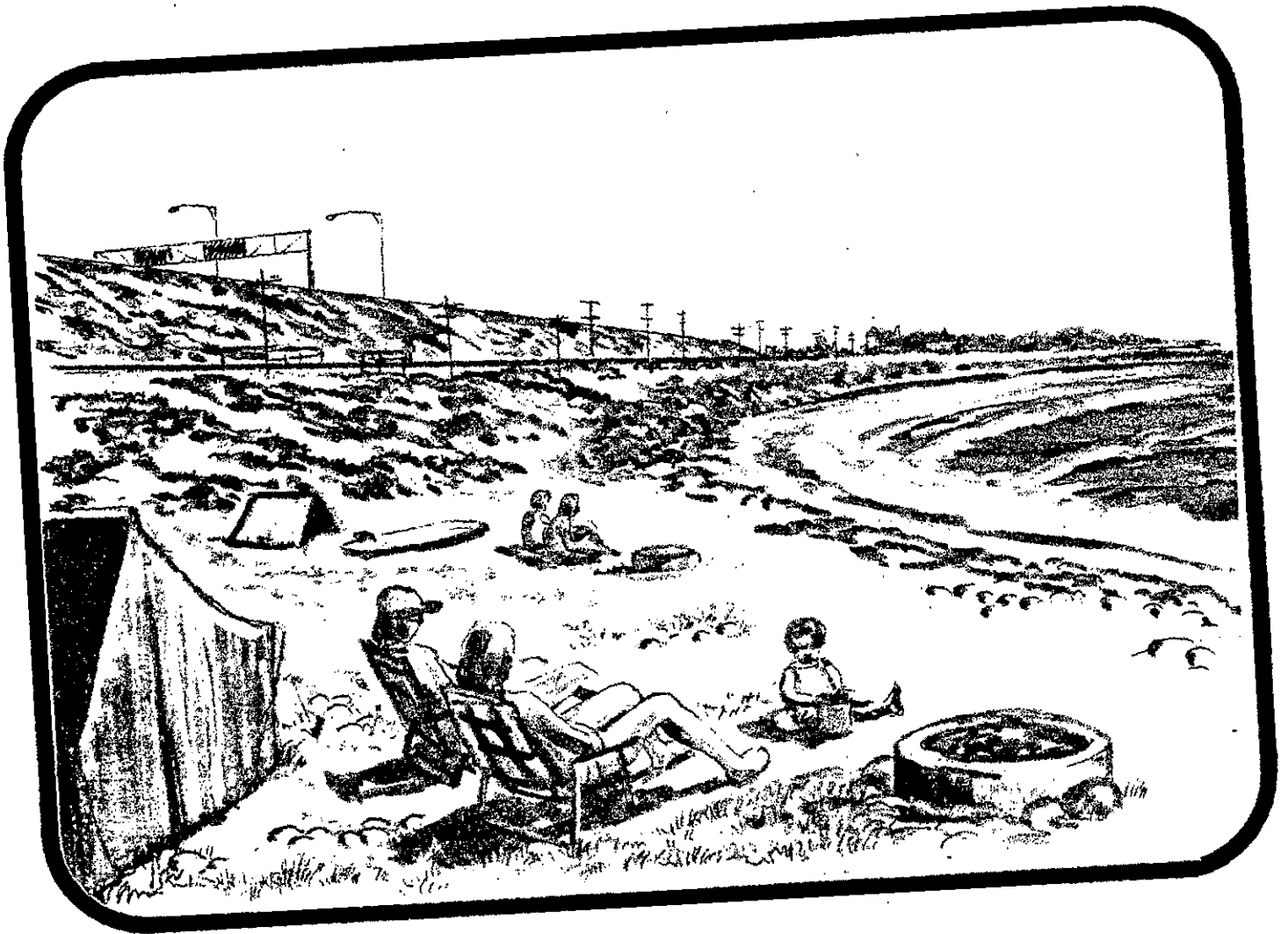
The archeological site, together with any other archeological sites or resources which may be discovered, will be given the necessary investigation and protection to prevent loss of values. The archeological values will be interpreted for public enjoyment.

All activities at Emma Wood State Beach will be carried out within the guidelines established by the Resource Management Directives of the Department.

Land Use Plan

The proposed land use plan indicates the Department of Parks and Recreation planning projections for land use, in keeping with the existing character and anticipating ultimate development potential.

4. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The General Development Plan indicates the extent and type of facilities being planned at Emma Wood State Beach. However, the plan does not show some of the technical problems such as shoreline rehabilitation and protection measures which must be considered in cooperation with federal agencies and local planning groups. The consideration of a "parkway" development will include other State agencies (Department of Transportation) and the County of Ventura. The elements contained in the General Development Plan are broad objectives that are dependent on parallel objectives of other governmental agencies.

This park unit is segmented by certain physical barriers. For ease of presentation reference will be made in the text to three distinct areas: (a) the Rincon Parkway and day use area, (b) the overnight camping area, and (c) the old pipeyard area and wetlands. In the discussion that follows, proposed developments for each area will be described.

The Rincon Parkway and Day Use Area

The Rincon Parkway and Day Use area begins at the downcoast edge of the community of Solimar and continues to the Solimar Railroad undercrossing, a distance of approximately 1.7 miles.

The parkway proposal consists of using and modifying the Old Coast Highway to create an initial segment of a scenic drive which will eventually extend upcoast to Rincon Point.

The existing seawall will be improved and day use facilities are planned for the area. Day use facilities will include parking, picnic sites, beach access ramps, and sanitary facilities. A 12-foot-wide lane of existing Old Coast Highway will be used as a continuation of the CALTRANS bikeway.

The parkway and day use facilities will be designed to provide free access to the traveler who wishes either to take a scenic drive off the freeway or to stop and use the area for fishing, beachcombing or other day use activities.

The Overnight Camping Area

The existing overnight camping area will be upgraded. This will include identification of campsites, improvement of sanitary, water and service facilities, improvement of the roadway and construction of a contact station.

The Old Pipeyard and Wetlands Area

The proposal for the old pipeyard and wetlands area near the mouth of the Ventura River includes development of a group camping area, a bike/hike-in camp, picnic sites, sanitation facilities, and provisions for beach day use.

The wetlands have significant natural values and offer opportunities for the development of interpretive and educational programs. The wetlands have potential for State Natural Preserve designation. The Resource Analysis section of this report identifies the significant natural values of this area.



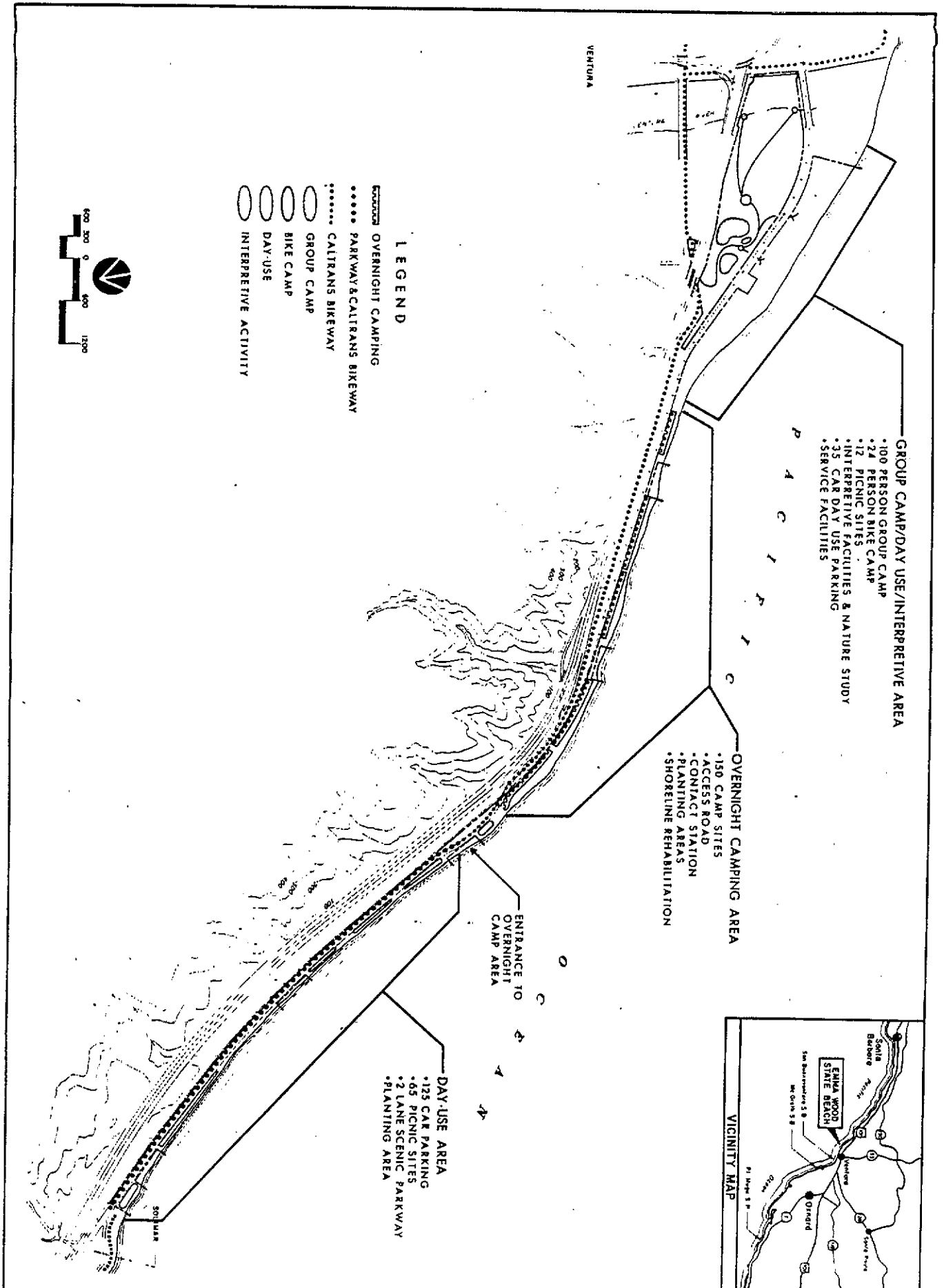
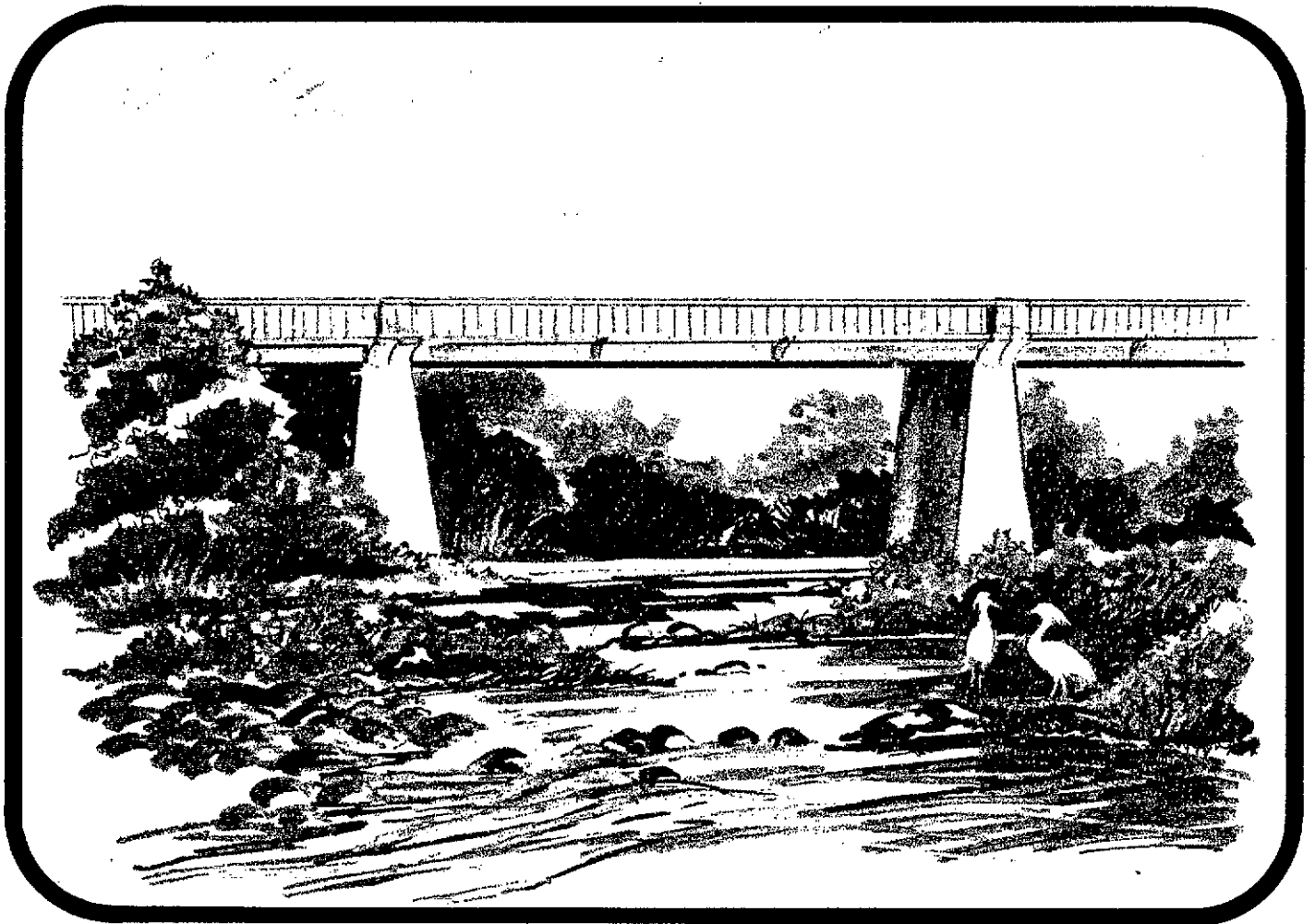


FIGURE 12

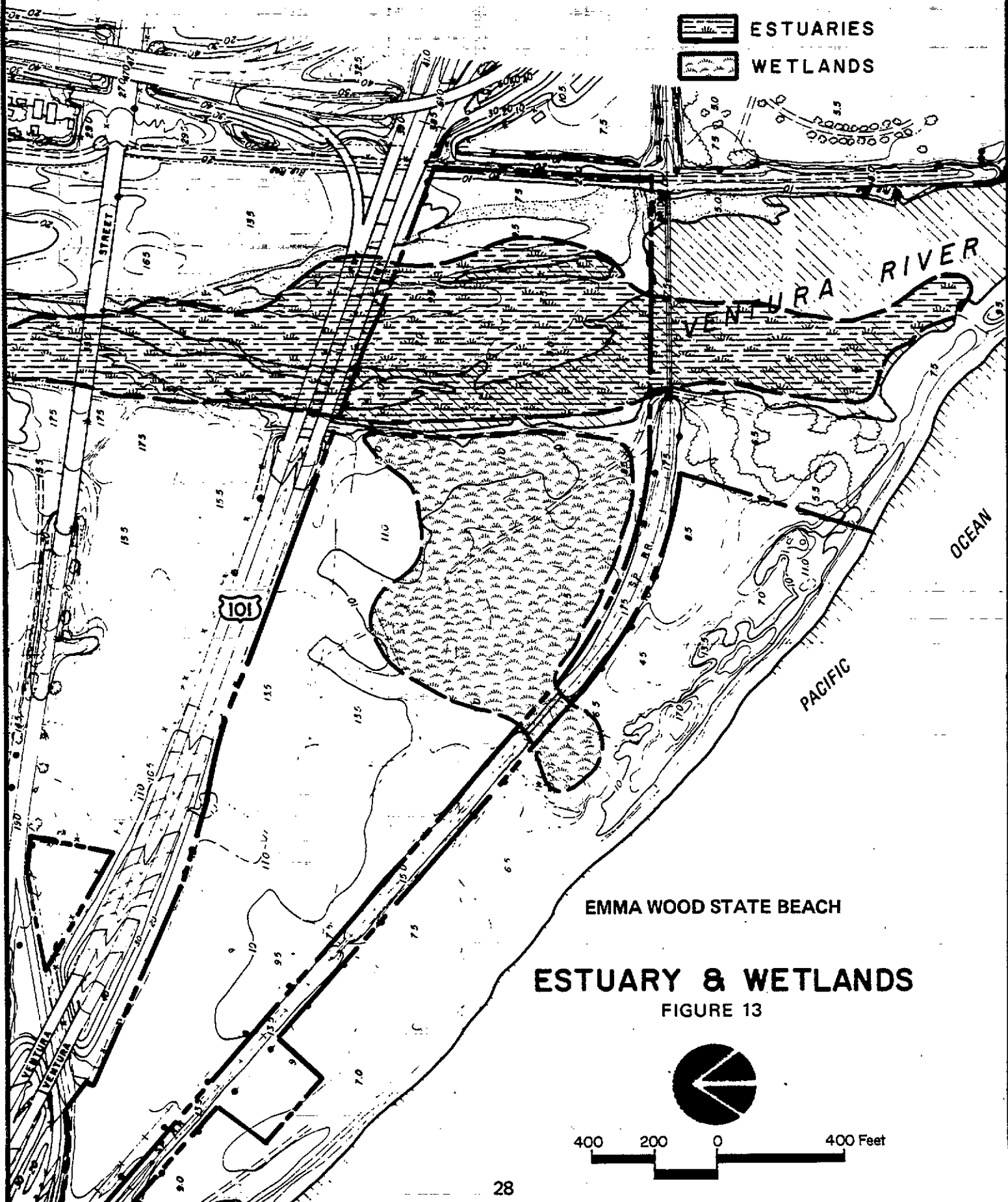
DRAWING NO. 15021	SHEET NO. 2	EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH <small>FIGURE 11</small> LAND USE PLAN	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		REVISIONS	DATE	DRAWN DATE
			APPROVED	DATE	CHECKED HUNTER	HUNTER	

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

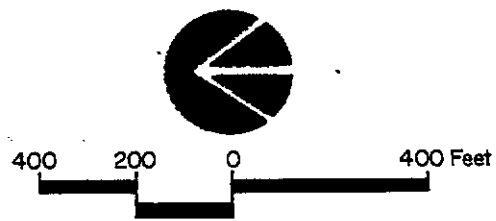


LEGEND

-  ESTUARIES
-  WETLANDS



EMMA WOOD STATE BEACH
ESTUARY & WETLANDS
FIGURE 13



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Description and Proposed Action

Emma Wood State Beach is a narrow strip of land along the Ventura County coast, which extends 14,400 linear feet from the mouth of the Ventura River to the community of Solimar. This land area lies along the ocean side of the Southern Pacific Railroad and Highway 101.

Emma Wood State Beach is a popular camping and fishing area and the existing facilities are heavily used.

In order to increase the quality of this land for recreation purposes, and to ensure continued access to the ocean by the general public, it is proposed that day use facilities overnight family campsites, a group camping area, a bike camp, a parkway, and interpretive facilities be developed. It has been projected that due to the proximity of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the recreation demand along the Ventura Coast will increase.

The proposed development would occur in three areas: (1) At the mouth of the Ventura River (a group camp facility for 100 persons, bicycle camp for 24 persons, day use parking for 35 vehicles, and interpretive facilities); (2) further upcoast, at the existing overnight camp area (shoreline protection and rehabilitation, enhancement of the area to create 150 overnight camp sites and sanitary facilities); (3) from the Solimar on-ramp to the community of Solimar (development of a parkway with parallel day use parking, a bicycle trail and picnic facilities).

Adverse Environmental Effects that Cannot be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented

An introduction of people to the wetland area at the mouth of the Ventura River will have an impact on the resources in this area.

The existing erosion problems in the overnight camping area will be somewhat accelerated by an anticipated increase in pedestrian traffic.

There are no identifiable adverse impacts on other areas of the Emma Wood State Beach property with the exception of some visual impact created by increased day use parking along the seawall and the Old Coast Highway.

Mitigating Measures Proposed to Minimize the Impact

Activities in areas of the Ventura River floodplain will be controlled to ensure protection of important environmental features. These control measures will include an interpretive program emphasizing the importance of resource management.

There will be delineation of trails and controlled circulation of vehicles in sensitive areas.

Visual impacts that may be identified in the day use area are mitigated through the proposal for the development of a parkway and a buffer zone, including plant materials, trees, shrubs, etc.

It is proposed that the possible increased erosion of the beach area be mitigated through cooperative efforts by the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to develop and implement a shore protection program.

Concentrating the activities and facilities within specific areas will lessen the human impact on other areas within this unit. However, it is anticipated that continued expansion of recreation facilities will be necessary to absorb the increased demand on the Ventura coastal environment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

The alternative of undertaking no development would not deter the increasing use of the coastline, nor would it address the public need for an expanded and improved quality of recreation experience. In light of the existing heavy use, this alternative would seem inadvisable.

The proposed development provides a balance between the provision of recreation opportunities and preservation of resources.

Relationship between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity of the Environment

The proposed project is designed to improve the quality of the existing recreation facilities and to enhance the natural environment, including wildlife resources. Therefore, the project, if implemented, will be beneficial with respect to both the short-term use and long-term productivity of the area.

Any Irreversible Environmental Changes as a Result of the Proposed Project

No significant irreversible changes are foreseen.

Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Project

Growth in this area is restricted by the character of the land, accessibility, and Ventura County zoning practices. It is unlikely that commercial or residential development will increase as a result of the proposed project.

Organizations Consulted in Preparing the Environmental Impact Report

Department of Fish and Game
Department of Conservation
City of Ventura
County of Ventura
United States Corps of Engineers
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Friends of the Ventura River