

UNIT 535

POINT SAL STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

July 1979

Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System General Plan

POINT SAL

Department of parks & recreation

California State Resources Agency

P.O. Box 2390 • Sacramento 95811

PRELIMINARY MAY 1979



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- o The Word Processing Center
- o The many citizens who have helped shape this plan through participation in plan workshops and meetings
- o Individuals with federal, state, county, and local public agencies who have cooperated in the development of this plan



Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System General Plan

VOLUME 2

preliminary

GENERAL PLAN

POINT SAL

STATE BEACH

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

MAY 1979



This is the second 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 |

Point Sal State Beach -- Volume 2

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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

POINT SAL STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

There are no corrections or additions.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE
SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA COASTAL AREA GENERAL PLAN
AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Point Sal State Beach (Volume 2)

② A California least tern nesting site is known to exist within the proposed land acquisition near the mouth of the Santa Maria River. The Department certainly favors this acquisition and requests that the protection and management of the area be coordinated through our Long Beach office.

② Staff of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is aware of the least tern nesting site at the mouth of the Santa Maria River. Should acquisition be proposed, and prior to any acquisition of this area, a full inventory and evaluation of the site will be made. These efforts will be coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game as well as other informed sources.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

⑨ The California Department of Parks and Recreation is aware of the evacuation agreements and the necessity for such agreements. If and when acquisition of additional land is proposed at Point Sal State Beach, an Inventory of Features will be completed and allowable use intensities will be determined for those lands.

All land use determinations are based on relevant influencing factors, such as current land use, existing floristic and faunistic resources, cultural resources, existing easements and rights of way, types of landscape, etc. Since the evacuation agreement is a very important arrangement, your comments and suggestions will weigh heavily when land use determinations are evaluated.

For the purposes of this long-range General Plan, the campground in question will not be deleted from the final General Plan.

POINT SAL STATE BEACH
GENERAL DATA

Location: Point Sal is located on the west coast of Santa Barbara County at the upcoast end of Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Size: The beach site is about 19.8 hectares (49 acres) with 1,460 meters (4,800 linear feet) of ocean frontage.

Facilities: There are no facilities or utilities provided.

Attendance: No data available due to nonstaffing of the site.

Vegetation: The steep bluff which borders the inland boundary of the state beach is vegetated with typical coastal sage scrub species. Giant coreopsis (Coreopsis gigantea) is abundant in the area and is dominant in the beautiful flowering display in the spring. Prime examples of coastal sage and chaparral communities occur on the steep slopes above the beach property. No rare or endangered species are known to occur on the property; however, several are known in the region.

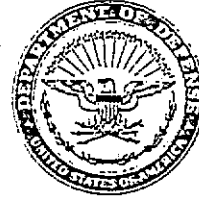
Wildlife: Species common to the coastal scrub and intertidal zone. No rare or endangered wildlife are known to be in the park; however, the endangered brown pelican feeds in the offshore waters.

Outstanding Natural Features: The scenic resources of the greater Point Sal area are of outstanding quality. Views of the coastline, wide beach, and rugged mountainous slopes from various vantage points outside the state beach are exceptional. The area is also zoologically significant. This significance is attributable to the relatively undisturbed condition of the site. Lion Rock, located offshore, is an important bird-roosting site and is also used by marine mammals.

Historical Background:

Point Sal State Beach was acquired from the Regents of the University of California in 1948. Although under state ownership, it has been periodically operated by the County of Santa Barbara. Because of the lack of land and the fragile and isolated nature of this unit, no facilities have been developed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 4392D AEROSPACE SUPPORT GROUP (SAC)
VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 93437



23 MAY 1979

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

Dear Mr Doyle

This office has reviewed the "Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Coastal Area", April 1979.

The only state park of direct interest to Vandenberg Air Force Base is at Point Sal, which lies just north of the Base boundary. We agree with the operational concept as planned for the existing park, which envisions low density recreational use and protection of existing wild and open character of the area i.e., essentially no development.

The land area proposed for future acquisition and development at Pt Sal contains over 3600 acres of private land for which the Air Force has evacuation agreements with the owners. This land area is described as all the private lands in the recommended state expansion area which lie south of a line running east from Mussel Point to an intersection with Brown Road. This area contains most of the proposed improvements including the campground. (50 camp sites)

The purpose of the evacuation agreements is to protect people from missile launch hazards. Our evacuation rights have been used infrequently in the past, are effective for periods of five years and may or may not be required at such time as the State expands Pt Sal State Beach. Due to the possible requirement to evacuate the proposed campground, we discourage the development of a campground inside the area now covered by evacuation agreements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary General Plan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Earl L. Krueger".

EARL L. KRUEGER, Colonel, USAF
Base Civil Engineer

Resource Element

RESOURCE ELEMENT

This section 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.

Unit Identification and Classification

Point Sal State Beach is located in the remote northwestern part of Santa Barbara County, about 8 kilometers (5 miles) southwest of the City of Guadalupe. Roadway access to the unit is from State Highway 1 to Brown Road, then to Point Sal Road, which winds over Point Sal Ridge to a dirt parking area located on adjacent private land. Total roadway distance from Highway 1 is about 14.5 kilometers (9 miles), much of which is not paved. Point Sal Road passes through Vandenberg Air Force Base, and is temporarily closed during certain missile launching activities.

Point Sal State Beach consists of about 19.8 hectares (49 acres), and includes 1,463 meters (4,800 feet) of ocean frontage, of which 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) is sandy beach and the remainder rocky shoreline. All lands in the unit above the beach and rocky shoreline have extremely steep slopes. Numerous landslides are evident. No recreation facilities or improvements have been provided in the unit.

All lands included in Point Sal State Beach were deeded from the Regents of the University of California in July 1948. The unit was classified on June 21, 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 defines these units as follows:

5019.56 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

The resources of Point Sal State Beach are limited, due to the small size of the property, its steep terrain, and the unstable nature of the land. The principal resource is the slightly crescent-shaped sandy beach. The beach is gently to moderately sloped, and from 75 to 100 meters (250 to 350 feet) wide in the summer. This portion of the shoreline is protected from sea and swell waves from the northwest by Point Sal Ridge, which juts westward from the upcoast border of the unit.

Point Sal 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 is a summary of resource information contained in the Inventory of Features prepared for Point Sal State Beach.

Scenic Values

The scenic values of the greater Point Sal area are outstanding. However, on-site values at the state beach property are limited to the beach and shoreline. Spectacular distant views of both the Guadalupe Dunes-Pismo area and the southern coastline are afforded from Point Sal Road as it winds along the top of the Casmalia Hills, leading to the state beach. An outstanding view is available of the ocean, Point Sal Ridge, Point Sal, and the rocky coastline where Point Sal Road tops the ridgecrest. Another exceptional vantage point is from the top of the bluff or headlands just south of the state beach boundary. From this location, the south-facing slope of Point Sal Ridge can be viewed fully. No roads, trails, or power poles are present on this side of the ridge.

Gully erosion and landslides are very apparent on the lower hillside slopes in the region. Extensive erosion is visible around the two off-site parking areas and the old trails and road immediately above the beach.

Climate

The climate of the Point Sal area is typical of coastal Southern California, with partly cloudy, cool summers and mostly fair, mild winters. Average daily high temperatures from October to May, range between 15^o Celsius(C) or 60^o Fahrenheit(F) and 20.5^oC (69^oF). Daily highs during the summer, June to September, average 18.5^oC (65^oF) to 21.5^oC (71^oF). Average daily low temperatures range from 8.5^oC (47^oF) to 12^oC (54^oF) in winter and 10.5^oC (51^oF) to 13^oC (55^oF) in summer.

Annual precipitation in the area is about 30 centimeters (12 inches). About 99 percent of this precipitation occurs as rainfall from October to May.



Much of the land adjacent to the state beach is severely eroded.

Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

The Point Sal area lies in the Coast Ranges geomorphic province, and near the border of the Transverse Range province (which is along the Santa Ynez River Valley). Point Sal Ridge, which borders the state beach, is part of the Casmalia Hills, which form a low, mountainous barrier between the Santa Maria Valley to the north and east, and the San Antonio Valley to the south.

Terrain north of the main drainage cutting through the state beach consists of undifferentiated rocks of the Franciscan Formation (see Geology Map). This basement material outcrops along the entire southern slope of Point Sal Ridge, and consists chiefly of altered basalt, gabbro that is generally greatly altered, and minor areas of peridotite and serpentine. South of the main drainage, younger marine and nonmarine sedimentary rocks overlie the igneous basement material. The Point Sal Formation, which consists of mudstone, siltstone, and thin-bedded sandstone, lies at the surface on the higher slopes above the state beach property. The bluff area on the state beach, and the adjacent steep slopes, up to an elevation of about 120 meters (400 feet), have experienced extensive landslide and earthflow activity in recent times, and are highly unstable.

Point Sal State Beach is included in the greater Point Sal area, which is one of the most significant geologic areas in the South Coast Ranges.

New data are being developed by the U.S. Geological Survey regarding fault activity along the coast north of Point Arguello. The nearest fault known to be recently active (with movement in the last 200 years) is the San Andreas, which extends nearly the entire length of California. The San Andreas is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Point Sal at its closest point, on the eastern edge of the Carrizo Plains. The Hosgri fault, which

may be an offshore equivalent of the San Andreas, extends from just north of Point Arguello to at least the Monterey area. This fault zone is located less than 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) offshore. Other nearby faults which may be partially active include the Santa Ynez fault, located about 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the south of Point Sal at Gaviota, and the Rinconada fault, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the north.

As in the past, strong groundshaking could occur in the Point Sal area as a result of earthquakes generated by the San Andreas or other faults in the region. The unstable slopes above the beach area may be prone to failure (landsliding) during such events.

Soils in the area are very poorly developed. The northern half of the unit and the adjacent uplands area are overlain by a soil type described as rough broken land (see Soils Map). This soil type is characterized by steep to extremely steep slopes, shallow soil material over sandstone, or semiconsolidated gravelly sediments. Surface runoff is very rapid, and the erosion hazard is very severe.



Giant coreopsis grows on the slopes above the beach.

Biotic Features

Terrestrial Flora. The vegetative composition of Point Sal State Beach and vicinity is primarily coastal strand, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral communities (see Vegetation Map). Steep slopes and shallow soils have limited the development of other communities.

No rare or endangered plant species have been collected on the state beach, or in the immediate vicinity. However, two species listed in 1974 by the California Native Plant Society as rare or endangered, namely Hoffman sanicle (Sanicula hoffmanni) and short-leaved dudleya (Dudleya blochmanae brevifolia), have been reported within one mile of the property. Due to their habitat requirements and closeness, one or both of these species may occur in the unit. Other rare or endangered species occur in the general region.

Because of its outstanding scenic and natural character, the greater Point Sal area is included in the San Luis Obispo State Seashore, and is listed as eligible for registration in the National Natural Landmarks program. The purpose of the landmarks program is to encourage preservation of sites on both private and public lands which illustrate the geologic and ecological character of the United States. The area is also within the Inventory of California Natural Areas by the California Natural Areas Coordinating Council. Floristically, the general area next to the state beach is outstanding because of its biogeographical importance. Many plants within the region represent either the northernmost or southernmost extensions of the natural range of their species.

Terrestrial Fauna. Wildlife of Point Sal State Beach is very limited in both numbers and diversity, due to the small size of the unit and the correspondingly small number of habitats that are provided. Vertebrate species which possibly occur in the unit are those typically associated with the littoral zone and coastal sage scrub biotic communities. Wildlife common to riparian and chaparral communities occurs in the canyon and hillsides above the property.

The state beach and vicinity are not known to provide important habitat for any rare or endangered animal species. However, the endangered brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis californicus) feeds in coastal waters offshore of most of southern California, including the Point Sal area.

Marine Environment. The marine environment off Point Sal is considered outstanding from several standpoints. The greater Point Sal region contains examples of both the exposed coast and the protected outer coast. It also has both a rocky headland and a sandy beach. The Point Sal area is close enough to Point Conception to contain examples of marine organisms from both the Central and Southern California seascape provinces. Lion Rock, located southeast of the point, is an important area for marine life. It is a major resting ground for brown pelicans, cormorants, sea lions, and occasionally seals.

Cultural Resources

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

The lands of Point Sal were not part of any Spanish or Mexican land grant. John B. Ward, son-in-law of the local grantee, Jose Joaquin Estudillo, was given the land at Point Sal in return for a planned road construction, in which he agreed to build a road from the Point to Fort Tejon. Only nine miles of the road were constructed, three years after Fort Tejon had been abandoned by the Army.

The land was divided in 1872, and the present state beach was purchased by Charles Haskell Clark, who built a wharf and several warehouses. This operation flourished for nearly two decades before closing down. The area was quarried for gypsum at some later date, and what remained of any local prehistoric or historic resources were destroyed by that quarrying.

The present state beach property was acquired from the Regents of the University of California in 1948 who owned it for many years. Prior to 1948 it had been operated by Santa Barbara County as a county park under lease from the university.

Existing Sites and Features. A careful examination of the entire unit revealed no Native American resources, and only marginally significant Euro-American remains.

Recreation Potential

The recreation values of Point Sal State Beach are very limited, due to the small size of the existing property and other constraints, such as steep slopes, highly erodible soils, and access. Existing recreational pursuits at the beach include swimming, skin diving, surf fishing, beachcombing, nature observation, and contemplation. Hang gliding and model aircraft flying have been reported in the area; however, these uses are not compatible, due to the presence of landslides and excessively erodible soils.

Interpretive Potential

The major interpretive potential for Point Sal State Beach centers on the dramatic natural qualities of its surrounding lands. The exposed point and wild coastal area are its most outstanding features. The marine environment is considered outstanding from several standpoints.

Because of its steep slopes, rough rocky surf, and small beach, recreation interpretive values should be based on passive and contemplative activities. The greater Point Sal area is a prime site for the study of natural history.

Declaration of Purpose

Point Sal State Beach was established to protect natural coastline values, and to provide public access to the sandy beach cove. Future public use of the area shall be restricted to activities that relate well to the ocean orientation of the unit and do not impair the scenic or natural values. Due to constraints on roadway access and the sensitivity of the landscape, facilities shall be limited to those needed for visitor access, health, and safety.

Since initial acquisition and classification of Point Sal State Beach, further studies have revealed that the geologic and biotic resources of adjacent lands are of outstanding value. If these additional lands are acquired and incorporated into the unit, a reevaluation of classification and declaration of purpose shall be made by the department.

Declaration of Resource Management Policy

It shall be the resource management policy of the department to:

1. Preserve significant natural values of the unit, including the sandy beach, rocky intertidal shoreline, and coastal sage scrub plant community;
2. Protect the fragile bluff area from excessive erosion within the boundary of the unit, and encourage adjacent land owners to initiate control measures on properties that are affecting state lands. If feasible, these private lands should be acquired to protect existing state beach lands;
3. Avoid developing any permanent facilities in eroding or landslide areas, or areas upslope from eroding areas, until detailed studies by competent geotechnical personnel have been completed;
4. Assure that all planning, operational, and resource management activities that occur in the unit are carried out in accordance with the department's Resource Management Directives.

A cultural resource management policy is not necessary for the unit, since no significant physical resources of more than minor local significance remain.

No formal interpretive program is being planned at this time. If, in the future, interpretive programs are initiated, emphasis should be placed on keeping the area as natural as possible.

Allowable Use Intensity

Increased recreational use of Point Sal State Beach shall not be encouraged until the eroding and sliding slopes along the southeastern border of the property and on adjacent lands affecting the unit can be controlled. Visitors are now parking in two unpaved and severely eroded parking areas on private land just east of the state beach. Vehicle use in the parking area, foot traffic, and land use modifications along the bluffs, both within and outside the unit boundary, are resulting in serious gully erosion. In some areas along the trail that traverses the bluff from the parking area to the central portion of the state beach, gullies have formed tunnels 0.3 to 0.9 meters (1 to 2 feet) in diameter, which open to the surface farther down the hillside.

Due to the serious problems with slope stability and erosion, use intensity at Point Sal State Beach shall be kept at a low level by providing only minimal facilities necessary for public health and safety. Erosion of lands above the state beach property will probably always be a significant constraint to recreation use in the area, due to the steep nature of bluff and hillside slopes and associated soil characteristics.

Additional Recommendations

Point Sal State Beach lies in the southern portion of a much larger area which has been acknowledged for its outstanding geologic, floristic, marine, and general scenic values. The greater Point Sal region generally refers to lands extending from Point Sal State Beach northward to the Santa Maria River, and extending inland from 1.6 to 3.2 kilometers (1 to 2 miles). The region is listed in the Inventory of California Natural Areas, and is eligible for the National Natural Landmarks program. The area is also reported to be one of the most significant geologic areas in the South Coast Ranges in "A Survey of the Natural History of the South Pacific Border Region, California - Biotic Themes" by Stebbins and Taylor. Additionally, the California Native Plant Society lists several rare and endangered plants in the region. The marine environment of the area has also been acknowledged as outstanding by the Coordinating Council for Higher Education of the State of California, and by William Denneen of Allan Hancock Community College.

In light of these outstanding features, the department should initiate a program to specifically locate and identify all outstanding resources in the greater Point Sal area, and to determine the acreage needed to protect and maintain these values for future generations. This study would involve a thorough literature search, assimilation of existing data, and collaboration with knowledgeable researchers.

Land Use and Facilities Element

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Existing Conditions - Assumptions

Recreation Values

- The park area is remote and isolated.
- There is less than one mile of remote sandy beaches, backed by rugged steep bluffs.
- The coastal landscape is remote, scenic, and undeveloped.
- There are significant marine and botanical resources.

Recreation Use

- Principal recreation activities include:
 - Beachcombing
 - Fishing
 - Hiking
 - Nature/history study
 - Photography
 - Picnicking
 - Sunbathing
- Recreation use of the site is limited by
 - Difficulty of access to site via an unimproved road
 - Lack of facilities
 - Prohibitively steep topography
 - Periodic temporary closures by the Air Force
- Existing unorganized recreation use is causing extensive soil erosion on bluff areas and at the parking area.

Physical Factors

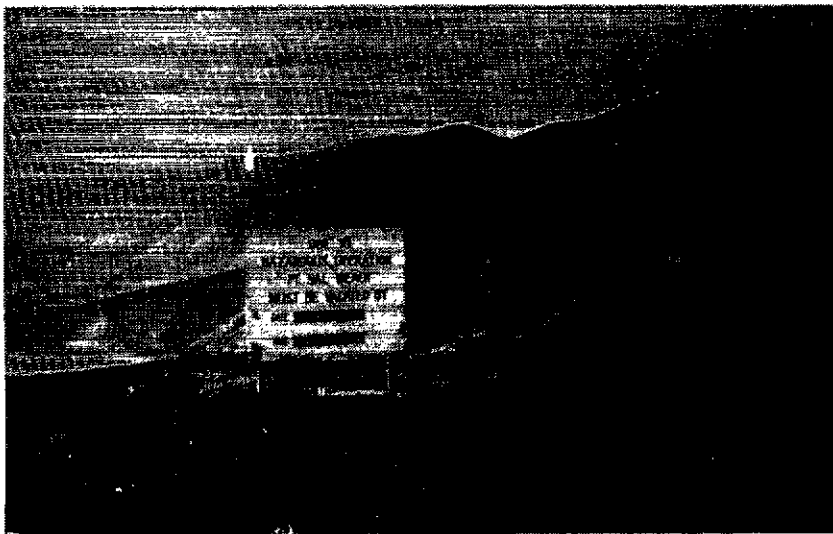
- o Current property is undevelopable which limits its potential.
- o Access to unit is over private property, and informal parking occurs on private lands.
- o Due to the small size of the existing property and environmental constraints, such as steep slopes and highly erodible soils, recreation opportunities are quite limited.



The access road to Point Sal is located on federal and private lands. It is generally unsurfaced (with some gravel and asphalt portions) and is impassible during storms.

Transportation and Circulation

Access is over 5 miles of one-lane dirt and gravel road. (Further information about access to the site is outlined in the unit identification at the beginning of the Resource Element.) Circulation on the site itself is strictly pedestrian, and is limited to informal trails down the bluff to the beach area. Virtually all uses on state-owned property are currently occurring on the beach.



Vandenberg Air Force Base has the option of closing the park during missile launchings.

Planning Issues

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

Identification of Issues

Significant issues include:

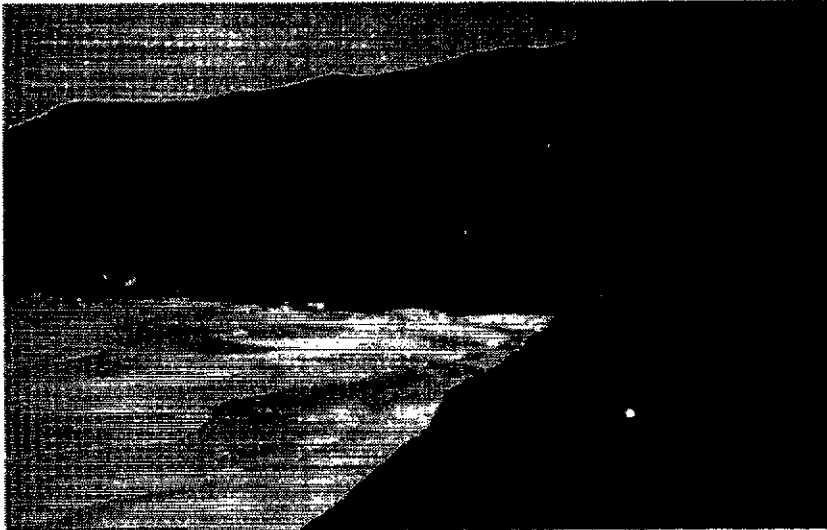
- The need for garbage receptacles and restroom facilities
- The need for improvement of the existing entrance road

Public input identified the following areas of significant agreement:

- More property must be acquired in order to adequately protect the natural and scenic resources of the area, and to provide minimal visitor facilities
- Existing state-owned land should remain undeveloped and preserved

The dirt parking area serving the park is located on private lands.

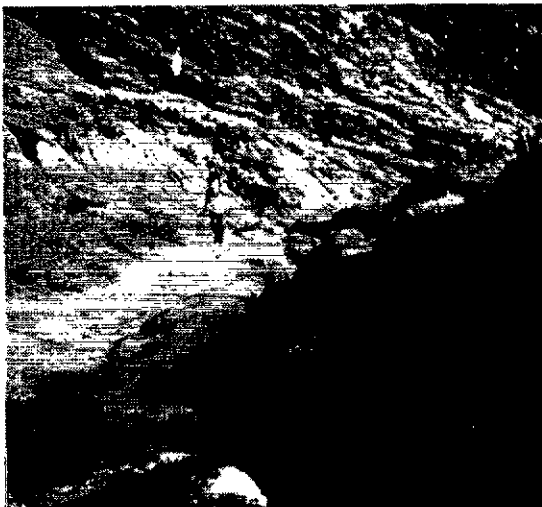




The unique natural and scenic resources should be protected and preserved.

Land Use Recommendations

- Existing state beach property should remain undeveloped.
- Existing unique natural and scenic resources should be protected and preserved.
- Provisions should be made to control erosion caused by vehicular and foot traffic.
- Basic provisions should be made for collection of litter. In the event of acquisition of adjacent lands, a comfort station facility should be located near the beach.



Provisions should be made to control erosion caused by vehicles and foot traffic.

Interpretation

The primary interpretive themes will be:

Dramatic Natural Qualities Recreation and Safety

Secondary interpretive emphasis will be placed on the Human History of the area.

The plan includes the following recommendations:

- No formal interpretive structures or programs due to limited size of the park.
- Information brochures describing natural and scenic features available at nearby state park units.
- Continued research of local history, rare and endangered plant and animal species, unique geologic features, ocean and beach dynamics, flora and fauna, and visitor impact on resources and wildlife.

Local Coastal Plan Recommendations

The character of the surrounding area, except for portions of Vandenberg Air Force Base, is undeveloped coastal landscape. The Department of Parks and Recreation would like to see the area around Point Sal State Beach remain as it is, if further acquisition by the department does not occur.

Potential Acquisition Adjacent to Unit

The 48.93 acres of Point Sal State Beach are currently undevelopable due to the topographic limitations of the site. Additions are being considered for this unit so existing resources can be protected and legal access can be maintained. In addition, there are numerous natural values in the area that are threatened by existing land uses.

It must be noted that acquisitions proposed in this General Plan as additions to existing units of the State Park System are not ensured. Desirable lands must be properly evaluated, selected, funded, negotiated, and transferred before their inclusion in the State Park System becomes a reality. If and when lands are acquired, no development can be permitted until an Inventory of Features and General Plan amendments have been prepared by staff and adopted by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Description

Size: Potential acquisition of about 2,870 hectares (7,175 acres); see General Plan Map.

Location: To the north and east of existing state park ownership (see Vicinity Map).

Access: Over existing county road.

Topography: The area contains a broad, sandy beach, leading to unstable dunes, which eventually rise to stabilized grassland and chaparral-covered hillsides in the northern half

of the proposed acquisition. The southern half includes narrow beaches and interspersed rocky outcroppings, backed by steep, rocky bluffs. These are topped by rolling hills, including Point Sal ridge and the lower Caspalia Hills.

Surroundings: The area is basically undeveloped. Vandenberg Air Force Base has missile facilities located to the south of the present unit; ranching operations are to the east; and the Santa Maria River is to the north. The area's undeveloped nature is one of the site's primary values. The air force base's missile launching activities have an effect on the current and potential property. An impact line for potential missile accidents extends onto the property on an east-west alignment roughly to Mussel Point. Access to Point Sal State Beach is closed by the Air Force during certain missile launchings to avoid hazards to the public. An evaluation of all lands south of the impact line might be required in the future if the department acquired and developed additional lands in this zone.

Existing Land Uses

- Cattle grazing
- Sand extraction in the northern portion
- Off-road vehicle use on sand dunes (Guadalupe Dunes)

Recreation and Preservation Values

- o Significant natural resources worthy of preservation include:
 - Extensive sandy beaches
 - Rocky shores
 - Unstable dunes
 - Grasslands
 - Chaparral-covered hillsides
 - Rocky bluffs
 - Rocky outcrops
 - Marine and botanical resources
- o Size and variety of topography could offer a wide range of recreation opportunities. Possibilities include:
 - Extensive sandy beaches, both open and secluded
 - Ocean swimming
 - Fishing
 - Spectacular ocean views
 - Ocean-related environment
 - Inland-related environment
 - Inland camping
 - Significant resources for study and observation
 - Areas suitable for hiking and equestrian use

Land Use Concepts

Emphasize Landscape Preservation and Visual Protection

- o Maximize open space
 - Recreation use to be low density
 - Recreation development to be concentrated; majority of development to be in one area, with a single access
 - Preservation of dunes and beach to be emphasized
- o Wild character of entire site to be preserved
- o Archeological and historical sites to be protected

Emphasize Recreation Uses Which Are Compatible with Natural Values (Low-Density, Nonintensive, Low-Noise, Low-Technology Recreation Use)

- o Hiking, family camping, picnicking, hang gliding (if conditions are favorable), natural and cultural history interpretation, swimming, fishing, etc.

Transportation and Circulation

Park Circulation to Minimize Automobile Use

- o Road construction to be minimized
 - Existing roads and trails to be used where possible
 - Only one location for vehicular access to ocean
- o Nonautomobile transportation to be encouraged
 - Multi-purpose trails to provide access to beach at three locations and important points of interest

Potential Facility Recommendations

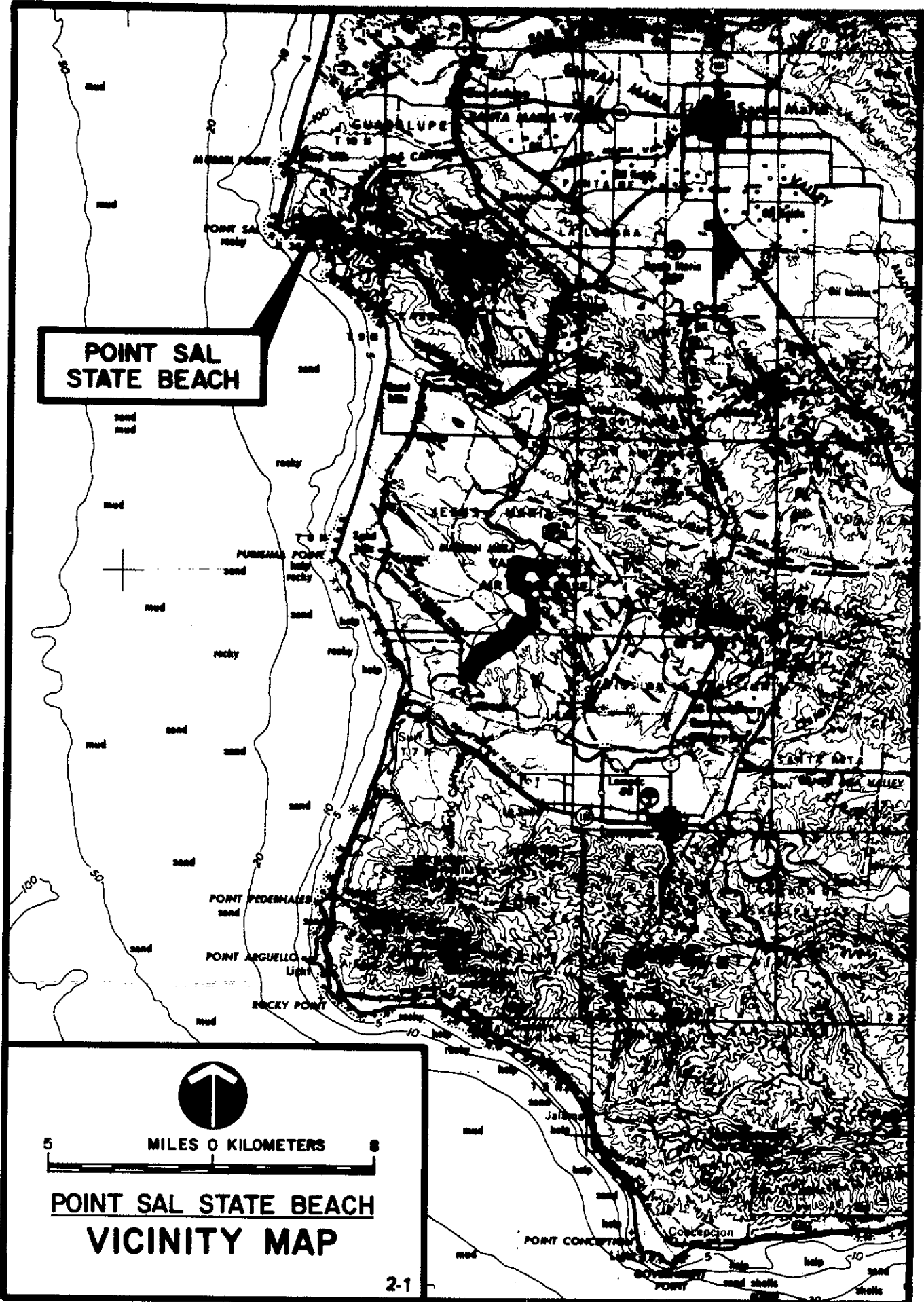
(See General Plan for location)

- o Contact station at entrance road
- o 50 family campsites
- o Service area
- o Three trailheads -- Point Sal, Mussel Point, Guadalupe Dunes
 - 15-car parking area at each
 - Comfort station (no water use)
 - Trail
- o 40-vehicle parking area above Point Sal State Beach -- with comfort station
- o Interpretive facilities
- o Equestrian staging area

Circulation

- o One access to unit
- o Brown Road to be used for entrance road
- o Existing roads to be used for access to trailheads

Appendix

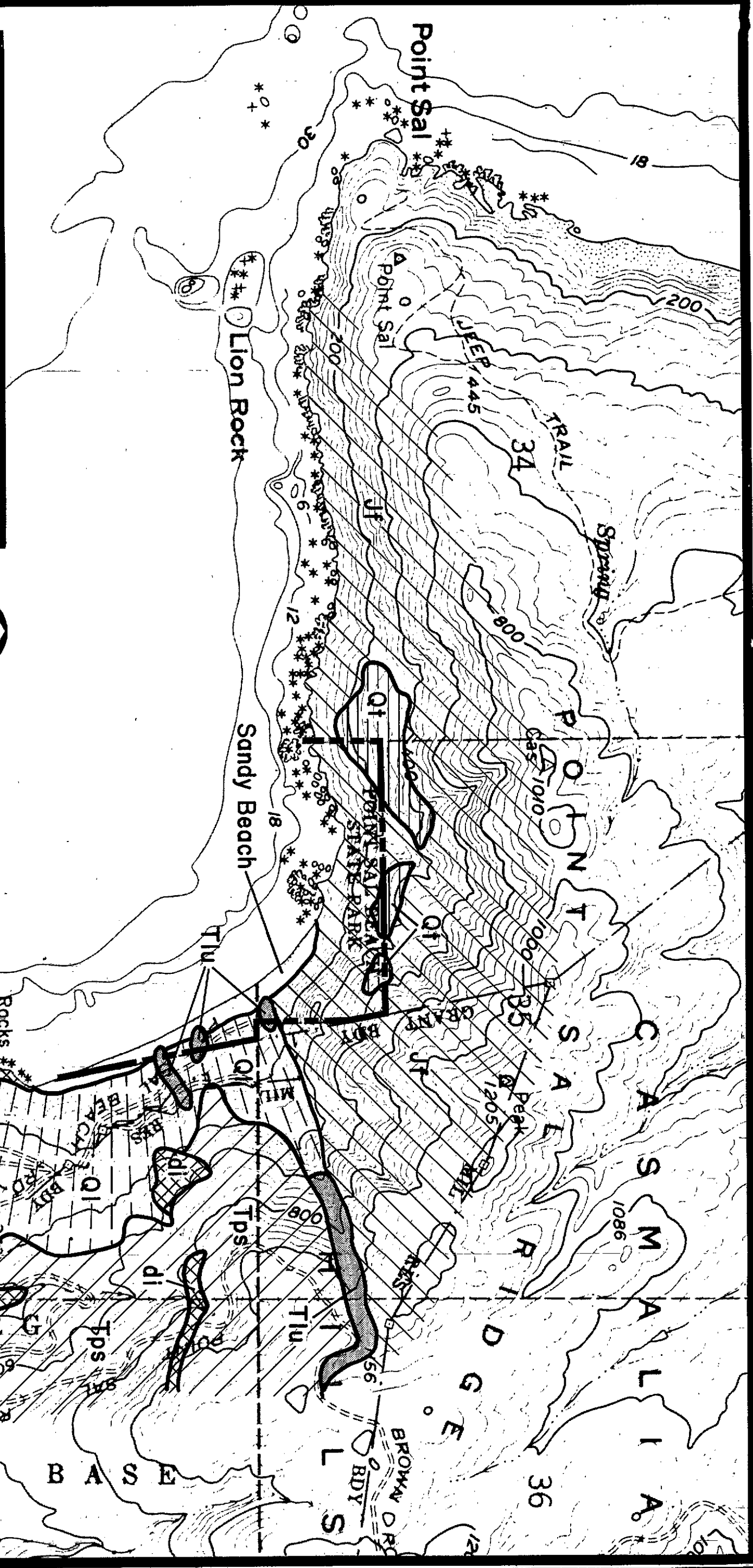


**POINT SAL
STATE BEACH**



5 MILES 0 KILOMETERS 8

**POINT SAL STATE BEACH
VICINITY MAP**

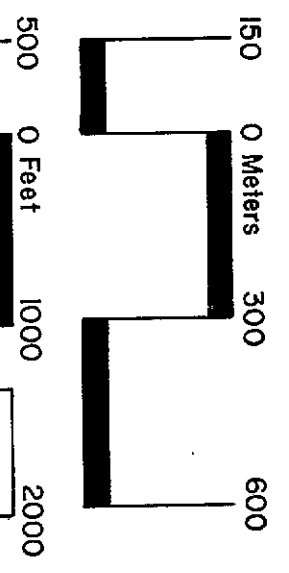


Legend

- Landslides and earthflow
- Terrace deposits younger than Orcutt Sand
- Diabase (intrusive igneous)
- Point Sal Formation (marine) mudstone, siltstone, thin-bedded sandstone
- Loose Formation (upper member) (non-marine) greenish sandstone, siltstone and gypsiferous mudstone
- Undifferentiated igneous rocks of Franciscan Formation (mostly) altered basalt and gabbro; minor areas of peridotite and serpentine

Source: Woodring, W.P. and M.N. Bramlette, 1950. Original map scale 1:250,000

POINT SAL STATE BEACH GEOLOGY MAP

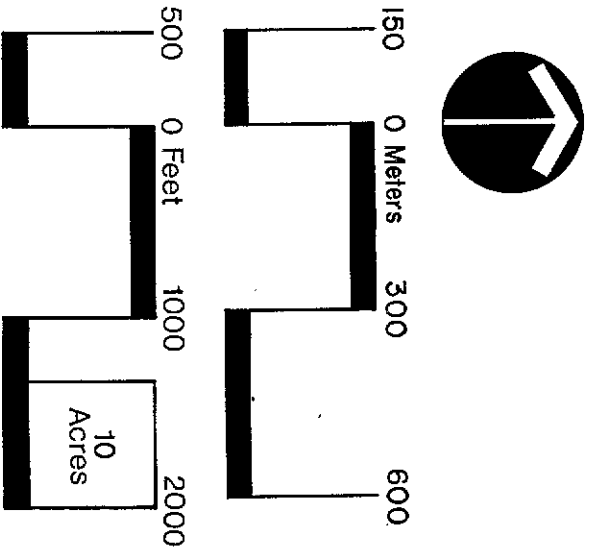
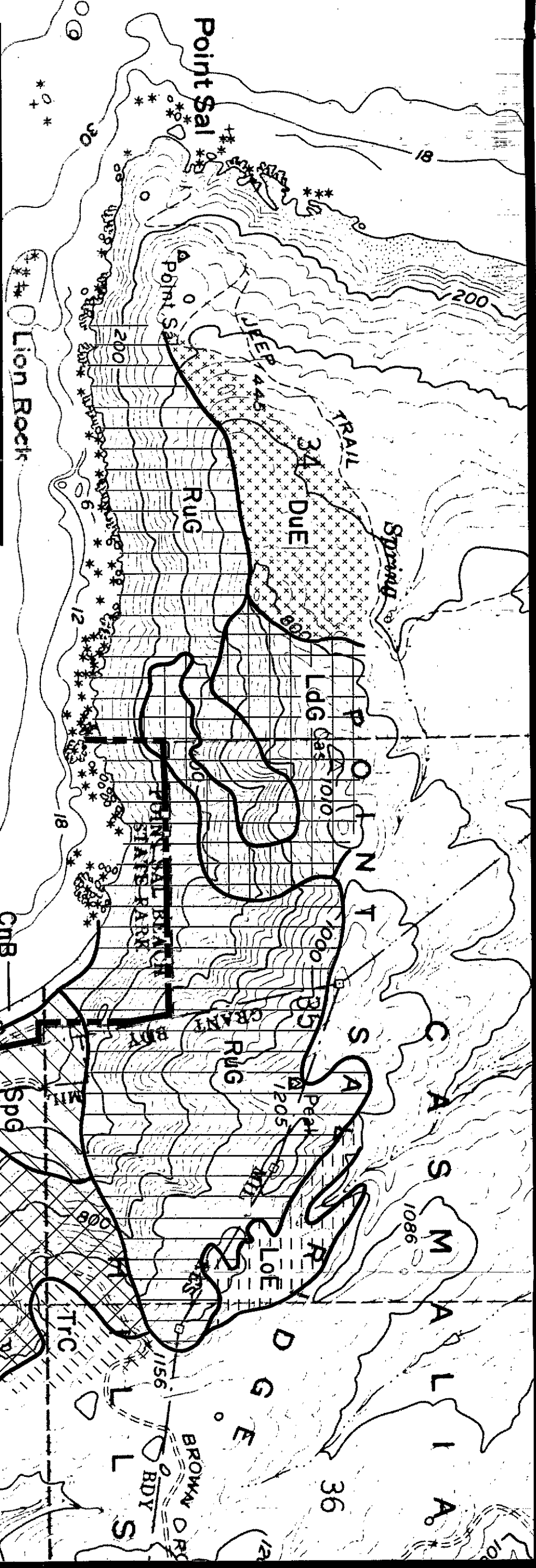


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| DRAWING NO. SHEET NO. OF | | Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan GEOLOGY MAP POINT SAL STATE BEACH | RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION APPROVED _____ DATE _____ | REVISIONS DATE | DESIGNED DRAWN AUG. 1978 CHECKED |
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Legend

| | | |
|--|------|---|
| | CnB | Coastal beach |
| | SPG | Sedimentary rock land |
| | Ldf | Landslides |
| | GUE | Gullied land |
| | RUG | Rough broken land |
| | LDG | Lodo loam, 30-75% slopes |
| | SRG3 | Shedd silty clay loam, 30-75% slopes, severely eroded |
| | LOE | Los Osos clay loam, 30-75% slopes |
| | TRC | Terra loam, 2-9% slopes |
| | Sed | Salinas and Sorrento loams, 9-15% slopes |
| | DUE | Dune land |

POINT SAL STATE BEACH
SOILS MAP



2-3



Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan
SOILS MAP
POINT SAL STATE BEACH

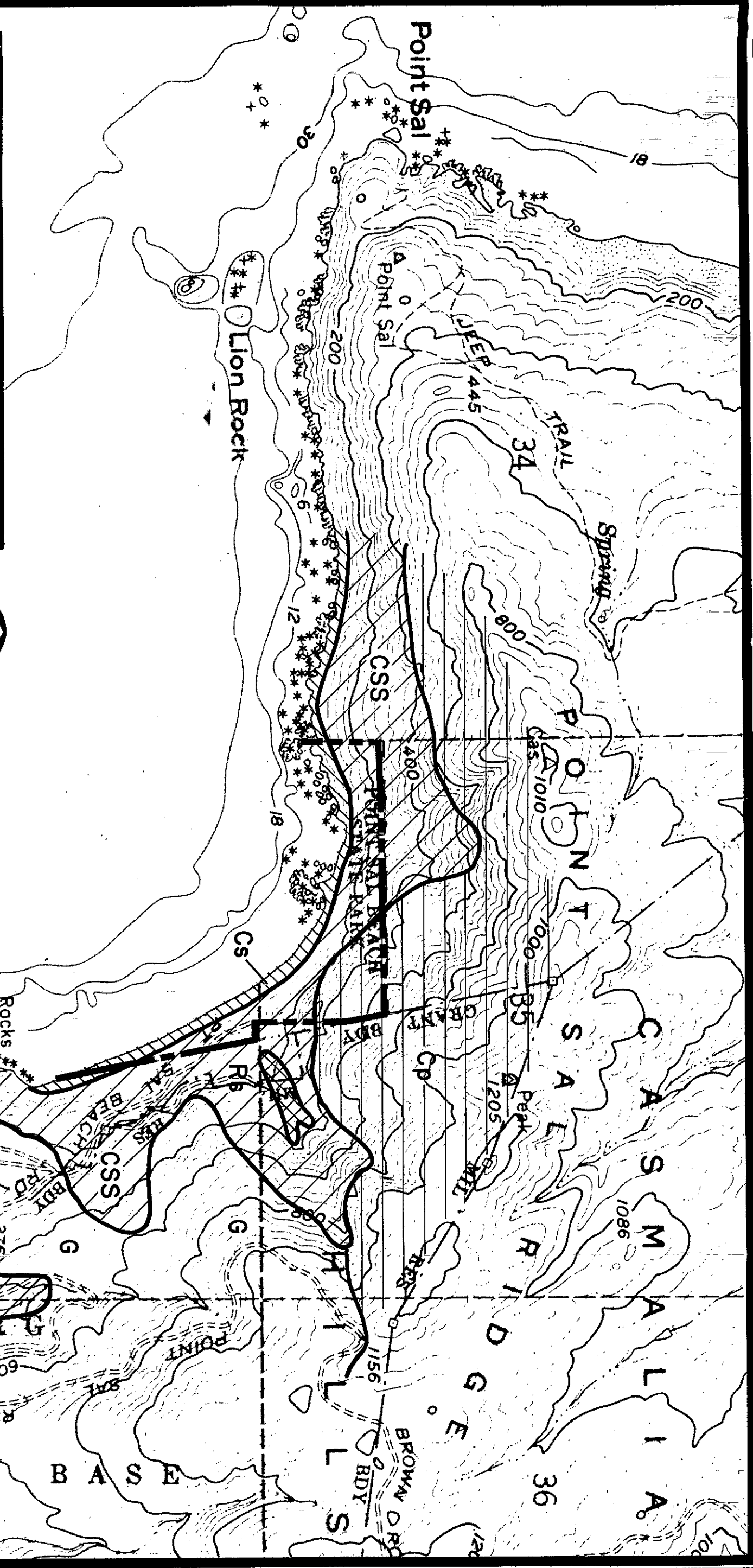
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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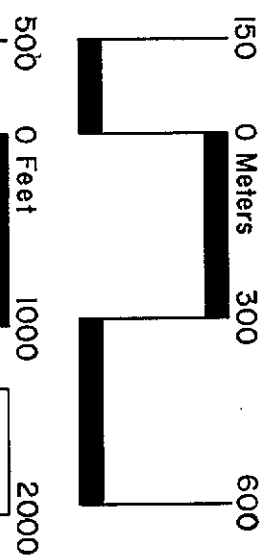
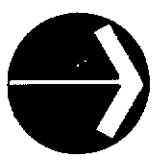
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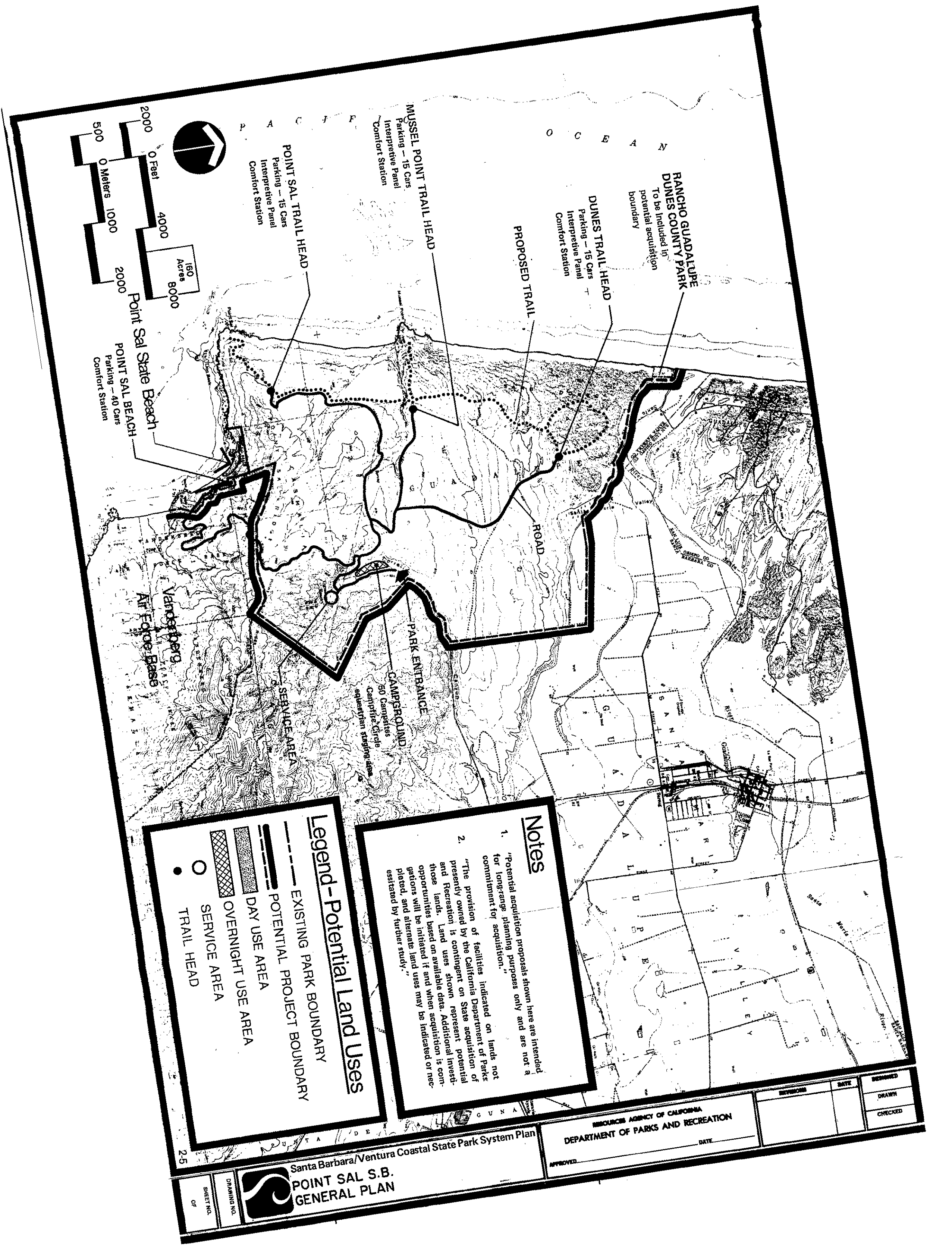


Legend

POINT SAL STATE BEACH
VEGETATION MAP

-  Coastal Strand
-  Coastal Sage Scrub
-  Chaparral
-  Grassland
-  Riparian (shrubs)





Notes

1. "Potential acquisition proposals shown here are intended for long-range planning purposes only and are not a commitment for acquisition."
2. "The provision of facilities indicated on lands not presently owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation is contingent on State acquisition of those lands. Land uses shown represent potential opportunities based on available data. Additional investigations will be initiated if and when acquisition is completed, and alternate land uses may be indicated or assisted by further study."

Legend - Potential Land Uses

- EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY
- POTENTIAL PROJECT BOUNDARY
- ▨ DAY USE AREA
- ▨ OVERNIGHT USE AREA
- SERVICE AREA
- TRAIL HEAD

25

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Santa Barbara/Ventura Coastal State Park System Plan
**POINT SAL S.B.
GENERAL PLAN**

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RESOURCE AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION