

UNIT 569

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

**GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT**

October 1985

**General Plan
Amendment**

castaic  lake

**State Recreation
Area**

PRELIMINARY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
GENERAL PLAN
AMENDMENT

JULY, 1985

prepared by

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

General Plan Amendment purpose, preparers, and source of funding:

The General Plan Amendment for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area has been prepared as a guideline for the further development of public recreation facilities at the park. The General Plan Amendment proposes the development and improvement of recreational uses by private investor-operators as well as investments by the County. When adopted by the County of Los Angeles and the State of California, the General Plan Amendment will supercede the Castaic Lake Plan of 1971, as amended. The General Plan Amendment has been prepared in conformance with State recreation area plan content requirements set out in the Public Resources Code. This General Plan Amendment has been prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and its consultants during 1983-85, with assistance by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Preparation of the plan has been funded by Castaic Lake Trust Fund and County General Fund sources. The County of Los Angeles, as sole operator of the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area under a 50-year agreement with the State of California, proposes the General Plan Amendment as an implementation program that will create additional public recreation opportunities and will assist the County in meeting the objective of making the park financially self supporting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

State of California

George Deukmejian - Governor

The Resources Agency

Gordon Van Vleck - Secretary

Department of Parks and Recreation

William S. Briner - Director

H. Lee Warren - Supervising Landscape Architect

M. H. Getty - Chief, Resource Protection Division

Doug Healey - Landscape Architect

Wayne Caulkins - Civil Engineer

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Richard P. Knerr
George Kobayashi
David Lippey

County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Ralph S. Cryder, Director
Joe Prather, Capital Projects Division
Bill Harvey, Contract Services Division
Curt Robertson, Contract Services Division
John Weber, North Regional Director
Sam Jones, Assistant Regional Director
Etsel Yamasaki, Regional Park Planner
Mike Hargett, Castaic Manager
Jeff Wheeler, Regional Recreation

Friends of Castaic Lake (Advisory Committee)

Ward Albright	Mike Lyons
Garry Buterbaugh	Jim McCartin
Paul Celebron	Steven Perez
Davie Churchill	Hank Pfenning
Syd St. Clair	Roberta Posner
Peggy Freeman	Earl Stogner
Harold Furtsch	Bob Routolo
Wilbur Hendrixson	Steve Spraker
Claude Jones	Richard G. Stethem
Roland Leclair	Joseph A. Varonin
Connie Wordan	Bill Wooding

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 65-85
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Los Angeles on
October 11, 1985

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area Preliminary, dated July, 1985, with the following amendment:

Final plans for the Water Park must be brought back to the Commission for approval before going out to bid for concession and development.

Subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan.

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CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

APPROVED BY THE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 11, 1985

APPENDIX

RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS

October 10, 1985

18 pages total

Comments were received from:

William H. Ivers	Department of Boating and Waterways, State of California
Gary Yamamoto	Department of Health Services, State of California
A. A. Herne, Jr.	Department of Health Services, County of Los Angeles
T. A. Tidemanson	Department of Public Works, County of Los Angeles
Larry L. Anderson	Office of the Sheriff, County of Los Angeles
Gary Brooks	County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Paul C. Sweetland	Angeles National Forest, U.S. Forest Service

Memorandum

To : (1) Dr. Gordon F. Snow
The Resources Agency

(2) Los Angeles County
Parks and Recreation
433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Date : AUG 19 1985


Subject: SCH#85072408: Castaic
Lake General Plan
Amendment

From : Department of Boating and Waterways

The Department of Boating and Waterways has reviewed subject General Plan Amendment (GPA) for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area and would like to offer the following comments:

1. If boating regulations (i.e., for equipment and operation of vessels) are proposed, they must be prepared and submitted to our Department for review at least 30 days prior to effective date thereof, in accordance with the requirements as specified in Section 660(a) and 662 of the Harbors and Navigation Code (copy enclosed).
2. If the applicant determines that waterway markers (e.g., signs, buoys, etc.) are needed, the markers must be placed or installed in accordance with the requirements as specified in Title 14, Article 6, Sections 7000-7007, of the California Administrative Code (copy enclosed).

Thank you for the opportunity to review the document.


WILLIAM H. IVERS
Director

Enclosures



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961

Ralph S. Cryder: . . . Director

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October 10, 1985

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Mr. William H. Ivers, Director
Department of Boating and Waterways
1629 S. Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ivers:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

PARK AND RECREATION
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James Bishop
Arturo Chayra
Gloria Heer
George Ray

Douglas Washington

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David Lippey

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. Based upon the regulations you attached to your letter, we will adhere to the stated requirements for equipment and operation of vessels and placement of markers.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park at 213/738-2972.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Prather
Head Park Planner

dal



Memorandum

To : Terry Roberts
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street

Date : August 29, 1985

Subject: Castaic Lake General
Plan Amendment

From : *for* *Clifford Ashape*
Peter A. Rogers, Chief
Sanitary Engineering Branch
8/600 3-6111

The Department has reviewed the subject environmental document and offers the following comments:

The proposed increase of recreational activities on Castaic Lake (power and sailboating, water-skiing, jet-skiing, fishing, etc.) and along its shorelines (fishing, picnicking, camping, etc.), will increase the potential for contamination of the lake. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation failed to address the question of possible contamination of the lake and how they intend to protect against such contamination.

This document also does not address the question of whether the proposed increase in recreational activities will cause an increase in the volume of domestic sewage and whether the existing sewage facilities are capable of receiving and disposing of this additional sewage.

If you have any questions or need further information concerning these comments, please contact Mr. Gary Yamamoto of the Sanitary Engineering Branch at 1449 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or telephone (213) 620-4706.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961
Ralph S. Cryder Director

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Mr. Gary Yamamoto
Department of Health Services
Sanitary Engineering Branch
144 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Dear Mr. Yamamoto:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. Regarding your suggestion that increased recreational activities could contaminate the lake, we do not anticipate that the levels of use described in the plan will significantly add any contamination to the lake. We will of course monitor the water quality in the lake to ensure safe public use.

Regarding increased recreational activities affecting sewage disposal, we intend to dispose of the increased sewage amounts via existing public systems that we feel are adequate.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park at (213) 738-2972.

Sincerely,

Joe E. Prather
Head Park Planner

JXP:dh



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES



313 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 • (213) 974-7831

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

DOUGLAS R. STEELE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

July 23, 1985

MARTIN D. FINN, M.D., M.P.H.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Joe E. Prather
Head Park Planner
Department of Parks & Recreation
433 South Vermont Ave.,
Los Angeles, CA 90020

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT FOR
CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

Dear Mr. Prather:

We have reviewed the subject report and have no objection to this project provided that all sewage will be disposed of via the existing public sewer systems.

If you have any questions, please contact Norman Groom at (213) 744-3257.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this report.

Sincerely,

A A Hearne, Jr.
A. A. Hearne, Jr. M.P.H., R.S.
Environmental Management Deputy

AAH:NG:ls



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433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961
 Ralph S. Cryder Director

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A. A. Hearne
 Junior Environmental
 Management Deputy
 Department of Health Services
 313 North Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Hearne:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. As you indicated in your letter, we intend to dispose of all sewage via public sewer systems.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park at (213) 738-2972.

Sincerely,

Joe E. Prather
 Head Park Planner

JXP:dh



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1640 ALCAZAR STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033
Telephone : (213) 226-8111

THOMAS A. TIDEMANSON, Director
HIAM BARMACK, Chief Deputy Director
JAMES L. EASTON, Chief Deputy Director
WYNN L. SMITH, Chief Deputy Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 4089
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051

August 30, 1985

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO FILE T-2
850.4

Mr. Ralph S. Cryder, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Los Angeles
433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Attention Mr. Joe E. Prather.

Dear Mr. Cryder:

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT
FOR CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

As requested, we reviewed the subject General Plan Amendment report. The following items are brought to your attention.

The traffic circulation and parking portion of the report focuses mainly on access to the Castaic Lagoon (west main gate) area of the park. As indicated in our August 24, 1984 letter (copy enclosed), to fully assess the impact of further development of public recreational facilities at the park, we believe a more detailed analysis is necessary, including the number of additional trips to be generated by the proposed expansion and the effect these trips will have on Old Ridge Route and Lake Hughes Road, particularly at the intersections of Lake Hughes Road at Old Ridge Route and the Golden State Freeway ramps.

We agree with the report that additional studies should be prepared prior to the actual design and construction of the proposed recreational facilities. The additional investigation is needed to adequately address the traffic circulation and propose appropriate measures to mitigate the impact for the different phases of the proposed expansion.

We also agree with the report that Old Ridge Route from Lake Hughes Road northerly to the west main gate should be widened to provide an additional northbound lane to accommodate the peak day traffic demand. Other proposed improvements which should help reduce traffic delay and congestion in the area include provisions for a northbound free right-turn lane on Old Ridge Route from the backup entry gate northerly to the

Mr. Ralph S. Cryder

-2-

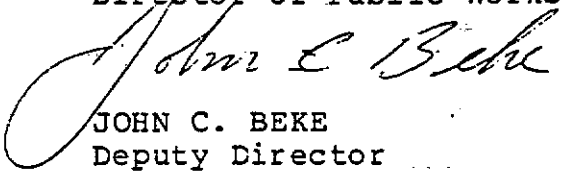
August 30, 1985

west main gate and widening of the west main entry roadway to include two inbound lanes (and control booths) and one exit lane.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call our Traffic Studies Unit at (213) 226-8381.

Very truly yours,

T. A. TIDEMANSON
Director of Public Works



JOHN C. BEKE
Deputy Director

HW:wj/12a

Enc.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961
Ralph S. Cryder Director

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October 10, 1985

Mr. T.A. Tidemanson
Director of Public Works
P.O. Box 4089
Los Angeles, CA 90051

Attention: Traffic Studies Unit

Dear Mr. Tidemanson:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. As previously indicated and supported by your letter, additional investigation will take place to mitigate possible impacts for the different phases. Several improvements are proposed in the plan including Lake Hughes Road, the main gate circulation, and internal road improvements to alleviate congestion.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park (213) 738-2972.

Sincerely yours,

Joe E. Prather
Head, Park Planner

JXP:tls/CS1



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SHERMAN BLOCK, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles

Office of the Sheriff

Hall of Justice

Los Angeles, California 90012

(805) 255-1121



August 12, 1985

Mr. Joe E. Prather
Head Park Planner
Department of Parks and Recreation
433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Mr. Prather:

We have reviewed the General Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Element for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. The plan, as written, seems to avoid the issue of necessary protective services other than to say that such services already provided will continue.

Public safety is the primary concern of this Department and requires additional attention. The comment in the report that it "...will require tactical planning for day and night emergency responses," clearly indicates that this important matter has not been resolved. It should be noted that many of the newly planned recreational areas are virtually inaccessible to a police vehicle and that is a major concern.

Tactical and emergency responses are, as a matter of course, entirely possible from this Department, as well as the Park Patrol. However, the availability, terrain and distance either may have to overcome are major factors that need consideration beyond a general statement on a requirement for planning. Personnel and equipment are the only mitigating factors for this plan.

As of this writing, we would oppose recreational facility growth at Castaic Lake until such time that adequate police protection can be guaranteed to the public. Patrol

Mr. Joe E. Prather

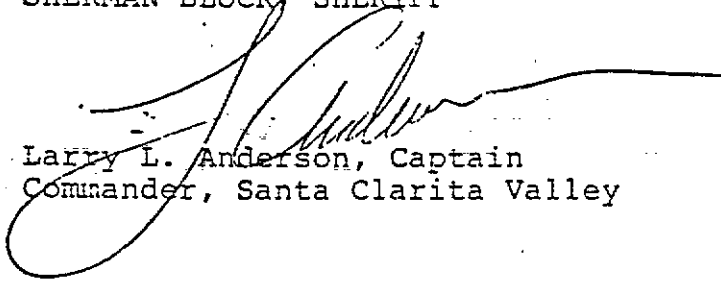
-2-

August 12, 1985

of isolated areas by this Department is extremely difficult as the majority of our time requires service to the existing populace of the Valley. Without additional personnel and equipment to patrol isolated areas, the public is virtually unprotected.

Sincerely,

SHERMAN BLOCK, SHERIFF



Larry L. Anderson, Captain
Commander, Santa Clarita Valley



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961
Ralph S. Cryder Director

October 10, 1985

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Mr. Larry L. Anderson, Captain
Commander, Santa Clarita Valley
Office of the Sheriff
Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Anderson:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. The Department's Park Patrol headquarters is at Castaic Lake and will continue to provide for the public safety of the park user.

As recreational development increases at Castaic Lake, the need for additional protective services will continue to be reviewed to ensure adequate personnel and equipment to guarantee public safety.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park at 213/738-2972.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Prather
Head Park Planner

dal



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COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road / Whittier, California
Mailing Address: / P. O. Box 4998, Whittier, California 90607
Telephone: (213) 699-7411 / From Los Angeles (213) 685-5217

CHARLES W. CARRY
Chief Engineer and General Manager

August 9, 1985

File: 32-00.00-00/85

Joe E. Prather, Head Park Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Mr. Prather:

General Plan Amendment and Environment Impact Element for
Castaic Lake State Recreation Area

The County Sanitation Districts are in receipt of an Environmental Impact Report for the subject project. However, the area in question is outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Sanitation Districts and would have to be annexed before the Districts could provide sewerage service to the proposed development.

For more specific information regarding annexation fees, please contact Ms. Shirley Fuller (213) 699-7411, extension 389.

Very truly your,

Charles W. Carry

Gary Brooks
Project Engineer
Financial Planning
and Property Management

GB:ait



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

433 South Vermont Avenue - Los Angeles, California 90020 - (213) 738-2961

Ralph S. Cryder Director

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October 10, 1985

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Gary Brooks
Project Engineer
County Sanitation Districts
P.O. Box 4998
Whittier, CA 90607

Dear Mr. Brooks:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your comments on the subject plan. Existing public sewer lines that currently serve the park will be used to dispose of all sewage generated from the proposed development.

If you have any questions, please call Jim Park at (213) 738-2972.

Sincerely,

Joe E. Prather
Head Park Planner

JXP:dh

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Ralph S. Cryder Director

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October 10, 1985

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Mr. Paul Sweetland
Forest Supervisor
Angeles National Forest
150 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Attention: Mr. Dick Rea

Dear Mr. Sweetland:

CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Thank you for your verbal comments on the subject plan. As we indicated to Richard Modée by letter dated September 20, 1985, part of Castaic is within National Forest lands and should be designated as a State Recreation Area. In our review of the Land and Resources Management Plan, the Forest Service should issue a Special Use Permit to allow the lands to be managed for recreational purposes.

As development of the proposed improvements is considered, additional environmental documentation will be prepared including discussion of alternatives. If you have any further questions, please call Jim Park at (213) 738-2972.

Sincerely yours,

Joe E. Prather
Head, Park Planner

JXP:tlS/CS1

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Reply To: 2300

Date: September 11, 1985

Mr. Ralph S. Cryder
Department of Parks and Recreation
433 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020

Dear Mr. Cryder:

The Forest Service has completed its review of the General Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Report for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.

The Angeles National Forest has supported the concept of a State Recreation Area at Castaic since the completion of the reservoir. A considerable portion of the east arm of the reservoir, and the lands adjacent to the north shore, are Federal lands within the boundary of the Angeles National Forest. No authority currently exists for the State of California or the County of Los Angeles to administer either the water surface or adjacent lands as a State Recreation Area for recreation purposes.

The decision to make those National Forest Lands part of a State Recreation Area must be made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The Angeles National Forest is in the process of developing a comprehensive Land Management Plan (LMP) in conformance with these two Laws. We will consider the decision of the State Recreation Area in the planning process, if requested to do so as part of the formal review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Forest LMP. It is our understanding that the County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, will make such a request in their response.

Once a decision has been made as part of the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan to allocate that portion of the Angeles National Forest to a State Recreation Area, then the authorizing permits can be issued to the State of California. These permits would be of two types:

1. This permit would cover the total area of the National Forest lands within the State Recreation Area. It would be issued on an annually recurring basis without a specific termination date, allowing for management of the area for recreation purposes.
2. A second permit will be issued for a specific term for construction and/or operation of each recreation facility as it is developed.

The first permit authorizing the management of the area as part of the State Recreation Area would need to resolve certain issues which include:

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SEP 23 1985

1. Recognizing that a portion of the revenue generated at Castaic Lake comes from the use of National Forest lands, and the Federal Government has a right to a reasonable proportion of those revenues.
2. Strengthen the mitigation of increased fire risk and indicate the multi-agency responsibility for relocation of the Red Mountain Station to the Elizabeth Lake Canyon Road.
3. Indicate the need and status of existing and future access roads to the State Recreation Area. Consider maintenance responsibility, public use, other agency or cooperative use and jurisdiction for roads in the State Recreation Area, or those accessing the Area. There is a need to include FS Road 6N13, roads to Fisherman's Rest, and the road to Red Mountain Station.

The subsequent permits authorizing the operation and/or construction of specific recreation improvements can resolve issues relating to the desirability or purpose of these improvements on National Forest Lands, and provide mitigation requirements.

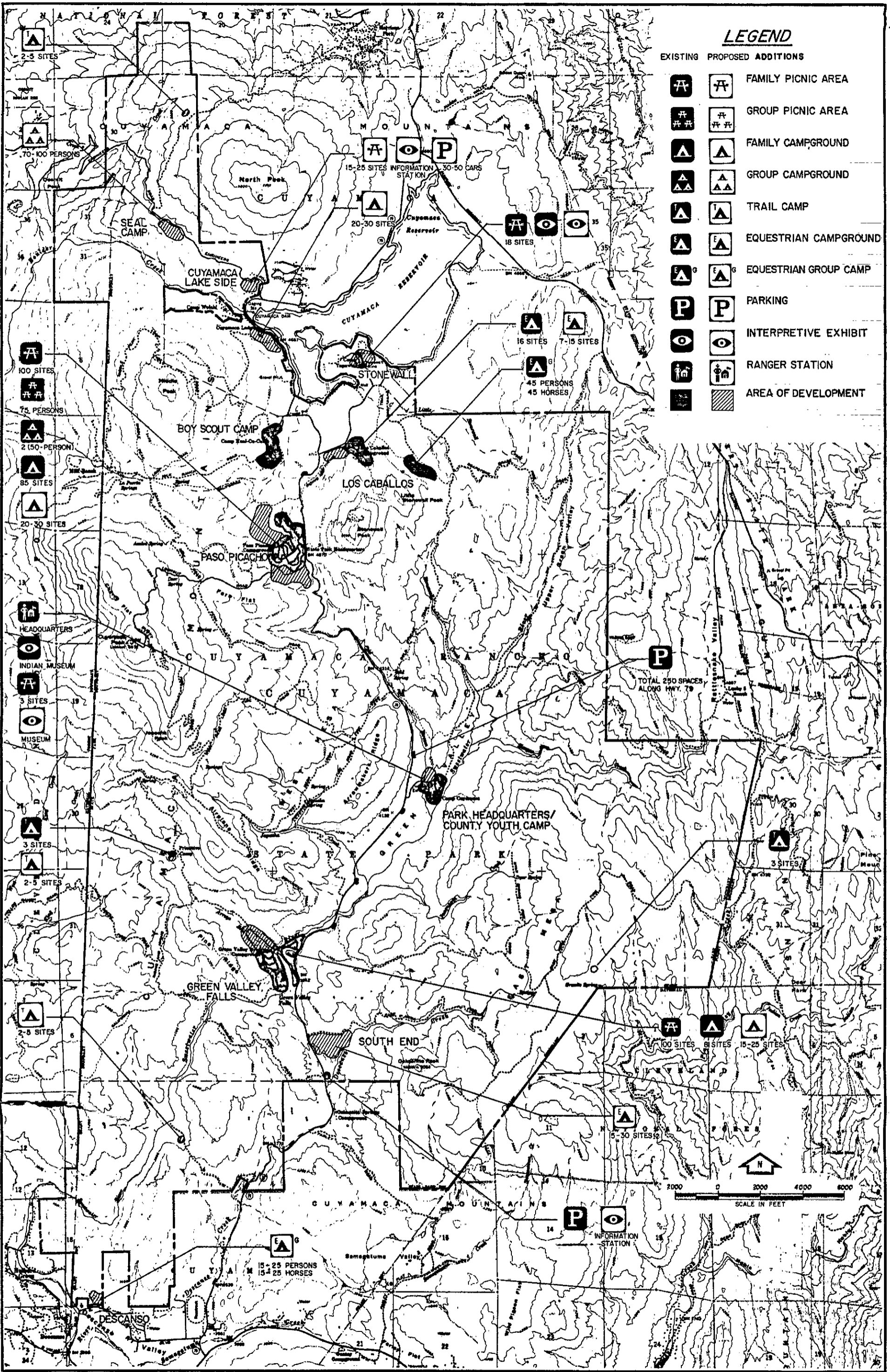
The Forest Service has recognized the need for recreation improvements, especially, water based activities for Southern California. It is our hope that the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and the Forest Service continue their cooperative efforts in meeting the recreation needs of the citizens of Southern California.

The Forest Service also suggests that once the National Forest lands become part of the State Recreation Area, that the State and the Forest Service should consider a land exchange for the lands within the Recreation Area.

I am looking forward to our continued cooperation at Castaic Lake in meeting the users recreation needs.

Sincerely,


P. C. SWEETLAND
Forest Supervisor



LEGEND

EXISTING	PROPOSED	ADDITIONS
		FAMILY PICNIC AREA
		GROUP PICNIC AREA
		FAMILY CAMPGROUND
		GROUP CAMPGROUND
		TRAIL CAMP
		EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND
		EQUESTRIAN GROUP CAMP
		PARKING
		INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT
		RANGER STATION
		AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

20946

**CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK
FACILITY DEVELOPMENT**

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

REVISIONS

DATE

DESIGNED

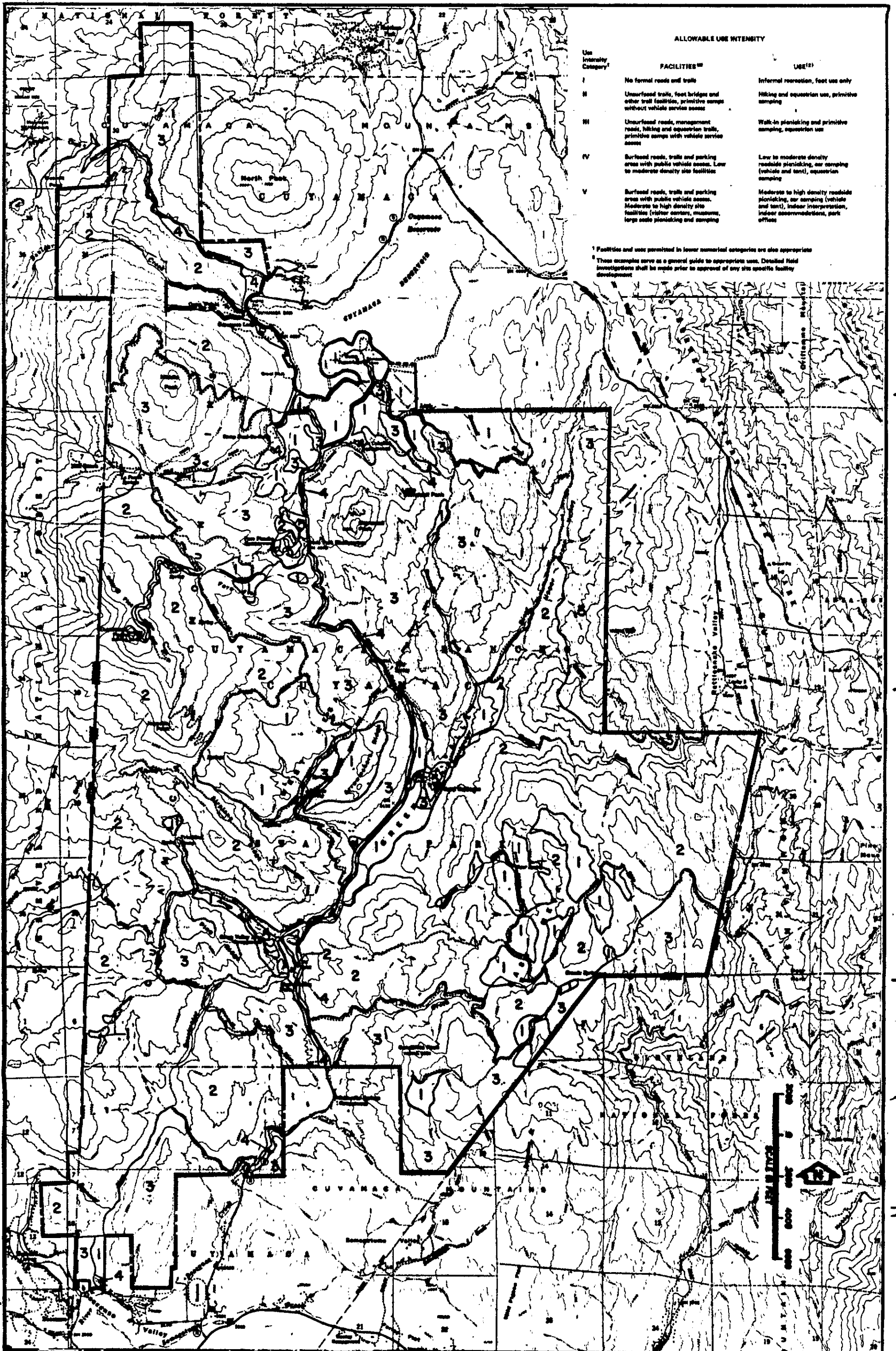
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OCT. 1965

CHECKED

APPROVED

DATE

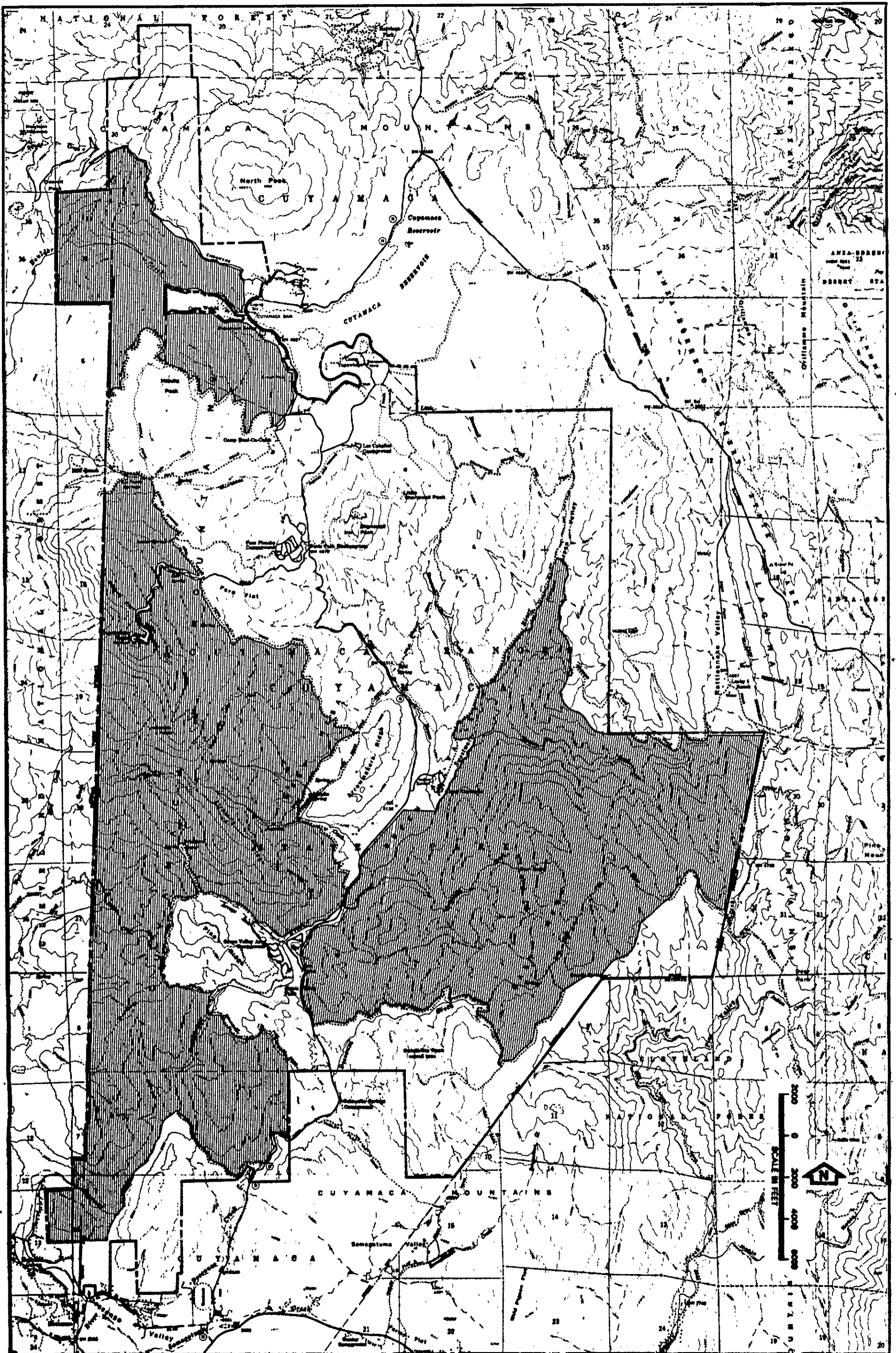


ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

Use Intensity Category ¹	FACILITIES ²	USE ²
I	No formal roads and trails	Informal recreation, foot use only
II	Unsurfaced trails, foot bridges and other trail facilities, primitive camps without vehicle service areas	Hiking and equestrian use, primitive camping
III	Unsurfaced roads, management roads, hiking and equestrian trails, primitive camps with vehicle service areas	Walk-in picnicking and primitive camping, equestrian use
IV	Surfaced roads, trails and parking areas with public vehicle access. Low to moderate density site facilities	Low to moderate density roadside picnicking, car camping (vehicle and tent), equestrian camping
V	Surfaced roads, trails and parking areas with public vehicle access. Moderate to high density site facilities (visitor centers, museums, large scale picnicking and camping)	Moderate to high density roadside picnicking, car camping (vehicle and tent), indoor interpretation, indoor accommodations, park offices

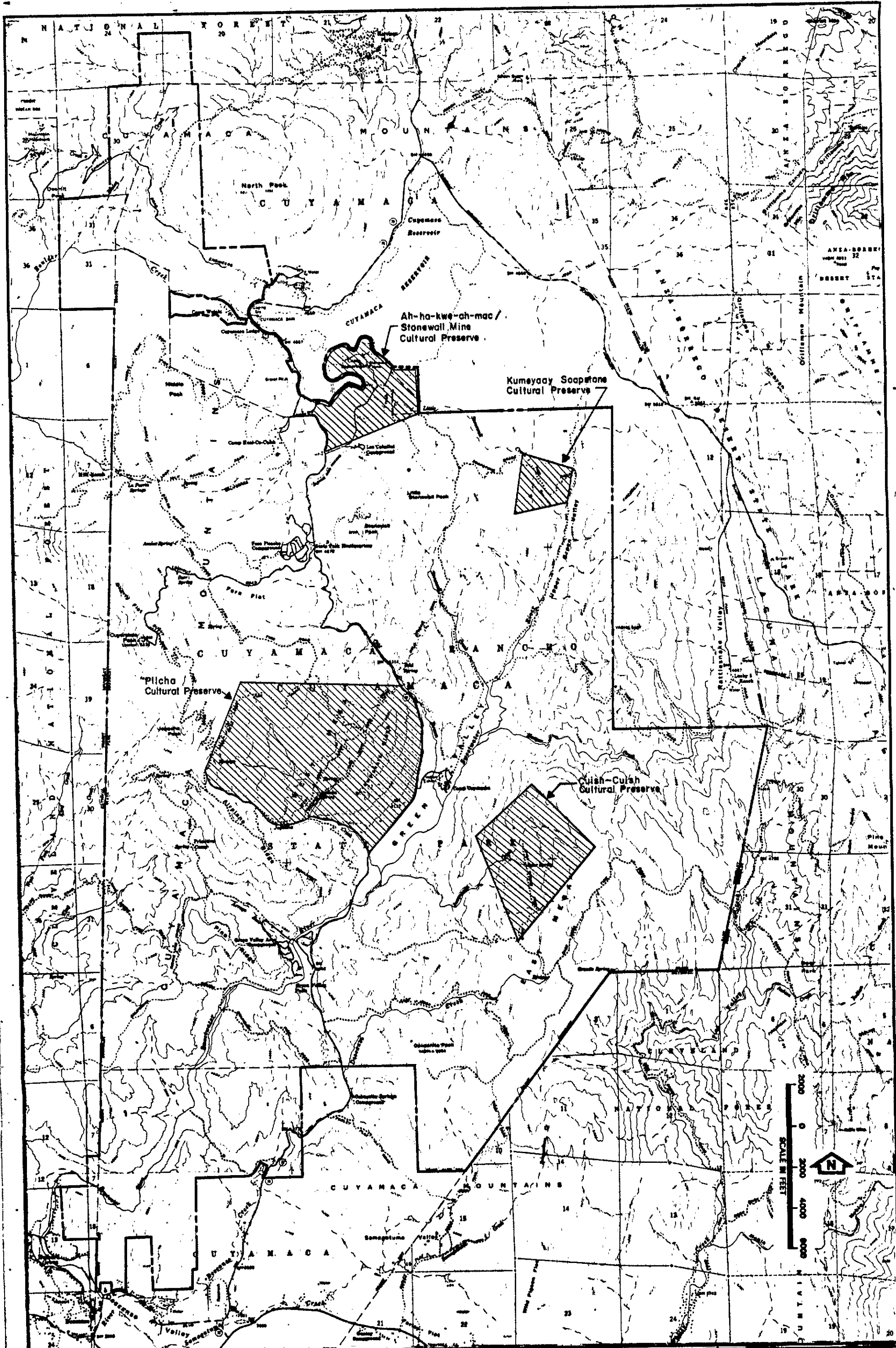
¹ Facilities and uses permitted in lower numerical categories are also appropriate
² These examples serve as a general guide to appropriate uses. Detailed field investigations shall be made prior to approval of any site specific facility development

2 MGP	19195	CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK RESOURCE ELEMENT ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY	RESOURCE AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		REVISIONS	DATE	DRAWN
							OCT. 1964 GHC:GD



3 Map	19165	CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK RESOURCE ELEMENT CUYAMACA MOUNTAINS STATE WILDERNESS	REVISIONS		DATE	DESIGNED
			APPROVED		DATE	DRAWN OCT. 1961 CHECKED

MISSOURI AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



Map 4	19195	CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK RESOURCE ELEMENT CULTURAL PRESERVES	REVISIONS _____	DATE _____	DESIGNED _____
			APPROVED _____	DATE _____	DRAWN OCT. 1981 CHECKED _____

SUMMARY

Background

The Castaic Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is located two miles north of the unincorporated community of Castaic and 45 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Lake is easily accessible to the metropolitan Los Angeles area due to its proximity to the I-5 Golden State Freeway (see Figure 1). The lake is located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains at the point where I-5 begins to ascend from the Santa Clarita Valley (See Figure 2).

Castaic Lake is one of the major reservoirs in the California Aqueduct Project. As originally conceived in the early 1960s, in addition to providing valuable water storage, the reservoir was planned to be developed by the State for a variety of recreational uses. The County of Los Angeles accepted operating responsibility for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area from the State of California in November 1969 for a period of 50 years. Since 1969 substantial commitments of State funds have enabled the County to develop many of the originally planned recreational facilities. In keeping with the State policies for State Recreation Areas, emphasis has been placed on development of outdoor recreational opportunities. Figure 3 presents a summary of the existing and previously planned facilities within the SRA boundaries. These existing facilities have typically served in excess of 1.2 million persons annually in recent years, with some 60 to 70 percent of this attendance occurring in the lower Afterbay or Castaic Lagoon area. Attendance is characterized by high seasonal usage with the majority of lake visitors originating from nearby in the San Fernando Valley, Central Los Angeles, and other portions of Los Angeles County.

Up to this time, recreational development at Castaic has been guided by a plan prepared in 1971, and subsequently amended, by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation as shown on Figure 3. Significant



Figure 2
CASTAIC LAKE SITE PHOTO
(LOOKING NORTH)

STA NYO
 Δ Group Camping

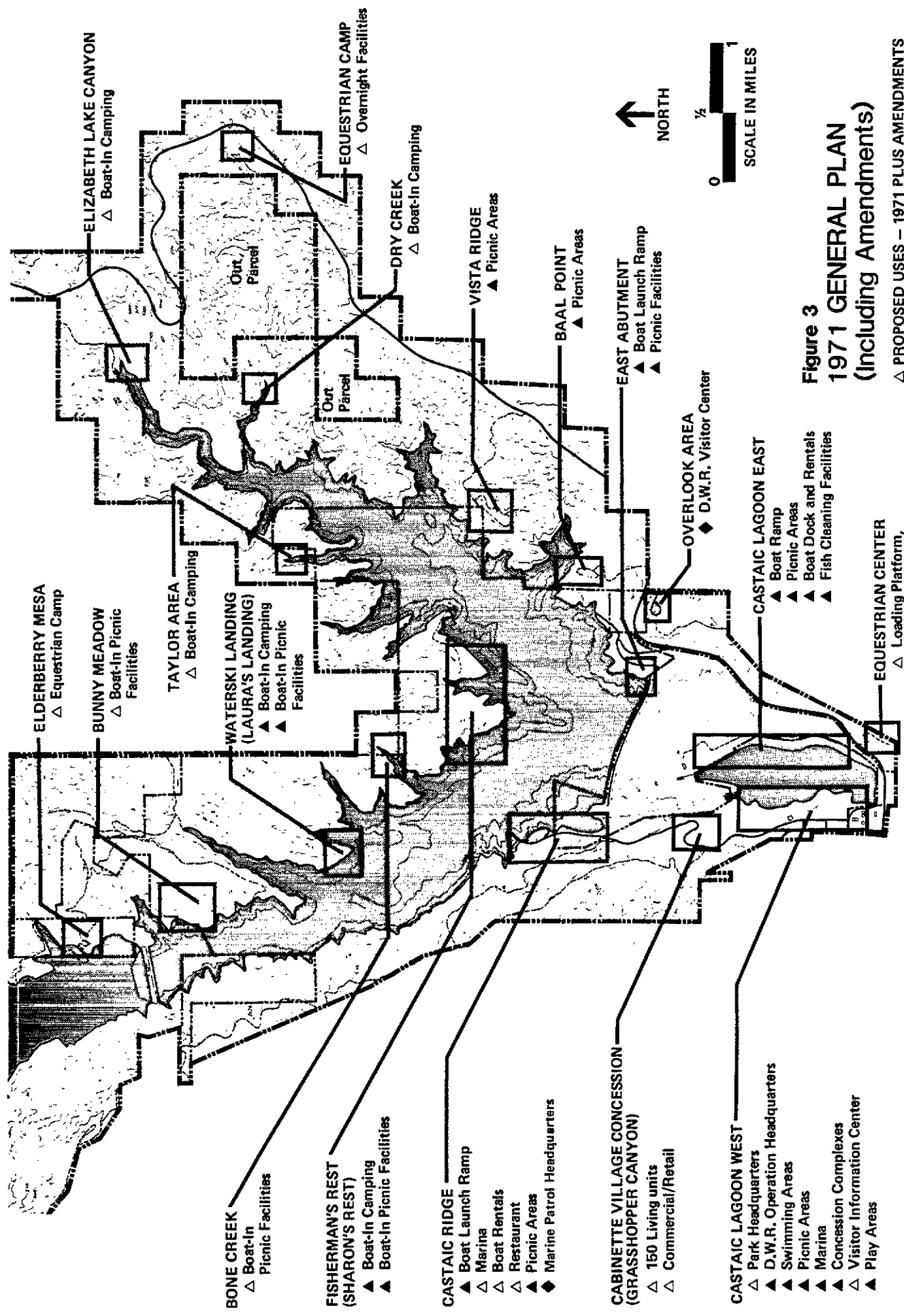


Figure 3
1971 GENERAL PLAN
(Including Amendments)

- Δ PROPOSED USES — 1971 PLUS AMENDMENTS
- ▲ EXISTING/COMMITTED FACILITIES — 1985
- ◆ EXISTING/COMMITTED FACILITIES NOT IN 1971 GENERAL PLAN PLUS AMENDMENTS

- BONE CREEK**
- Δ Boat-In
- ▲ Picnic Facilities

- FISHERMAN'S REST (SHARON'S REST)**
- ▲ Boat-In Camping
- ▲ Boat-In Picnic Facilities

- CASTAIC RIDGE**
- ▲ Boat Launch Ramp
- ▲ Marina
- ▲ Boat Rentals
- ▲ Restaurant
- ▲ Picnic Areas
- ◆ Marine Patrol Headquarters

- CABINETTE VILLAGE CONCESSION (GRASSHOPPER CANYON)**
- ▲ 150 Living units
- ▲ Commercial/Retail

- CASTAIC LAGOON WEST**
- ▲ Park Headquarters
- ▲ D.W.R. Operation Headquarters
- ▲ Swimming Areas
- ▲ Picnic Areas
- ▲ Marina
- ▲ Concession Complexes
- ▲ Visitor Information Center
- ▲ Play Areas

SOURCE: STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- EQUESTRIAN CENTER**
- Δ Loading Platform, Hitching Rails and Trailer Parking

- CASTAIC LAGOON EAST**
- ▲ Boat Ramp
- ▲ Picnic Areas
- ▲ Boat Dock and Rentals
- ▲ Fish Cleaning Facilities

- OVERLOOK AREA**
- ◆ D.W.R. Visitor Center

- EAST ABUTMENT**
- ▲ Boat Launch Ramp
- ▲ Picnic Facilities

- BAAL POINT**
- ▲ Picnic Areas

- VISTA RIDGE**
- ▲ Picnic Areas

- DRY CREEK**
- ▲ Boat-In Camping

- EQUESTRIAN CAMP**
- Δ Overnight Facilities

- ELIZABETH LAKE CANYON**
- Δ Boat-In Camping

- ELDERBERRY MESA**
- Δ Equestrian Camp

- BUNNY MEADOW**
- Δ Boat-In Picnic Facilities

- TAYLOR AREA**
- Δ Boat-In Camping

- WATERSKI LANDING (LAURA'S LANDING)**
- ▲ Boat-In Camping
- ▲ Boat-In Picnic Facilities

Out Parcel

Out Parcel

progress has been made to date in accomplishing major components of the plan. Changing circumstances have led to the need to assess the existing plan and make appropriate revisions to guide future development, with particular emphasis on those compatible visitor-serving and recreational developments which can be developed and operated by the private sector.

A series of photos of various developed and planned-for-development areas of the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area portray the character of the landscape and water surfaces near the recreational facilities. Figures 4 through 10 identify the areas and provide a contemporary record of existing facilities.

Planning Process

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and its consultant team have carried out a 14-step process in the creation of this General Plan Amendment for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. The program began in June 1983, in order that the Parks' staff and the consultant group would have the opportunity to review the intensive summer-time recreational usership at the main reservoir and in the Afterbay. Subsequently, after the Labor Day weekend, the consultant team prepared the investigative/feasibility report concerning the potentials for private development of additional public recreational facilities and thereafter prepared this proposed revised General Plan Amendment. The 14 steps which have occurred in the planning process cycle are as follows:

1. The Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department and the consultant team have used as a starting point the existing General Plan of 1971, as amended.
2. Full field inventory of all existing park facilities and operations during the 1983-1984 year was conducted.



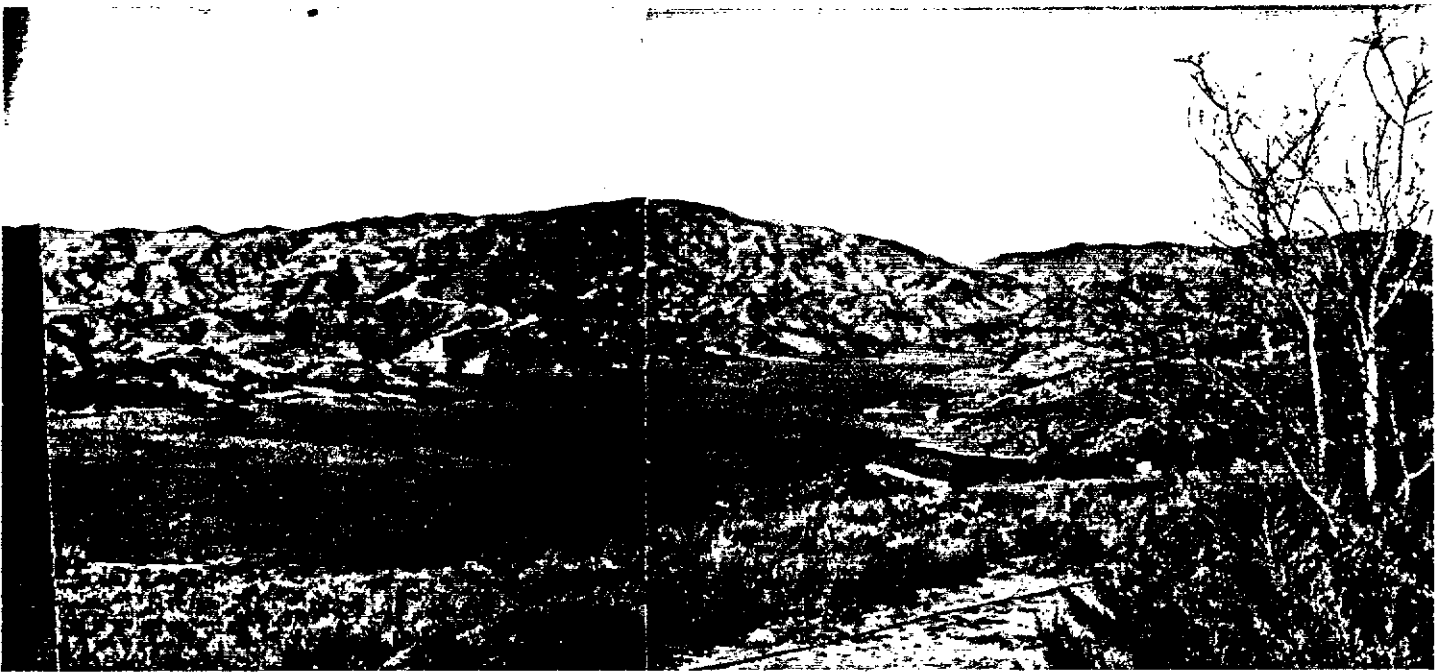
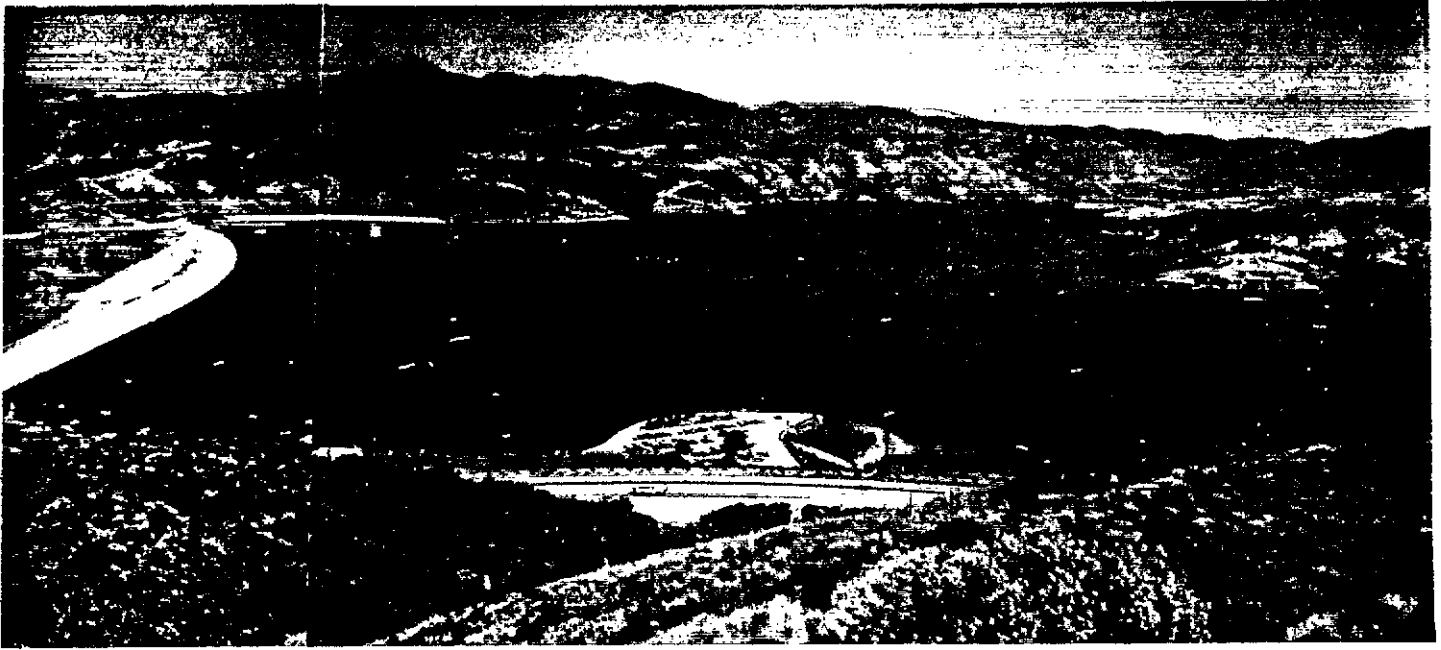


Figure 4

The above two panoramic photos are taken from the D.W.R. Overlook. The top photo looks to the west with Castaic Lagoon to the left, Castaic Dam in the center and Fisherman's Rest at the far right of the photo. The lower photo looks north at the two branches of Castaic Lake; Elizabeth Lake Canyon on the right and Castaic Canyon on the left.

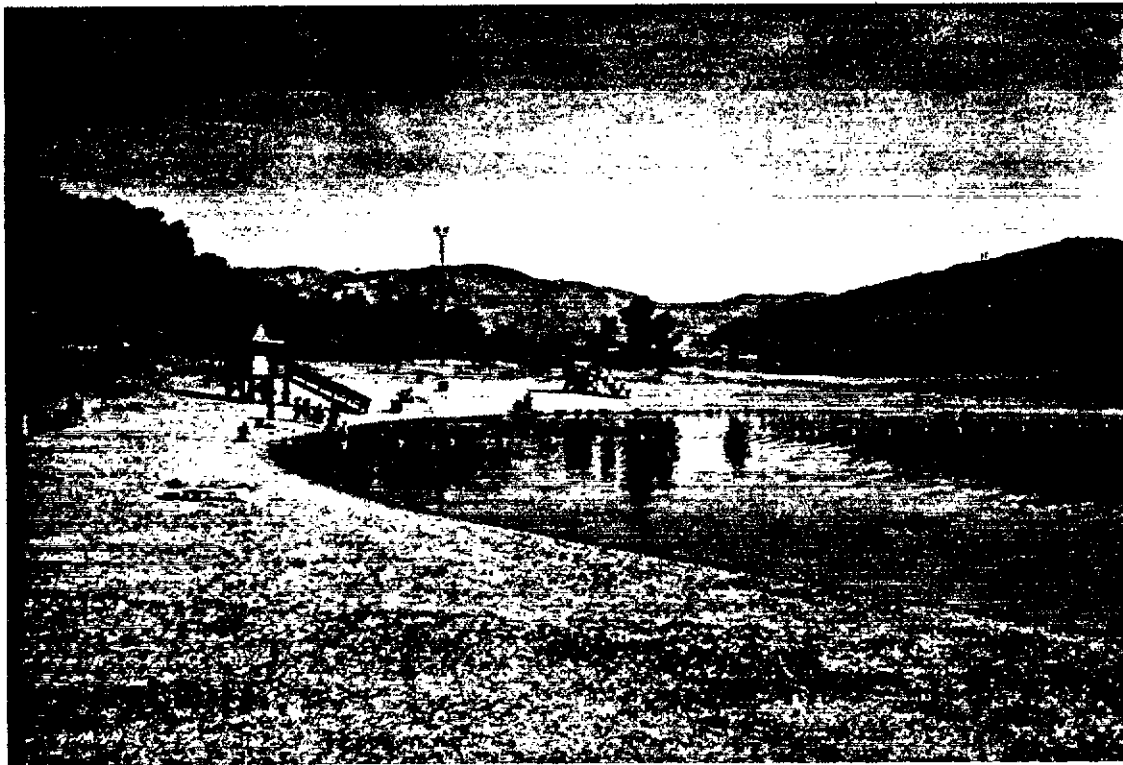
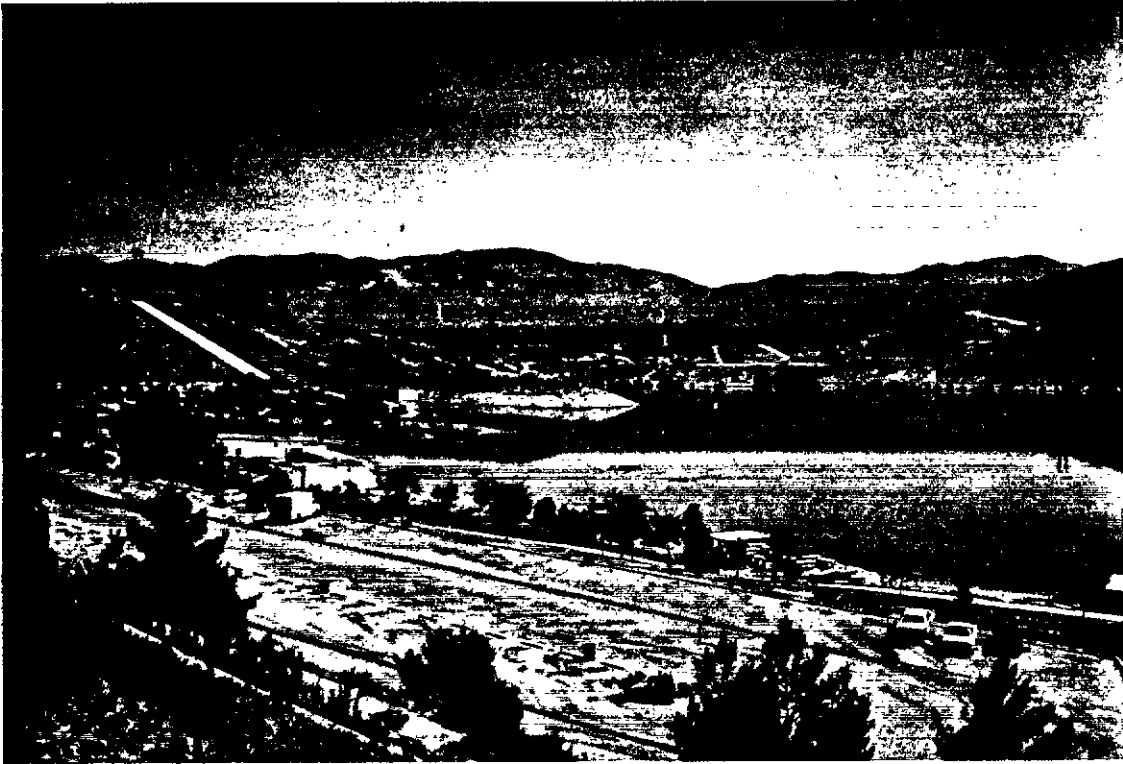


Figure 5

The Castaic Lagoon West Swimming and Picnic areas have been developed with sandy beaches, lifeguard towers, picnic areas, and parking facilities. The upper photo shows the proximity of the Lagoon area to Castaic Dam and main spillway. The lower photo is a closeup of one of the several swimming areas.



Figure 6

The Castaic Lagoon East Boat Launch area provides parking for 269 cars and boat trailers and 148 individual cars. Boating in the Castaic Lagoon (Afterbay) is restricted to sailboats and other non-motorized motorized crafts.

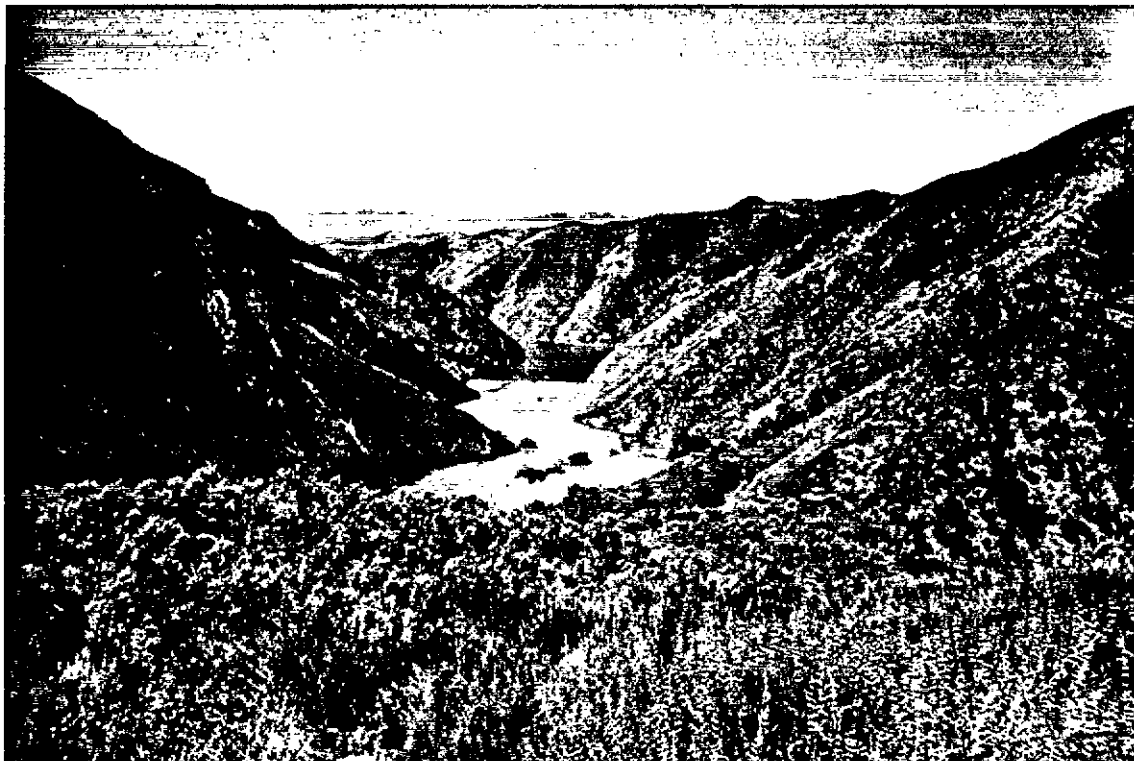


Figure 7

The East Abutment Boat Launch Ramp (top photo) is the largest such facility on Castaic Lake. Currently about 600 boats can be handled per day on all main lake boat launch facilities. Access to many of the more remote portions of Castaic Lake such as Elizabeth Lake Canyon (shown in the lower photo) is only possible by water.

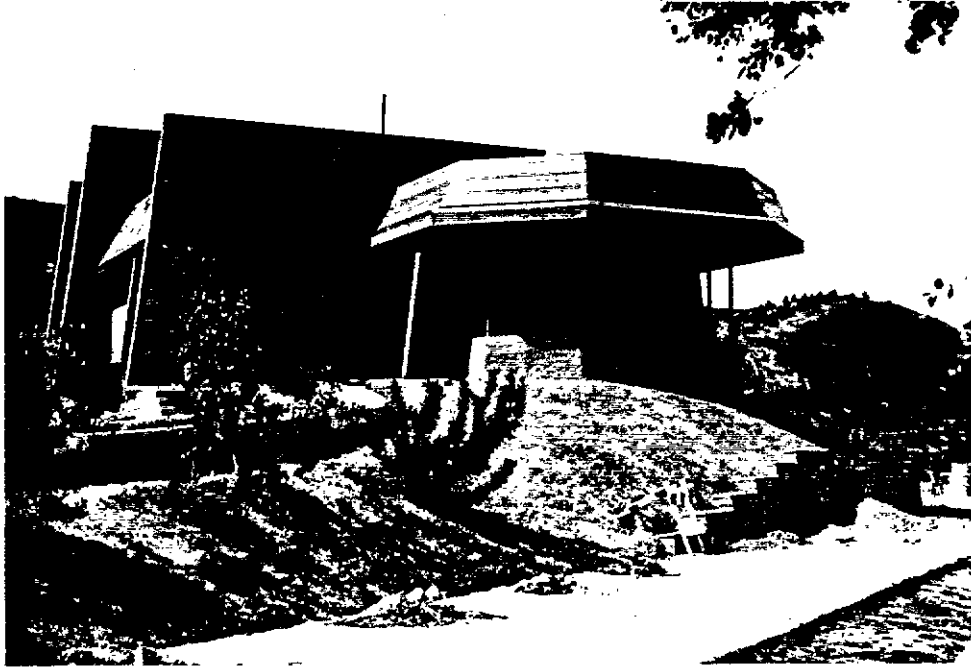


Figure 8

Castaic Ridge has been developed to include the Marine Patrol Headquarters Building, a boat launch ramp, and picnic areas. Possible future uses include group camping nearby at the Castaic Ridge Overlook area.



Figure 9

Baal Point has been developed for picnic use (upper photo). Additional future uses including camping related to the water and a marina in the wind sheltered cove shown in the lower photo.



Figure 10

Fisherman's Rest, on the north shore of Castaic Lake is accessible only by boat and provides facilities for camping and picnicing. Both of the views above are looking to the south toward Castaic Dam. The lower photo shows the small boat mooring facility in the foreground.

3. The plan includes all of the projects that have been under construction but have not yet been opened to public use during 1983-1984.
4. A Technical Advisory Committee including all agencies having interest in the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area and the waters therein was established to provide advice and information to the Parks Department and to the consultant team. The members included the several entities of the County of Los Angeles, the State Department of Water Resources, the State Department of Parks and Recreation, and the United States Forest Service. Two formal meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee occurred at the County Parks' northern regional headquarters during the planning process.
5. A Citizens Advisory Committee drawn from among Castaic Lake recreation users, community residents, and Castaic Junction businesspersons, was established to provide advice about user group desires and about community concerns and objectives for further development of the State Recreation Area. Six meetings with representatives of the group have been held at Castaic Junction and in Newhall.
6. The scope of work for the creation of this General Plan Amendment was divided into two parts. The first product was an investigative/feasibility report which dealt with the potentials for establishing new leasehold recreation facilities developments for public use by the private sector. The second document product is this revised General Plan Amendment for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area.
7. The Parks' staff and the consultant team conducted intensive observation of park operations on key weekends and during holiday peak weekends in the summer of 1983 in order to determine the

dynamics of maximum user demand on the existing available park resources. The consultant team recorded visitor data and compared them with Parks' staff observations for Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day weekends. Subsequently, the Parks' staff and the consultant team also recorded data for mid-week usership and for existing concessionaire usership.

8. The consultant team organized and conducted a license plate survey intended to determine the origin of the park users. Over 700 vehicle license plate numbers were collected from different parking lots at both the upper reservoir as well as at the Afterbay locations over a period of several weekends including the 4th of July and Labor Day. Weekdays were measured during July and in early September.
9. To determine the priorities that park users saw for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area park improvements, a visitor attitude survey was conducted during the first three weeks of September, with heavy emphasis on obtaining responses from Labor Day weekend park visitors. A total of 2,000 survey cards was handed out at the entry gates to the park. Over 400 responses were received during the following six weeks. The results of both the license plate survey and the park improvement attitude survey have been recorded in the investigative/feasibility report and are also discussed in this revised General Plan Amendment report.
10. The investigative/feasibility study was completed as a separate document in November 1983, has been widely distributed among the several affected governmental agencies, and has been revised and corrected based upon the review comments received from the review team which included members of the Technical Advisory Committee and also comments received from the Citizens Advisory Committee.
11. The draft proposed revised General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake was completed in February 1984.

12. The Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department staff and the members of the Technical Advisory Committee commented upon the proposed draft plan in March 1984, directing the consultant team to prepare a revised document. A second draft was issued in July, 1984, and comments were prepared and provided to the County in October 1984.
13. Further revisions were prepared, particularly in response to October, 1984, State Department of Parks and Recreation review comments. A proposed Preliminary General Plan was completed during February, 1985.
14. This General Plan Amendment was completed during July, 1985, and incorporates additional revisions and recommendations resulting from further State Department of Parks and Recreation review.

General Plan Land Use and Facilities Summary

This General Plan Amendment has been prepared in accordance with Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code (amended in 1982) which requires that:

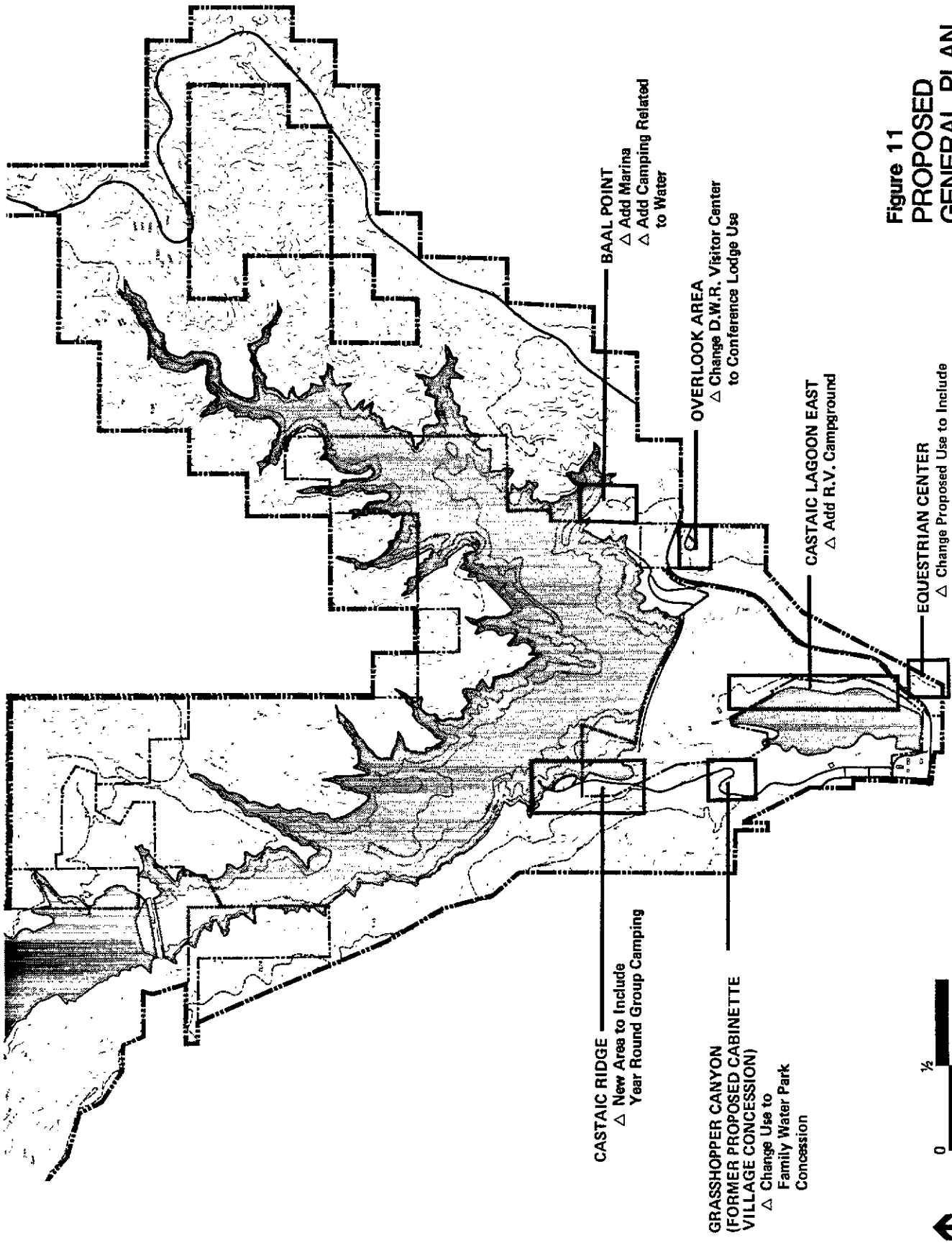
Following classification or reclassification of a unit by the State Park and Recreation Commission, and prior to the development of any new facilities in any previously classified unit, the department shall prepare a General Plan or revise any existing plan, as the case may be, for the unit.

The General Plan shall consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed land use, facilities, concessions, operation, environmental impact, management of resources, and any other matter deemed appropriate for inclusion in the Plan.

Figure 11 presents a summary of the amended and added uses at specific locations within the Castaic SRA. In keeping with the objective of achieving maximum participation of the private sector in future developments at the Lake, it is anticipated that most of the uses indicated on Figure 11 would be accomplished via concession agreements and long-term

leasehold agreements in which private developer-operators would construct facilities and operate recreational facilities available to the public on a fee basis.

Of the uses indicated on Figure 11, the following priorities and phasing are recommended for the near term:



CASTAIC RIDGE
 △ New Area to Include
 Year Round Group Camping

**GRASSHOPPER CANYON
 (FORMER PROPOSED CABINETTE
 VILLAGE CONCESSION)**
 △ Change Use to
 Family Water Park
 Concession

BAAL POINT
 △ Add Marina
 △ Add Camping Related
 to Water

OVERLOOK AREA
 △ Change D.W.R. Visitor Center
 to Conference Lodge Use

CASTAIC LAGOON EAST
 △ Add R.V. Campground

EQUESTRIAN CENTER
 △ Change Proposed Use to Include
 Second Phase
 R.V. Campground



SCALE IN MILES



**Figure 11
 PROPOSED
 GENERAL PLAN
 AMENDMENT**

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT PROJECTS

<u>Area</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Phasing</u>
East Side of Afterbay	R.V. Campground (at least 200 sites) Also maintain fishing access	(Opening Year) 1985/86
Castaic Ridge	Year-Round Group Camp (maintain and increase this current use)	1985/86
Grasshopper Canyon	Family Water Park	1986/87
Old Equestrian Area	Second Phase R.V. Campground (may be used for overflow from First Phase R.V. Campground to be developed on East Side of Afterbay)	1986/87
DWR Overlook	Conference Lodge (will require better parking facilities)	1986/87
Baal Point	Overnight Camping Must develop new road access	(Opening Year) 1985/86
	Marina development in cove	1987/88

Once these developments are successfully operating, the likelihood of achieving additional objectives will be significantly enhanced, including: overnight lodging, additional camping facilities, restaurants, equestrian facilities, additional forestation and shade tree planting, new parking facilities, enhanced park maintenance and operations, etc. Through joint public-private sector cooperation, Castaic Lake can become an outstanding recreational attraction that expands opportunities for current user groups while simultaneously serving large numbers of persons who do not at present patronize the facility.

Of the 11,500 acres within the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area recommended boundaries, of which approximately 8,788 acres are land area, some 456 acres have been developed for recreational use. The General Plan Amendment commits an additional 100 acres to developed recreational use. For comparison of the 1971 General Plan, 1985 existing facilities, and the General Plan Amendment projects, please see Table 1 (after p.25) which defines the modest scale of the General Plan Amendment proposals.

At present, existing facilities accommodate 19,000 persons per peak week day and 34,000 persons per peak weekend day. Total peak annual attendance has approached 1.45 million visitors. This plan includes recommended additional facilities which may result in an increment of peak week day attendance of 4,100 persons (to 23,100) and a new overnight "weekday" population peak of 1,400 persons. The weekend day peak increment could approach 6,500 additional persons (to 40,500), and the park could experience a weekend overnight population peak per night of 2,500 persons. Overall annual attendance would rise primarily because of campgrounds uses throughout the year, and the attractiveness of the proposed waterpark. Total annual attendance could rise to 1.6 million visitors if all recommended projects are eventually realized. This constitutes a 33 percent overall increment above the planning factor stabilized visitor base of 1.2 million suggested by the 1983 Investigative Feasibility Analysis for Uses at Castaic Lake.

I. INTRODUCTION

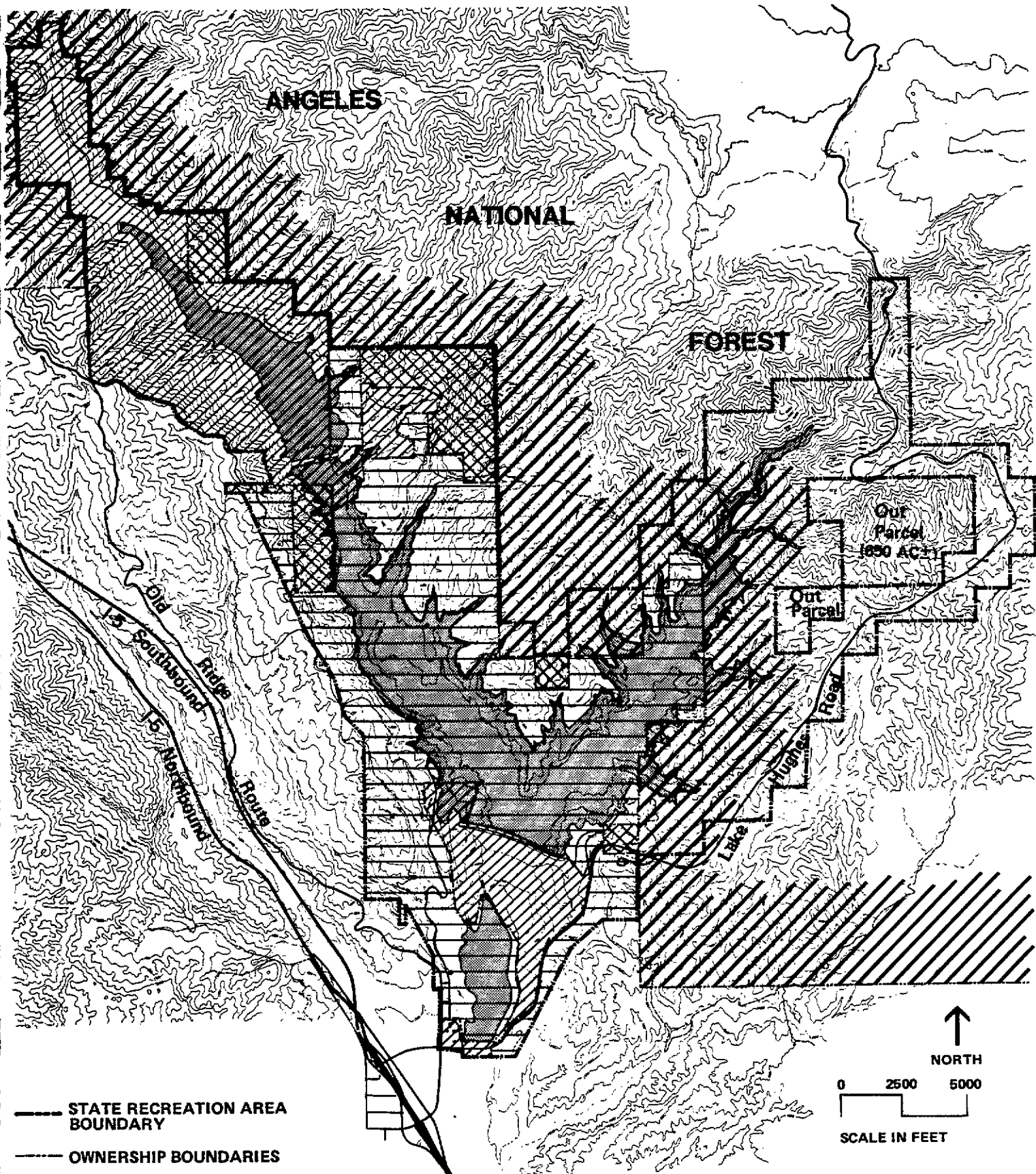
Purpose of Plan Amendment

The purpose of the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area General Plan Amendment is to provide broad guidelines for the further development and operation of this existing recreational facility. Specific objectives of this Plan Amendment are as follows:

- o To identify and evaluate the natural, cultural and recreational resources and potentials.
- o To establish policies for management, protection and enhancement of these resources and potentials.
- o To determine visitor-serving activities, land uses and facilities that are compatible with the purpose of the SRA, the available resources, and the surrounding area.
- o To establish policies to guide the granting and management of concession agreements with the private sector.
- o To provide guidelines for the ongoing operation and maintenance of existing and future recreational developments.
- o To determine the potential environmental impact of visitor activities, land use and related facilities.
- o To provide an information document for the public, the legislature, park personnel, other governmental agencies, and interested private sector organizations.

Project Description

The Castaic Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) is located in the unincorporated northwestern area of Los Angeles County and encompasses some 11,200 acres (Figure 12). Castaic Lake and Dam, Castaic Lagoon and Elderberry Forebay form a unit of the California Water Project administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). A portion of the land and



- STATE RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY
 - OWNERSHIP BOUNDARIES
 - //// U.S. FOREST SERVICE (3,400 ± AC)
 - XXXX U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (700 ± AC)
 - //// CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES (2,800 ± AC)
 - CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF PARKS AND RECREATION (4,300 ± AC)
- (TOTAL S.R.A. AREA = 11,200 AC)

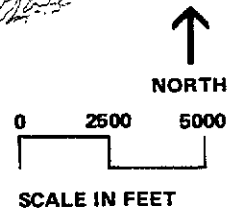


Figure 12
**RECOMMENDED
 STATE RECREATION AREA
 BOUNDARY AND
 EXISTING OWNERSHIP**

water area in the east arm of Castaic Lake lies within the Angeles National Forest, as shown on Figure 12. Small portions are also held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Department of Water Resources has delegated recreational development and operations responsibilities to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, which in turn has entered into a 50-year operating agreement with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. Any development and operation within the National Forest lands must be approved via special use permit and Federal and environmental clearance by the U.S. Forest Service. A similar permit procedure would be necessary for use of BLM lands. Recreational uses of the Elderberry Forebay are prohibited because of the rapid and frequent fluctuation of water levels during power generation periods by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The Castaic Reservoir was created by an earthfill dam across Castaic Creek to store and regulate water as part of the state-constructed aqueduct conveyance facilities. The main lake, "Castaic Lake," has approximately 28 miles of shoreline and 2,232 surface acres of water at the maximum pool elevation of 1,515 feet above sea level. The main lake consists of two arms: the eastern Elizabeth Lake Canyon Arm and the western Castaic Canyon Arm.

The Castaic Lake water level managed by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides for seasonal fluctuations as the winter surplus of water creates a maximum pool in early spring. Summer demands exceed the conveyance capacity of the aqueduct, and draws the reservoir storage down to minimum levels by the fall of each year. The total average drawdown between March and September of a typical year results in an elevation drop of about 40-60 feet. However, in extremely dry seasons like the one in 1976-1977, the lake elevation dropped by roughly 160 feet. During 1984, DWR drew down the lake elevation by roughly 150 feet in order to repair the intake structures.

A downstream pool, Castaic Lagoon or "Afterbay," is a 180-acre nonfluctuating pool which was created where materials for dam construction

were excavated. All natural runoff waters from upstream tributary seasonal watercourses such as Grasshopper Creek pass through this lagoon and are metered out at its south end through an overflow control structure into Castaic Creek.

Since the creation of recreational facilities in the early 1970s, attendance has steadily climbed to more than one million visitors annually. Current facilities at the main lake offer opportunities for power and sailboats, waterskiing, jetskiing, fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, and sightseeing. The Afterbay provides boating, swimming, picnicking, and fishing.

Historical Background¹

The rural community of Castaic came into existence first as a highway stopover with small cafes and automobile services at the south end of the old Ridge Route after its opening in 1914. The Ridge Route made a Los Angeles to Bakersfield trip possible in just days. The upper Castaic Valley area was a good stopping place prior to the climb up to Tejon Pass. Increasing traffic, induced by Southern California growth, made a new route necessary, and construction of Highway 99 promised more visitors. Stores, gas stations and restaurants that were established along the original Ridge Route were relocated to serve the second valley route. The decades after World War II brought a resurgence of Southern California growth and expectations of boom in the little community. Highway 99 continued to be improved to its current freeway status as a divided, restricted access, high-speed Interstate Highway (I-5).

¹Santa Clara Valley, Proposed Areawide General Plan, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, December 1983

The completion of Castaic Reservoir and the recreational activities of the lake and Afterbay have increased Castaic's growth potential, as evidenced by the recent development of new residential subdivisions, but have also resulted in traffic impacts, particularly on summer weekends. Castaic also remains a major truck and tourist stop.

Planning Background

On November 18, 1969, the County of Los Angeles entered into a 50-year agreement with the State of California for the development, operation and maintenance of recreational facilities at Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. Since that time, the County has been responsible for the operation of Castaic Lake.

The lake's originally proposed recreational developments are covered by the "Castaic Reservoir Recreation Development Plan--Phase I" of January 1968 prepared for the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the State Department of Parks and Recreation; in the "Castaic Lake Recreation Development Plan" of August 1969²; in the "Castaic Lake Area Recreation Development Plan" bulletin No. 117-9 of the DWR³; and in the "Castaic Lake General Development Plan" mapping of 1971⁴. All these components comprise what is generally known as the "Castaic Lake General Plan."

More detailed accounts of the proposed developments at the Castaic Reservoir were covered in the approved "EIR for the Main Reservoir Development" of September 4, 1973⁵; and in the "Narrative Construction Program, General Development Afterbay Area" document of August 1970⁶.

²"Castaic Lake Recreation Development Plan" of August 1969 prepared for the DWR by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the State Park System.

³"Castaic Lake Area Recreation Development Plan" bulletin No. 117-9 of the DWR March 1970.

⁴"Castaic Lake General Development Plan" mapping [4 sheets] prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the State Park System on March 15, 1971.

⁵"Final Environmental Impact Report, Main Reservoir, Phase I, Castaic Lake State and County Park," prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County, January 1, 1974.

⁶"Narrative Construction Program, Castaic Lake Recreation Area General Development Afterbay Area," prepared by the Planning Services Agency, Design and Development Division, County of Los Angeles, August 1970.

**Table 1
CASTAIC LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA - GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT**

	GENERAL PLAN PLUS ADDITIONS (1971)	EXISTING FACILITIES (1985)	PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT (1985)
CASTAIC RIDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat Launch Ramp (4 Lane) Marina 200 Car + Trailer 173 Car Only Boat Rentals & Service Restaurant Picnic Areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±25 Acres Developed ±10 Acres Landscaped Marine Patrol HQ Bldg. Boat Launch Ramp Boat Dock Parking 203 Car + Trailer 195 Car Only Picnic Area 87 Units 12 Group Shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±10 Acres New Overlook Area to Include Year Round Group Camp
GRASSHOPPER CANYON (Former Cabanette Village Concession)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabanette Village Concession 150 Living Units Support Commercial 	NONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±30 Acres Change Proposed Use to Family Water Park Concession
CASTAIC LAGOON WEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Information Center Park Headquarters D.W.R. Operations Headquarters Swimming Areas Sand Beaches Lifeguard Stations Picnic Areas 436 Units Group Shelters Marina Boat Rentals Fish Cleaning Facilities Concession Complexes Parking 1800 Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±108 Acres Developed ±95 Acres Landscaped D.W.R. Operations Headquarters Swimming Areas Sand Beaches (450,000 SF) Lifeguard Stations Picnic Areas 418 Units 57 Group Shelters Marina Boat Rentals Fish Cleaning Facilities (111) Parking 1284 Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±10 Acres Reconfigure Main Entry Road Reconfigure Main Entry & Exit to Beach Area Expand Parking Capacity by Approximately 400 Spaces
EQUESTRIAN CENTER (Not in Use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading Platform & Hitching Rails Parking 40 Car-Trailers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±5 Acres Developed ±1 Acres Landscaped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No New Acreage Change Proposed Use to Include Second Phase R.V. Campground
CASTAIC LAGOON EAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat Launch Ramp (2 Lane) Boat Rentals Boat Dock Fish Cleaning Facilities Picnic Areas Parking 100 Car-Trailers 110 Car Only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±20 Acres Developed ±21 Acres Landscaped Boat Launch Ramp Boat Dock Fish Cleaning Facilities (2) Picnic Areas 62 Units 15 Group Shelters Parking 58 Car-Trailers 173 Car Only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±25 Acres Develop First Phase R.V. Campground Add Shop to Serve Existing Dry-Use Fishing
DWR OVERLOOK AREA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Included in 1971 Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±3 Acres D.W.R. Visitor Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No New Acreage Change Existing Use to Conference Lodge
EAST ABUTMENT AREA & Dam Overlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat Launch Ramp (8 Lane) Picnic Facilities Parking 600 Car-Trailers Extra 100 Spaces at Low Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±41 Acres Developed ±2 Acres Landscaped Boat Launch Ramp (8 Lane) Picnic Facilities 12 Units 6 Group Shelters Information Kiosk Lifeguard Station Maintenance Bldg. and Service Yard Boat Dock Boat Rentals Parking 269 Car-Trailers 148 Car Only 	NONE

±15 Acres (excluding Marina on the Lake)

New Camping Area
Related to Water
New 250 Slip Marina
with Support Parking (300 Cars)
and Access Roads/Trails/
and/or Funicular

±20 Acres Developed
±8 Acres Landscaped
Picnic Areas
• 84 Units
• 17 Group Shelters
Fish Cleaning Facility (1)
Parking
• 106 Car Spaces

±10 Acres

New Camping Area

(Committed)
±20 Acres Developed
±30 Acres Landscaped
Picnic Areas
• 200 Units
Parking
• 265 Car Spaces

Delete 1971 Planned Use

NONE

NONE

NONE

Delete 1971 Planned Use

NONE

Delete 1971 Planned Use

NONE

NONE

Delete 1971 Planned Use

Development by D.W.R.

±100 Acres

Picnic Areas
• 117 Units
Parking
• 128 Car Spaces

BAAL POINT

Picnic Areas
• 183 Units
Parking
• 285 Car Spaces

VISTA RIDGE

Camping Area
• 10 Units
Boat Dock

**DRY CREEK
(Boat Access Only)**

Boat, R.V. Camping Area
• 15 Units Road Access
Boat Dock

ELIZABETH LAKE CANYON

Corrals
Hitching Rails
Overnight Facilities

**EQUESTRIAN CAMP
on Lake Hughes Road**

Camping Area
• 10 Units
Boat Dock

**TAYLOR AREA
(Boat Access Only)**

±20 Acres Developed

Picnic Areas Boat Dock
• 78 Units • 20 Slips
Camping Area
• 78 Units
Fishing Cleaning Facility (1)
Maintenance Bldg.

**FISHERMAN'S REST
(Sharon's Rest)
(Boat Access Only)**

Picnic Area
• 15 Units
Boat Dock

**BONE CREEK
(Boat Access Only)**

±10 Acres Developed

Picnic Area
• 45 Units
Camping Area
• 31 Units
Boat Dock
• 40 Slips

**WATERSKI LANDING
(Laura's Landing)
(Boat Access Only)**

Not Included in
1971 General Plan

**BUNNY MEADOW
(Boat Access Only)**

Picnic Area
• 15 Units
Boat Dock

Equestrian Camping
• Hitching Rails
• Corral

ELDERBERRY MESA

Group Camping
Parking
• 50 Car Spaces

CASTAIC CANYON

±289 Acres Developed
±167 Acres Landscaped
±456 Acres Total

TOTAL AREAS

In 1978, environmental clearance was obtained for the proposed Waterski Landing Development, which then became a part of the overall plan which is shown on Figure 3 and further defined in Table 1.

Current studies of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation show that substantial additional recreational facilities will be needed over the next few years to meet recreational demands in Southern California. At the same time, there is a pressing need for the creation of revenue producing facilities to help the County sustain its existing program, upgrade current facilities and properly maintain existing and new facilities. The further development of Castaic Lake as part of an overall General Plan Amendment will help meet the recreational deficiencies currently experienced in the lake's existing facilities, and to supply an additional recreational base to cover pressing demand.

II. RESOURCE ELEMENT

Introduction

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

The following resource summary is based on a collection of prior written and mapped information covering the Castaic Lake area. Site-specific resource inventory and analysis work will be necessary to fully assess the constraints and sensitivities that may limit or affect proposed developments and land uses. Similar work will also be needed to resource management strategies to properly manage and protect specific natural and cultural resources, which may not as yet be identified.

RESOURCE SUMMARY

NATURAL RESOURCES

Topography

The terrain that forms the shoreline of the main reservoir varies from sloping terraces and hills to rock outcroppings. Portions of the shoreline on the west side of the reservoir are precipitous cliffs. These rugged hills rise sharply from the streambeds to as high as 4,000 feet.

Prior to the dam's construction, many of the steep slopes in the area surrounding the reservoir were subject to landslides and slumps. The action of the water has accentuated this landslide activity at various points along the lake's edge. Topography ranges from fairly level benches to steep terrain with slopes exceeding 60 percent.

Generally, the slopes are too steep for intensive recreation development; it is only in the areas stabilized after past landslides, slumps, and along ridge tops that the terrain permits the development of extensive recreation facilities in the areas around the main reservoir.

The upper reaches of Elizabeth Lake Canyon that are not inundated by the reservoir are narrow with limited amounts of developable land. Downstream from the dam, the alluvial plain of the stream widens out and provides some areas of relatively flat land that are suitable for recreational development.

Site grading in preparation for the reservoir and for the recreational facilities and access routes has substantially altered the topography during the past 20 years.

Meteorology⁷

Climatic records for the area are not readily available. However, climatological data from nearby weather stations have been analyzed to obtain an estimate of average weather conditions. The drainage basin contributing runoff to the reservoir is situated in a region of mixed characteristics with semi-arid and Mediterranean climate with the mountain areas receiving somewhat more precipitation than the coastal valleys and higher deserts. The mean seasonal precipitation in the region is about 16

⁷See Environmental Analysis for Maintenance of Castaic Lake Fuels Modification Block, Saugus District, Angeles National Forest, April 1977; and Final Environmental Impact Report, Main Reservoir, Phase I, Castaic Lake State and County Park, 1974.

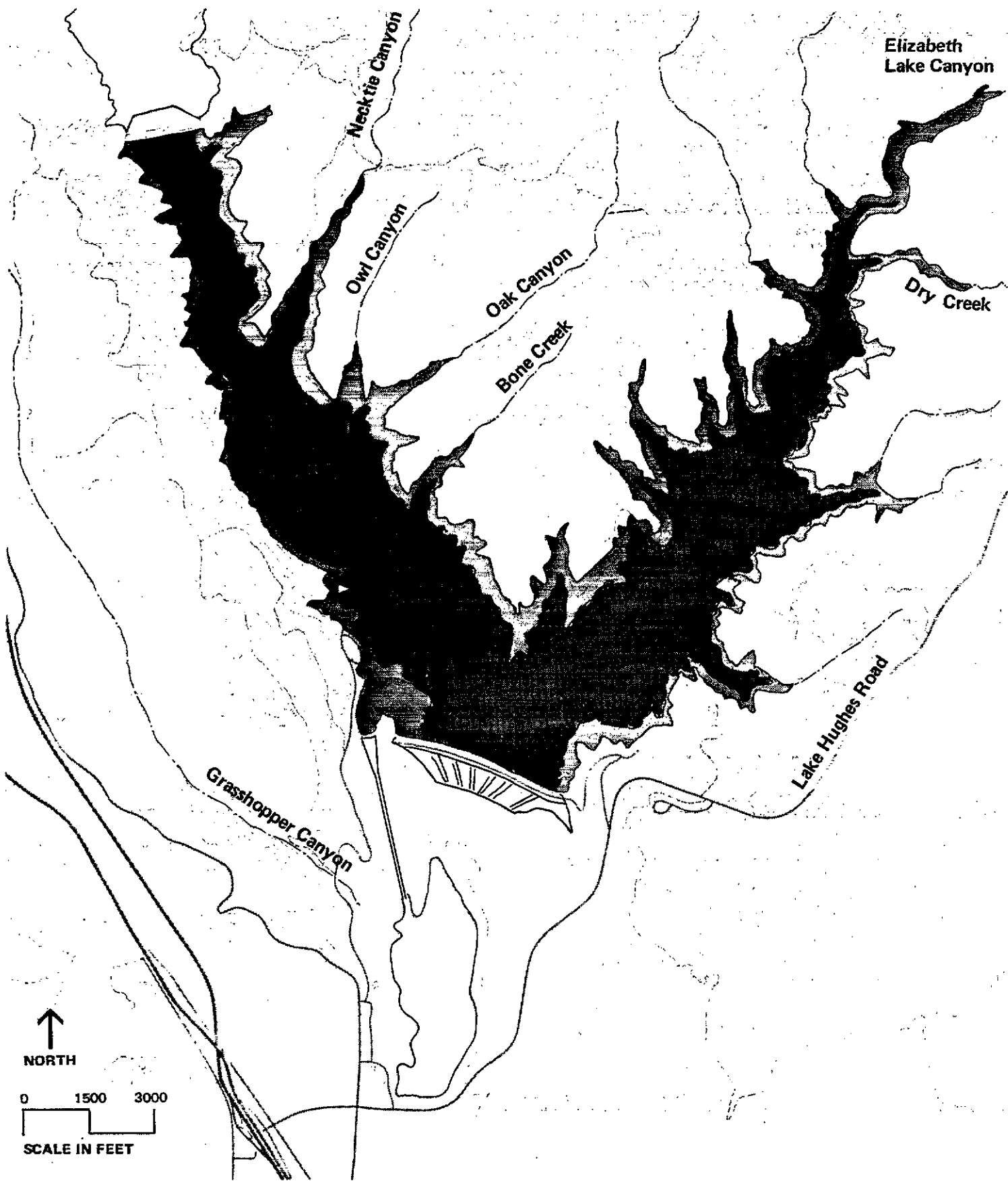
inches, which generally originates from winter storms in the form of rainfall. The rainy season usually occurs between mid-November and April. Snow may be found at about the 4,000 foot level in winter months, but this produces only negligible amounts of moisture for runoff. The mean annual temperature for the area is estimated to be about 62 degrees Fahrenheit. The average July temperature is estimated to be 75 degrees Fahrenheit with highs in September of 102 degrees Fahrenheit. While the average January temperature is estimated at about 50 degrees Fahrenheit, winters are generally mild with temperatures only occasionally dipping below freezing. During the fall and winter, dry northerly downslope winds of 30-50 m.p.h. often occur during "Santa Ana" conditions. Depending on wind direction, wind-generated waves can be a temporary problem on the west arm of the reservoir and at the main launch ramp.

Hydrology

Surface waters within the Castaic Lake area drain southward through several intermittent streams, former tributaries to the Santa Clara River now draining into Castaic Lake. Among the streams, the Elizabeth Lake Canyon, Elderberry and Necktie creeks are the most prominent. Natural flows from these areas are regulated by the reservoir and outlet works of Castaic Dam. The outlet works at present have a maximum stream release capacity for reservoir drainage of 11,000 cubic feet per second. Average flows in Castaic Creek are about 8,570 acre-feet per year.

Water from the lake is used for recreation, human consumption, irrigation, and power generation. The groundwater basin underlying the Castaic Lake area comes from deep percolation of winter storm runoff moving through the area. During wet years when large quantities of surface water are available, the alluvial aquifer system is readily recharged with water level recoveries of as much as 70 feet recorded. On the other hand, after a series of dry years, a significant water level drop is experienced. (Figure 13 illustrates the hydrologic components of the project area.)

The State of California entered into agreement with the County of Los Angeles, the United Water Conservation District, the Newhall Land and Farming Company and the Newhall County Water District on October 24, 1975, providing for operation of Castaic Dam, Castaic Lake, and Castaic Lagoon (downstream pool) in a manner which would assure as far as possible the continuance of the reasonable and beneficial use of the flow of Castaic Creek by the downstream water users as would have occurred if the facilities of the State Water Project had not been constructed. The downstream water is released through the Stream Release Facility of the Outlet Works on the west abutment of Castaic Dam. The water is discharged



Elizabeth
Lake Canyon

Necktie Canyon

Owl Canyon

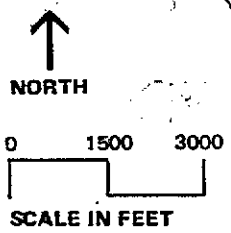
Oak Canyon

Bone Creek

Dry Creek

Grasshopper Canyon

Lake Hughes Road





-  MAXIMUM WATER LEVEL ELEVATION 1515' (SPRING)
-  NORMAL MINIMUM WATER LEVEL ELEVATION 1425' (FALL)
-  1977-78 DROUGHT CONDITION (MAXIMUM RECORDED DROP)
-  SEASONAL WATER COURSES

Figure 13
HYDROLOGY

into Castaic Lagoon by way of a concrete-lined chute and energy dissipator. As the south end of the lagoon water is released into Castaic Creek.

Geology

The Castaic Reservoir is located within two miles of the San Gabriel Fault, which roughly traverses the San Gabriel Mountains. The geologic base of the reservoir area is in general composed of mudstone, sandstone, siltstone (shale) and conglomerate. The mudstone and shale units are very susceptible to landslides. The shallow soils about Castaic Lake and Dam are sedimentary in origin. Rock outcroppings found throughout the surrounding areas are evidence of past seismic activity along the San Andreas and San Gabriel faults.

Soils

There are several soil delineations in the project area. They are predominately sandstone divided with some schist and shale parent material, generally well drained, low to moderate water holding capacity, and surface runoff potential. The erosion hazard rating for all soils is high.

Slope analysis and geological stability ratings have been defined by prior work conducted by the California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey. The information is summarized on Figure 14.

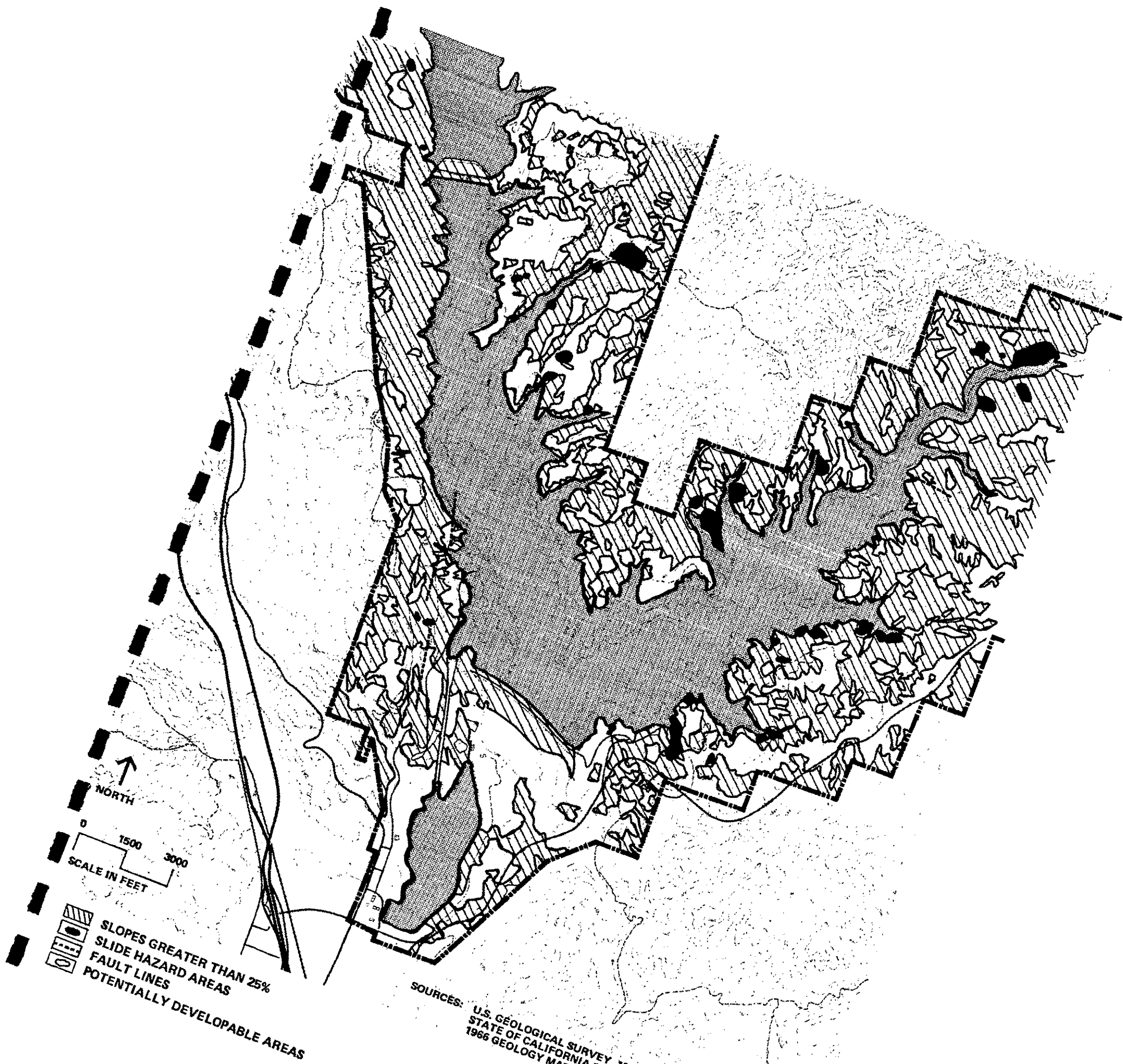
Extensive geotechnical studies have been conducted as part of the water project and subsequent recreational development. For example, Pacific Soils Engineering, Inc. prepared a study entitled "Engineering Geologic and Soil and Foundation Engineering Investigation: Castaic Reservoir Recreation Area" in May, 1976. This comprehensive investigation covered the following sites within the SRA:

- o Baal Point
- o Vista Ridge
- o Overlook Boat Ramp (eastern launch ramp)
- o Sharon's Rest

- o Bunny Meadow
- o Elderberry Mesa
- o Taylor Picnic Area
- o Elizabeth Lake Canyon
- o Equestrian Campground
- o Equestrian Staging Area
- o Grasshopper Canyon

Studies were also conducted in 1975, 1978 and 1979 by the Engineering Geology Section of the Los Angeles Department of County Engineer for the following:

- o Proposed Marina Site
- o Sharon's Rest/Laura's Landing
- o Vista Ridge Campground



SOURCES: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1974
 STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
 1966 GEOLOGY MAP OF CASTAIC LAKE

Figure 14
 SLOPE ANALYSIS AND
 GEOLOGICAL STABILITY

Plant Life

The abruptly rising canyon walls support plant communities. The most common plant species include chamise, ceanothus and scrub oaks. Elizabeth Lake Canyon, with its water course, supports some oak, sycamore, alder and cottonwood. However, the high water runoff experienced in 1978-1979 destroyed many of the mature trees in Elizabeth Canyon as the sand and silt fan built up. Castaic Canyon supports a few scattered sycamore trees and riparian vegetation while the canyon walls support mixed brush and annual grasses. Grasshopper Canyon also exhibits riparian vegetation in the eroded gully bottoms. In early spring, the open areas of the rolling hills surrounding the reservoir site are covered with grass and wildflowers. This condition is short lived and by early summer these areas are highly flammable.

Two species of note have been identified via a November, 1984 query of the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base. Nevins Barberry (*Mahonia Nevinii*) and San Gabriel Bedstraw (*Gelium Grande*) were last seen and identified in 1965 and 1979, respectively. Nevin's Barberry was seen in San Francisquito Canyon outside of the Castaic Lake SRA, and the habitat in which San Gabriel Bedstraw was historically observed in a prior time is a general area of rocky slopes of chaparral south of Elizabeth Lake Station and northeast of Castaic. Neither species is identified as Federally listed as endangered or threatened; both have been ranked as candidates for Federal listing and are classified as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society.

Since 1965, more than 28,000 trees have been planted at various areas at Castaic by the County Department of Forestry under a planting establishment program. The trees planted have been maple, cedar, Arizona cypress, eucalyptus, ash, mulberry, pine, pistache, sycamore, locust, zelkora and sweet gum. These plantations are visibly prominent along ridge tops and on otherwise barren and dry grass slopes. Annual discing around the plantations by camp crews occurs for fire protection purposes.

Animal Life

Mammals common to the area include mule deer, coyote, bobcat, brush rabbit, dusky-footed woodrat, nimble kangaroo rat, and California mouse. Birds common to the area include the redbill hawk, golden eagle, mountain quail, wren, and California thrasher. The Spotted Owl, last observed in 1910, in Fish Creek, was seen in an area now the site of the present reservoir. Reptiles include the western fence lizard, southern alligator lizard, coast horned lizard, striped racer, and western rattlesnake.⁸

Aquatic life in Castaic Lake and the Lagoon includes the following game fish: rainbow trout, crappie, channel catfish, sunfish, bluegill, and both largemouth and smallmouth bass. The fishing resource in both bodies of water is supplemented by annual plantings of 250,000-300,000 catchable-size rainbow trout.

CULTURAL RESOURCES⁹

Native Americans of the Tatavium ethnographic group occupied in part the area now inundated by Pyramid and Castaic Reservoirs. The Tatavium, also referred to in literature as the Aliklik, are one of California's least known ethnographic groups, but it is known that they spoke a Shoshonean language and practiced a hunter-gatherer life.

Archeological surveys of the area inundated by Pyramid and Castaic Reservoirs were conducted between January 1970 and June 1971. The studies were funded by the California Department of Water Resources and the work was conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Five prehistoric sites were located in the Castaic Reservoir area, which were identified as being formerly occupied by members of the Tatavium ethnographic group who practiced an arid-lands adaptation in the canyons and mountains of the Upper Santa Clarita Valley region of Los Angeles

County. Of the five sites located below high water line, all but one had been virtually destroyed by the time funding was available for salvage work.

This one site, known as the Elderberry Canyon site (LAN-324), has proven to be the richest, oldest, best known, and most significant site in Tatavium territory and in the entire Santa Clara River watershed. Nine test pits were excavated in this complex site of about 5,000 square meters -- a site that includes rock rings with packed clay floors, fire hearths, bedrock mortars and grinding slicks, cupule petroglyphs, rock cairns, and a cemetery for cremated remains. The artifact assemblage from this site includes a large amount of bone, flaking and chipping waste, projectile points, some shell beads, grinding tools, bowls of sandstone, granite, and steatite, carved steatite boats, and more.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

The project site has already been changed from its natural state when the lake and dam were constructed. The natural landscape at and below the Castaic Lake annual high water mark is virtually nonexistent. The backdrop of prominent hills in the western portion of the lake area does provide a scenic resource from numerous vantage points. By far the major aesthetic features in the existing setting are the reservoir, the dam, and the Afterbay lagoon. Other existing man-made features of importance include the extensive tree plantings in some areas. Fire fuel load management by the County Fire Department surrounding the tree plantations has reduced native shrub cover in numerous areas. Some of the newest camping and picnic areas have been designed around the new vegetation. Major and minor canyons along the ridge of hills constitute visually pleasing reliefs in a

⁸Environmental Analysis for Maintenance of Castaic Lake Fuels Modification Block, Saugus District, Angeles National Forest, April 5, 1977.

⁹Final Environmental Impact Statement, California Aqueduct Project No. 2426, Federal Power Commission, Bureau of Power.

landscape dominated by arid lands in and around the project area. Baal Point and Vista Ridge in the eastern arm of the reservoir high above the hills are probably the best overlook areas of the project. Large numbers of sightseers would be drawn to these areas by the attractive panoramic setting. Additionally, the DWR Visitor Center provides an extraordinary panorama of the entire Castaic Lake development.

RECREATION RESOURCES

The Castaic Lake Recreation Development Plan of August 1969 and the Bulletin No. 117-9 of the Department of Water Resources identified sites where specific facilities would be located as part of a Castaic Lake SRA. These facilities included boat ramps; picnic and camping areas; water skiing facilities; marinas; an equestrian center; boat docks; shade ramadas; and other complementary facilities. Major areas identified were Castaic Ridge, East Overlook Boat Ramp, Baal Point, Castaic Canyon, Vista Ridge, Taylor Area, Dry Creek, Bone Creek, Bunny Meadow, Necktie Canyon, Elizabeth Lake Canyon, and Elderberry Mesa.

The Castaic Lagoon area had been designated for quiet boating only and facilities include sandy swimming beaches, dressing rooms, family and group picnic areas, a boat launching ramp, parking for 1,500 cars, interior roads, shade ramadas, play areas, lifeguard facilities, walkways, service areas, kiosks, sanitary facilities, turf areas with sprinkler systems, and other utilities. Besides the Park Headquarters building, other structures include concession facilities with rental boats.

Today, Castaic Lake is a major attraction for people who enjoy sail and power boating, swimming, fishing, waterskiing, jetskiing, and picnicking. The recreation facilities on Castaic Lake were built by the California Department of Boating and Waterways, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. There is an 18-lane boat launching ramp on the east side of

the dam. On the west side of the dam is a six-lane boat launching ramp as well as picnic areas.

Immediately below Castaic Dam is the downstream pool (Castaic Lagoon) that is a major recreation feature of the State Water Project. Castaic Lagoon is an 180-acre nonfluctuating pool created where material for the dam construction was excavated. Three sandy beaches have been graded along the shoreline. The beaches are bordered with turfed and landscaped picnic areas. Parking spaces adjacent to the picnic areas accommodate 1,500 cars.

Boating use on the downstream pool includes sailboats, paddle boats and motorized craft. A launching facility, plus parking, is provided at the east side of the pool.

Fishing along the eastern shoreline occurs year-round, but peaks during the winter months when the trout fishery is dominant and the other recreation uses are low.

More details regarding current recreation resources are included in Section III, Land Use and Facilities Element.

Resource Policy Formation

CLASSIFICATION

Castaic Lake was classified as a State Recreation Area (SRA) in 1966 by the State Park and Recreation Committee. All recreational development at Castaic Lake has been in accordance with the 1971 General Development Plan (and subsequent amendments which were approved by the Director of the State Parks and Recreation Department). State recreation areas, in accordance with the Section 5019.56a, are defined as follows:

State recreation areas, consisting of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. Such areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreational resources such as man-made or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wilderness, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves.

Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, diving, water sports, fishing and hunting.

Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be undertaken within state recreation areas.

The California State Park and Recreation Commission has established policies that are relevant to the Castaic Lake General Plan formulation for resource management and recreational development:¹⁰

RESERVOIR AREAS (Policy Number 6)

The Legislature has specifically recognized the key importance of reservoir areas, federal, state and local, in meeting California's recreational needs. In all stages of planning and the allotment of priorities, the use of reservoir areas for recreational development shall be emphasized. The possibility of making all reservoirs available for recreational use shall be studied in cooperation with the appropriate authorities.

CONCESSIONS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS ON STATE AND ADJACENT LANDS AT STATE LAKES AND RESERVOIR RECREATION AREAS (Policy Number 33)

There is an inseparable relationship between recreation area lands and adjacent lands surrounding lakes and reservoirs, sometimes herein called reservoirs. The policy of the Department of Parks and Recreation in relation to these lands is as follows:

¹⁰Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation, December 1978.

1. Concessions Wholly on State Lands

Reservoir recreation areas require immediate and future facilities to meet the need for public outdoor recreation.

Where appropriate, concession facilities to meet these needs will be installed in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 5080.02 et seq.

2. State and Adjacent Lands

Concessions, where appropriate, may be let to develop both state and adjacent lands to provide better public recreational services and water access at a reservoir when the Director has made a finding that the same is needed for the safety and convenience of the general public, is not inconsistent with the plan and purpose of the unit, and involves a development that most enhances the use of the area by the public. Such concessions shall be shown feasible, shall be non-exclusive, whenever possible, and shall afford the most desirable access to park facilities.

CONFLICTING RECREATIONAL USE (Policy Number 16)

Where there are conflicting, though legitimate, recreational demands for use of the same unit of the State Park System, every consideration shall be given by the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide opportunities, consistent with public safety, for such conflicting recreational uses by a time or space zoning or by other controls and devices.

If a specified recreational use is found to destroy the pleasure of the park experience enjoyed by the majority of other visitors, it shall be revalued and may be restricted.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

On June 17, 1966, the State Park and Recreation Commission approved the following Declaration of Purpose for Castaic Lake State Recreation Area (SRA):

"The purpose of Castaic Reservoir State Recreation Area (Project) is to make possible the full utilization of the aquatic and other recreational opportunities in and about Castaic Reservoir in northwestern Los Angeles County in meeting California's public recreational needs, giving full consideration to all scientific, scenic, and historical resources of the areas.

The function of the (State) Division of Beaches and Parks at Castaic Reservoir State Recreation Area (Project) is to provide for the design, construction, and operation of those public recreational facilities which are necessary, commensurate with the recreational need and use "to the end that maximum development of the recreational potential of state water projects shall be realized"; to provide that initial facilities for recreational use are in place and ready for operation as soon as the Castaic Reservoir is completed; to provide for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the wildlife, natural, and historic resources of the area; and to provide that all recreational design, construction, and operations are conducted in such a way as to be consistent with the orderly operation of the reservoir for its other authorized purposes."

A new Declaration of Purpose has been prepared as a part of the General Plan Amendment:

"The purpose of Castaic Lake SRA is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation experience for the people, by assuring optimum use and enjoyment

of the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic resources of the lake, its shoreline, and surrounding lands within the SRA as identified in the General Plan Amendment.

The function of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation through the 50 year operating agreement with the State at Castaic Lake SRA is to design, develop, operate, and maintain recreation facilities, and to provide services which enable the people to enjoy high quality recreational experiences. Facility development and the unit's operation shall provide for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of the area."

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest is the area within which the State and County would like to influence development and use so that the natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources of the State Recreation Areas will not be degraded. For Castaic Lake SRA, the State and County are concerned about any activity within the unit's viewshed and watershed which may affect the quality or quantity of water within the lake.

In addition, the State and County are interested in all lands, no matter how far away, that through their use and development adversely affect the unit's resources and features. Air pollution and acid rain are regional problems which affect the unit's resources and may be affected by changing land uses on distant lands. The operation of the State Water Project affects the elevation of Castaic Lake, which is a key variable in the operation of the State Recreation Area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

State Recreation Areas are by definition developed with an emphasis on their recreational potential. This intent is spelled out in the State's Resource Management Directives as follows:¹¹

State recreation areas are established to enable the state to meet substantial segments of the non-neighborhood recreational need of the people. The emphasis is on outdoor recreation, but the state's role is not restricted to that. Lands are selected specifically for recreational purposes, for their ability to serve recreational needs on a large scale, and for the ability of their resources to withstand heavy visitor use.

In state recreation areas, the recreational potential is the primary resource, with natural and cultural values supporting and enhancing recreational experiences.

IN STATE RECREATION AREAS, PLANNING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ARE AIMED AT PROVIDING OPTIMUM RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES, IN BOTH QUALITY AND QUANTITY. NATURAL FEATURES MAY BE ALTERED OR MANAGED TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES, BUT NOT IN WAYS WHICH NEEDLESSLY IMPAIR OR DESTROY THEM.

In planning and developing facilities in state recreation units, the precautions necessary in other classifications to protect the integrity of primary resources and values do not apply to the same degree. This is not to say that no effort need be made to prevent scarring of the landscape or destruction of cultural resources; no unnecessary intrusions should be allowed in any unit of the State Park System. It is simply that protective standards have a different emphasis, because the primary values of state recreation units are recreational opportunities rather than natural features.

IN STATE RECREATION UNITS, SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND NATURAL FEATURES WILL BE PROTECTED, TO ASSURE THE QUALITY OF THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE. ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAY BE MANAGED OR ENHANCED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OR EXTENT OF THAT EXPERIENCE.

¹¹Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, State of California--The Resource Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, May 1979.

In many instances, it will be necessary or desirable in development of state recreational units to make major changes in existing conditions. Such changes will, in some cases, have begun with impoundment of a reservoir. Afforestation in otherwise treeless areas, introduction of nonnative but useful and adaptable plant species, and creation of sandy beaches are some landscape modifications that may be undertaken.

In addition to the above general resource policies, the following specific policies are included for the Castaic Lake SRA:

Resource Management

There is a limited amount of resource data available to assess the need for natural and cultural resource management programs within Castaic Lake SRA. Additional resource inventory data needs to be collected and more specific resource policies developed to set out the goals and objectives for resource management in the unit.

Policy: A complete resource inventory and a more specific resource element shall be prepared for Castaic Lake SRA following the criteria described in the California Department of Parks and Recreation publication, Guidelines for Resource Documents (November 1984).

Appropriate resource management programs shall be instituted at Castaic Lake SRA to protect and perpetuate the unit's important resource values.

Facility Development

There is currently insufficient data available to fully assess the constraints that natural hazards and sensitive resources may impose on the proposals for facility development in this General Plan Amendment.

Policy: Future development will occur only in those areas that do not require massive grading and are free of known fault lines, slide hazards, significant archeological sites, sensitive plant or animal species habitat, or other significant resource constraints or sensitivities.

Site-specific resource evaluations will be conducted to evaluate the above factors prior to commencement of any significant construction activity.

Vegetation Management

Past management practices including tree planting and fire suppression have changed the ecological conditions under which plants grow, favoring the presence of exotic plants over native vegetation.

Policy: A vegetation management program shall be developed and implemented for the Castaic Lake SRA. Specific areas of the SRA shall be designated for management as natural areas. The principal goals of the program within these areas shall be to reestablish the natural processes which allowed the pristine vegetation patterns to develop and to remove or reduce exotic plant species. The SRA shall be surveyed for rare or endangered plant species and appropriate actions shall be taken to protect, perpetuate, and enhance the habitat of any rare or endangered plant populations which are located.

Prescribed Fire Management

Prior to 1900, fires burned regularly throughout Southern California, including the Castaic Lake area. The fires were ignited by lightning and by the intentional or accidental activities of Native Americans. Wildfires began to be effectively suppressed in the early 1900s and, since that time,

fire has only infrequently burned through the area. Native plants and pristine plant communities developed under a regime of frequent fires. The current disruption of this regime has resulted in ecological imbalances and increased likelihood of very destructive fires due to fuel accumulation. The reintroduction of fire through a carefully controlled prescribed fire program is needed to restore the ecological processes occurring in the park to a more natural status.

Policy: Fire shall be restored to its natural role in the Castaic Lake SRA ecosystem. An ongoing Prescribed Fire Management Program shall be established and maintained.

Fire Suppression

Wildfire has always been a threat to natural resources, facilities, and human safety in the dry hills of Southern California. A prescribed Fire Management Program will reduce the damage from future wildfires. However, given the periodic extreme fire weather conditions and the high incidence of human-caused ignitions, an established prescribed fire program cannot eliminate the threat of destructive wildfires in the park. Therefore, it is prudent to plan for such an emergency. The California Department of Parks and Recreation requires that a Wildfire Management Plan be developed for every State Park System unit that experiences wildland fires. A significant problem with unplanned fire suppression, is that the suppression activities may have more serious and long-lasting impacts on park resources than the wildfire itself. For example, bulldozer fire control lines remove roots and the upper organic soil horizons, which will significantly increase erosion and slow the vegetation recovery. Also, chemical fire retardants may enter permanent aquatic ecosystems if indiscriminately applied.

These undesirable effects of suppression activities can be avoided by utilizing a planned program of modified fire suppression. This program

divides the area into compartments bordered by existing natural and artificial firebreaks. In the event of wildfire, suppression activities are concentrated along the borders of a compartment, the goal being to control the wildfire at these predetermined boundaries and thereby minimize resource damage. The program would also identify resource sensitivities should additional suppression activities be required. Wildfire contingency planning in this manner will greatly reduce the likelihood of damage from suppression activities while providing for the necessary protection of park resources and public safety.

Policy: The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation shall work with appropriate agencies to implement a Wildfire Management Plan at Castaic Lake SRA. This plan shall address all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, presuppression, and suppression. The plan shall identify modified fire-suppression methods designed to preserve sensitive park resources while protecting human lives and facilities.

Castaic Lagoon Water Quality

Castaic Lagoon was closed to swimming in August 1982 due to microbiological contamination. Following an in-depth study of the situation in May 1983, a point aeration system was installed in early summer of 1983. After installation of this system, water quality levels returned to acceptable levels and swimming activity was resumed. It may be that finite constraints exist, which have been reached or exceeded, with regard to maximum feasible use of the Lagoon for swimming.

Policy: Water quality parameters will continue to be closely monitored at Castaic Lagoon. Appropriate action to minimize public health hazards will be taken based on the results of the monitoring program.

Cultural Resource Management

The adverse effects of developing the existing reservoir and facilities have not been adequately mitigated. The most significant historic resource in Castaic Lake SRA is the archeological collection and information that was salvaged from the Elderberry Canyon site, LAN-324. Some of these artifacts are on interpretive display at the Castaic visitor center operated by the Department of Water Resources. Most of the collection is in storage at California State University, Northridge. A final report on the excavations has yet to be funded or produced.

Policy: To provide for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of Tatavium prehistory and material culture, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation shall endeavor to produce a final report on the Elderberry Canyon site, including a complete inventory of artifacts.

State Recreation Area Boundaries

Castaic Lake SRA boundaries were established by the State in 1971 via maps defining the SRA General Plan. Land ownership within the SRA is held by the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The DWR holds special use permits from the USFS for portions of the SRA within USFS ownership. The DWR has granted use of portions of its ownership to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as the USFS special use permit areas. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has authorized Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, via the 50 year operating agreement, to develop and operate the Castaic Lake SRA in all portions of the SRA for which it holds authority through the Department of Water Resources. The SRA boundaries which extend into DWR and Federal lands

beyond the DWR grant to the California Department of Parks and Recreation require DWR and Federal permits for development and use.

Policy: Prior to construction of new facilities on DWR or Federal lands not previously committed by DWR to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and thence to the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the appropriate DWR and/or Federal permits must be obtained as well as the appropriate environmental clearances.

Hunting

Hunting is currently prohibited within Castaic Lake SRA. The safety of campers and other recreation users in the SRA is the main justification for this prohibition. Other important justifications include that hunting may increase the chance of accidental wildfire and that other recreation users would be less likely to have the opportunity to observe wildlife if hunting were allowed. The prohibition also improves the value of the SRA as a wildlife refuge.

Policy: The current prohibition of hunting within Castaic Lake SRA shall continue.

Water Conservation

Water is a scarce resource in Southern California. Poor use patterns and facility designs can waste and degrade the water resources of Castaic Lake.

Policy: Facilities within Castaic Lake SRA shall be designed with water conservation in mind and, in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources, will be designed to minimize potential for soil erosion and accelerated runoff.

Allowable Use Intensity

California State Law (Section 5019.5, Public Resources Code) requires that a "land-carrying capacity survey" be made before any park or recreational area development plan is prepared. To determine carrying capacity, the Department determines allowable-use intensities for the various parts of the unit. This evaluation serves as a general guide, indicating areas in which natural or cultural resource sensitivity will affect development planning.

Allowable-use intensity is determined by the analysis of three components: 1) management objectives, 2) visitor perceptions and attitudes, and 3) the impact of any development or use on natural and cultural resources.

The management objective for Castaic Lake SRA is set forth in the statutes defining a State Recreation Area which emphasize outdoor recreation values. Existing Castaic Lake SRA facilities and recreational development proposals contained in this Amended General Plan serve California's largest urban region. The water-oriented facilities of the park experience heavy annual patronage requiring commitment of substantial effort to patron protection and management of peak demand periods. The management objectives for the Castaic Lake SRA have been further defined in this Amended General Plan by the descriptions of function and purpose contained in the preceding Declaration of Purpose.

The second component, visitor perceptions and attitudes, involves assessing the social objective of the Department, what recreationists perceive as an acceptable recreational environment, what degree of isolation or crowding is acceptable, and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to the quality of the visitor's recreation experience. Although these factors are very difficult to quantify, this component's influence is extremely important. Los Angeles County and State Park System planners must take a

leading role in enhancing the public's awareness and appreciation of a high-quality recreation experience.

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

Unfortunately, there has been insufficient resource information gathered on the resources of Castaic Lake SRA to prepare a complete allowable-use intensity map. Site-specific resource studies will be conducted prior to commencement of any significant construction activity.

III. LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

This land use and facilities element describes the long-range plan of development for enhancing the recreational and visitor-serving opportunities at Castaic Lake. Prior to presenting the proposed land use and development program, visitor use and land use analysis findings are first discussed.

Visitor Use Analysis

In order to provide a direct vehicle for public input into the planning process for Castaic Lake, visitor attitude surveys were conducted. These surveys, which were conducted as part of the Investigative Feasibility Analysis,¹² included a short form card and an in-depth long form questionnaire. Results from the short form survey, which were derived from collection of 400 cards distributed to 2,000 visitors, are summarized in Tables 2 and 3. The long form questionnaire was distributed to 300 persons through the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Castaic Lake Recreational Area (aka Friends of Castaic) which worked closely with the study team throughout the General Plan effort. More than 70 completed long form questionnaires were received over a two-month period. Because the long form questionnaire was distributed to self-selected interested parties on a nonrandom basis, this survey was intended primarily as an information gathering device rather than an instrument to be subjected to qualified analysis. The responses were not to be tabulated as representative of general public opinion regarding the appropriate direction for new developments and activity improvements at Castaic Lake, but would be representative of the local citizen groups in particular.

¹²See Investigative Feasibility Analysis for Land Uses at Lake Castaic, pp. III-22 through III-29.

Table 2
 CURRENT USER PREFERENCES
 FOR CANDIDATE NEW FACILITIES AT CASTAIC LAKE
 SHORT FORM VISITOR SURVEY - SUMMER 1983

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Percent Positive Responses on Probable Use of Facility</u>
Day Use Boat-In Picnic Areas	75%
Day Use Dock Marina	65
Overnight Boat-In Campground	61
Overnight RV Campground with Electric Hookup	49
Water Amusement Park with Slides and Water Play Pools	46
Equestrian Trail Network Riding	41
Group Campgrounds Available on a Group Reservation Basis	40
On-Site Jet Ski Rentals	39
Long-Term Dock Marina	34
On-Site Power Boat Rentals	29
Overnight Hotel Lodging	27
Equestrian Center Horse Boarding	25
Public Golf Course	17

Source: Investigative Feasibility Analysis for Land Uses at Lake Castaic.

Table 3

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS
 FOR CASTAIC LAKE RECREATION AREA*
 SHORT FORM VISITOR SURVEY - SUMMER 1983

<u>Improvement Suggestions</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
Improved Maintenance of Facilities	22
New Maintenance Vehicles and Equipment	18
Gasoline Station On-Site	15
Leave Facility As Is	14
Cleaner Restrooms	9
Restaurant	8
Baseball Diamonds	7
Improved Security and Enforcement	6
Improved Fast Food/Snack Bar	6
Fish Cleaning Areas	5
Improved Landscaping	5
General Store	5
Shower Facilities	5
Log Boom at Launch Ramps	5
Improved Restrooms	5

*Includes "other facility" self-initiated responses for improvements receiving five or more responses.

Source: Investigative Feasibility Analysis for Land Uses at Lake Castaic.

The major proponent groups from the long form survey tended to have distinct outlooks on the appropriate course of new developments and improvements at Castaic Lake. Listed in rough order of frequency the proponent groups voiced the following concerns.

- o Facilities for Specific Activities: The primary response was for new facilities supporting individual activities including trail and horse camp development for equestrian groups, marina and shoreline development for sailing and water skiing groups, and fishing dock and stocking support for fishermen.

- o Overnight Camping: A substantial response was for the development of overnight camping facilities at Castaic Lake. This was largely confined to primitive tent camping and was often voiced in combination with some other major activity, e.g., boat-in campground at marina for sailing groups, horse camp. This response included groups based locally but desiring an overnight experience.

- o Improvement of Existing Facilities: A group of respondents was primarily concerned with establishing a better maintenance and security/enforcement function at Castaic prior to embarking on any further development. This group focused on restrooms and shoreline improvements in particular and showed concern for enforcement of fishing rules and boating area restrictions.

- o Nonexclusivity of Use: A final consensus was centered on the need for the lake to retain its policy of open access to the general user public. Commercial developments that would be for exclusive users such as reservation group campgrounds, reserved-slip marina, or any restricted-access commercial developments, were disfavored. It should be noted that no such facilities have been available at Castaic Lake since the park opened in the mid-1970s.

Land Use Analysis

EXISTING LAND USE

The Castaic Lake SRA now includes a variety of land uses (see Figure 3). These include previously noted recreational uses as well as the following other uses: (1) DWR Headquarters, Visitor Center, and Dam Operation Zone; (2) Park Headquarters; and (3) Marine Patrol Headquarters.

As part of this planning effort, an in-depth inventory of existing facilities was conducted (see Table 4). Total developed land area is currently about 456 acres out of a total land area of roughly 8,788 acres, or about 5 percent. Of the 456 developed areas, roughly 289 acres have been developed with recreational facilities and 167 acres have been landscaped, as is shown on Table 1. More than one-half of the total 456 acres is comprised of the recreational uses surrounding the Castaic Lagoon or Afterbay.

EXISTING CIRCULATION AND PARKING

Regional access to Castaic Lake is excellent via Interstate 5; however, localized circulation deficiencies are evident within the SRA boundary particularly in the vicinity of Castaic Lagoon (see Figure 15 and Table 5). These current problem areas create significant conflicts and congestion on "peak" summer weekend days, including the following:

- o Significant queuing of vehicular traffic from the Lagoon Main Entrance south along the northbound lane of Old Ridge Route to the intersection with Lake Hughes Road. This leads to unsafe passing of traffic desiring to travel north on the Old Ridge Route.

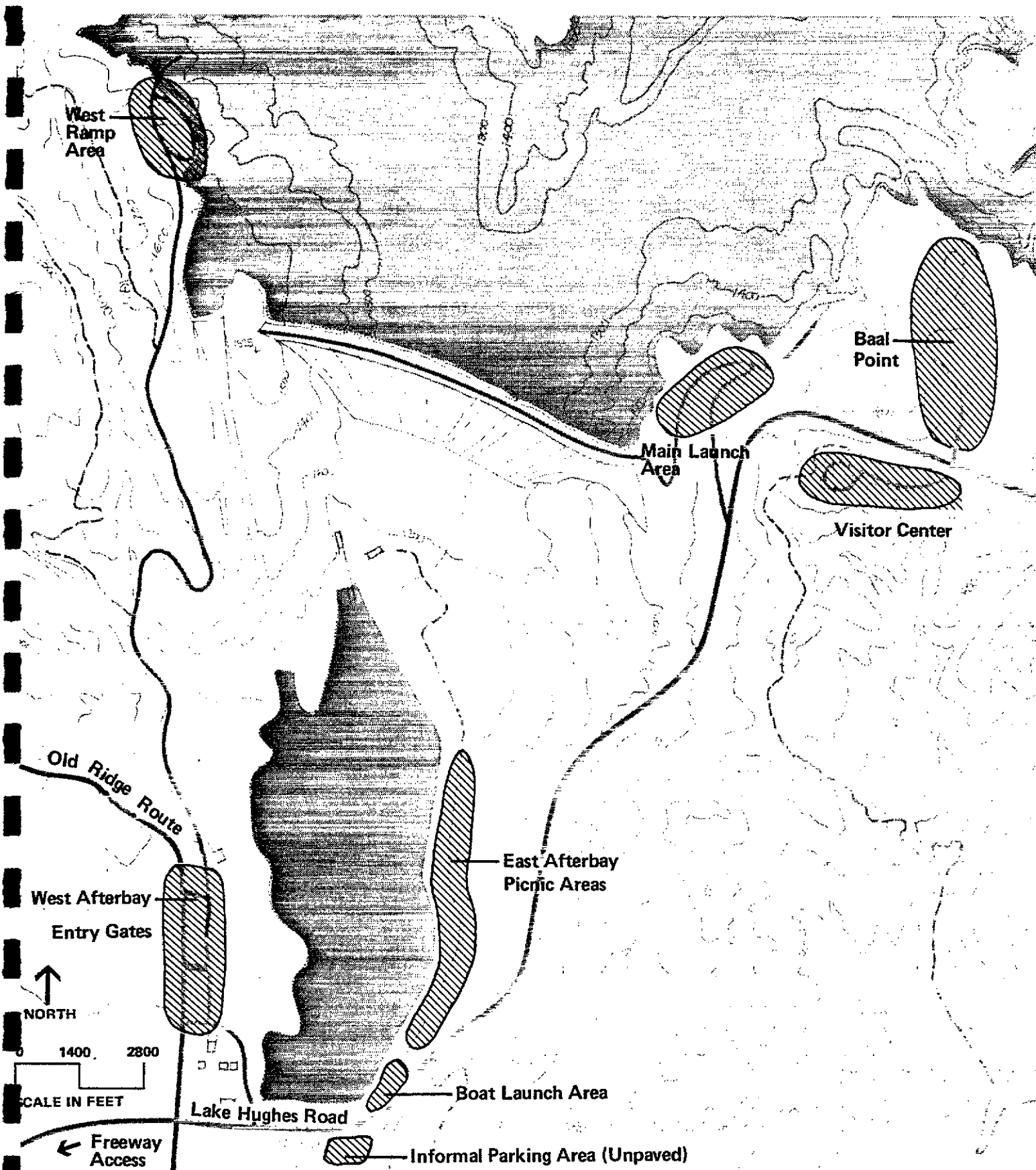


Figure 15
**EXISTING CIRCULATION
 AND PARKING CONDITIONS**

Table 5
TRAFFIC ACCESS EVALUATION – EXISTING CONDITIONS

Area	Adequate	Inadequate	Comments
1. Freeway access	X		One-lane off ramp, stop sign, right-turn
2. Lake Hughes Road	X		Two-lanes plus each way
3. West Afterbay		X	Poor signing, no right-turn lane, heavy manpower needed to split between two entrances, poor splitting just inside main entrance
4. West Launch Ramp		X	Same problems as above. Lack of boat make-ready area (use of road instead of parking lot for preparation)
5. Sailboat Launch		X	No signage, no left-turn pocket narrow entryway (two lanes on a curve)
6. Informal parking area		X	Unpaved
7. East Afterbay picnic areas		X	No signage, no turn pockets
8. Main Boat Launch Ramp area		X	Bad curve, poor signage
9. Ball Point Access	N.A.	N.A.	N.A. (closed due to landslide)
10. Visitor Center	X		
11. Elizabeth Canyon	N.A.		Not yet available site. U.S.F.S. seasonally manned Fire Station must be relocated

- o Confusing traffic signing at Lagoon Main Entrance that causes indecision and recirculation as visitors attempt to reach their destinations, be it swim/picnic or West Launch Ramp.
- o Insufficient parking to serve demand at Lagoon and Main and West Launch Ramps, leading to closure of lots before noon on peak summer weekend days.

While not observed by the study team in summer 1983 due to lingering effects of the Lagoon water quality problems on visitation or during the summer of 1984 because of isolated water quality problems and the lack of traffic to the main Lake due to very low water, members of the Citizens Advisory Committee noted that these circulation and parking deficiencies have created traffic congestion throughout the Castaic community as visitors continue to circulate while waiting for the entrances and parking lots to be reopened as earlier users depart.

EXISTING UTILITIES

As indicated on Table 4, all existing facilities have water, electrical power, and sanitary facilities. The Lagoon and launch ramp areas also have telephone service. The Castaic Ridge, Castaic Lagoon, East Overlook (main launch ramp), and DWR Visitor Center areas have full sewer, water, power, and natural gas service. The existing/committed boat-in areas are served by water wells, diesel-generated power, and approved leach fields.

Proposed Land Use and Development

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

In keeping with the previously stated plan objectives and the Resource Element, future recreational and visitor-serving development at Castaic Lake will emphasize public-private sector cooperation to the greatest

extent feasible. As concluded in the "Investigative Feasibility Analysis," the facilities most likely to be attractive to the private sector in the near term are the following:

1. A recreational vehicle campground located on the east side of the Afterbay with an initial increment of 225 campsites.
2. A further development of recreational vehicle campground facilities at the unused Equestrian Center south of the Afterbay as a second phase and/or first phase overflow camping.
3. A Family Water Park facility located in Grasshopper Canyon that would serve upwards of 160,000 persons annually. The Water Park could accommodate a peak in-grounds population of roughly 2,000 persons.
4. A marina facility of 250-slips to be located adjacent to Baal Point.

Following the successful achievement of these initial concessions, as well as the opening of Waterski Landing and Fisherman's Rest for overnight boat-in camping, it is anticipated that the following additional facilities are possible in the mid- to long-term period:

- o Expansion of the recreational vehicle campground on the east side of the Afterbay and possible supplemental recreational vehicle facilities at Elizabeth Lake Canyon.
- o Provision of overnight camping at Baal Point.

- o Conference lodge at DWR Visitor Center site.
- o Additional camping/overnight accommodations at Bunny Meadows.
- o Provision of passenger ferry and on-the-lake boat store to serve boat-in areas as well as day users.
- o Staging areas to support boat-in areas, located at Castaic Ridge and/or the unpaved existing parking lot south of the Afterbay.
- o Group camping facilities at Castaic Ridge.
- o Equestrian camp (accessible to Lake Hughes Road).

The intent of the General Plan Amendment is to seek private sector participation in achieving the preceding facilities.

As revenues allow, after the current level of operation and maintenance of existing facilities is enhanced, the County anticipates further recreational developments at Castaic, such as: (1) additional parking facilities, (2) increased shaded picnic areas, (3) additional forestation on the north shore of the main Lake, and (4) other desired improvements previously noted which are not provided by the private sector or nonprofit organizations.

Beyond the four projects identified as a result of the "Investigative Feasibility Analysis," the specific phasing, project details and certainty of achievement of other uses, either by the private or public sectors, are very difficult to precisely state at the current time. Only after successful achievement of the Castaic Lagoon and Baal Point/Visitor Center improvements can further improvements be more precisely defined and phased within the overall General Plan Amendment development concept. The near-term facilities are more fully described in the following discussion.

CASTAIC LAGOON AREA

By virtue of the "Investigative Feasibility Analysis" findings, and the physical constraints to development existing throughout the SRA, three of the four most likely immediate concessions are proposed to be clustered in the vicinity of the Castaic Lagoon. The illustrative site plan presented in Figure 16 shows this development concept and its relationship to existing facilities.

Recreational Vehicle Park

The initial development of approximately 225 campsites would feature full hookups and other desired amenities such as: comfort stations, laundry, camp store, watering station, and sanitary dump station. Landscaping to be provided would not only create a pleasant natural setting, but would also serve to improve the aesthetics of the east side of the Afterbay. Visitors at the campground would have ready access to nearby picnic and 24-hour fishing areas.

If unmet demand exists following completion of the first-phase development, opportunity exists for future expansion (see Figure 16). The exact boundaries of this expansion area will have to be carefully established on a cooperative basis with DWR so that dam operations are not impaired. Preliminary discussions with DWR indicate use of the expansion area may be possible in the future.

Based on comments received at public meetings held during preparation of the General Plan, many members of the Citizens Advisory Committee believe that a certain percentage of the campsites should be set aside for use as tent camping and bicycle destination camping. Since the recreational vehicle facility will be run as a concession, such a use limitation would have to be negotiated with the successful private sector operator chosen to develop the project.



Figure 16
**CASTAIC LAGOON AREA
 ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN**

Family Water Park

Based on market research as contained in the "Investigative Feasibility Study," it is recommended that a developer be sought to create a Family Water Park facility in Grasshopper Canyon. Such a facility, to be located on a +20-acre site, would represent a scaled-down version of the Raging Waters facility which began operations in 1983 at the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas, California. It is anticipated that the Castaic Water Park would include the following facilities:

- o Flumes
- o Wave Pool
- o Snack bars/merchandise sales
- o Equipment rental
- o Childrens' play area
- o Sauna/Jacuzzi area
- o Arcade
- o Sun decks
- o Picnic areas
- o Parking for more than 500 vehicles

An illustrative site concept for the family water park is shown on Figure 17.

Circulation and Parking Improvements

As previously noted in the discussion of existing circulation and parking, significant circulation and parking problems are currently experienced in the vicinity of the Afterbay. To alleviate these existing problems as well as allow development of a major concession in Grasshopper Canyon, it is recommended that an improvement concept such as depicted in Figure 18 be further developed and implemented as part of the overall Castaic General Plan. This long-range access improvement concept includes the following elements:

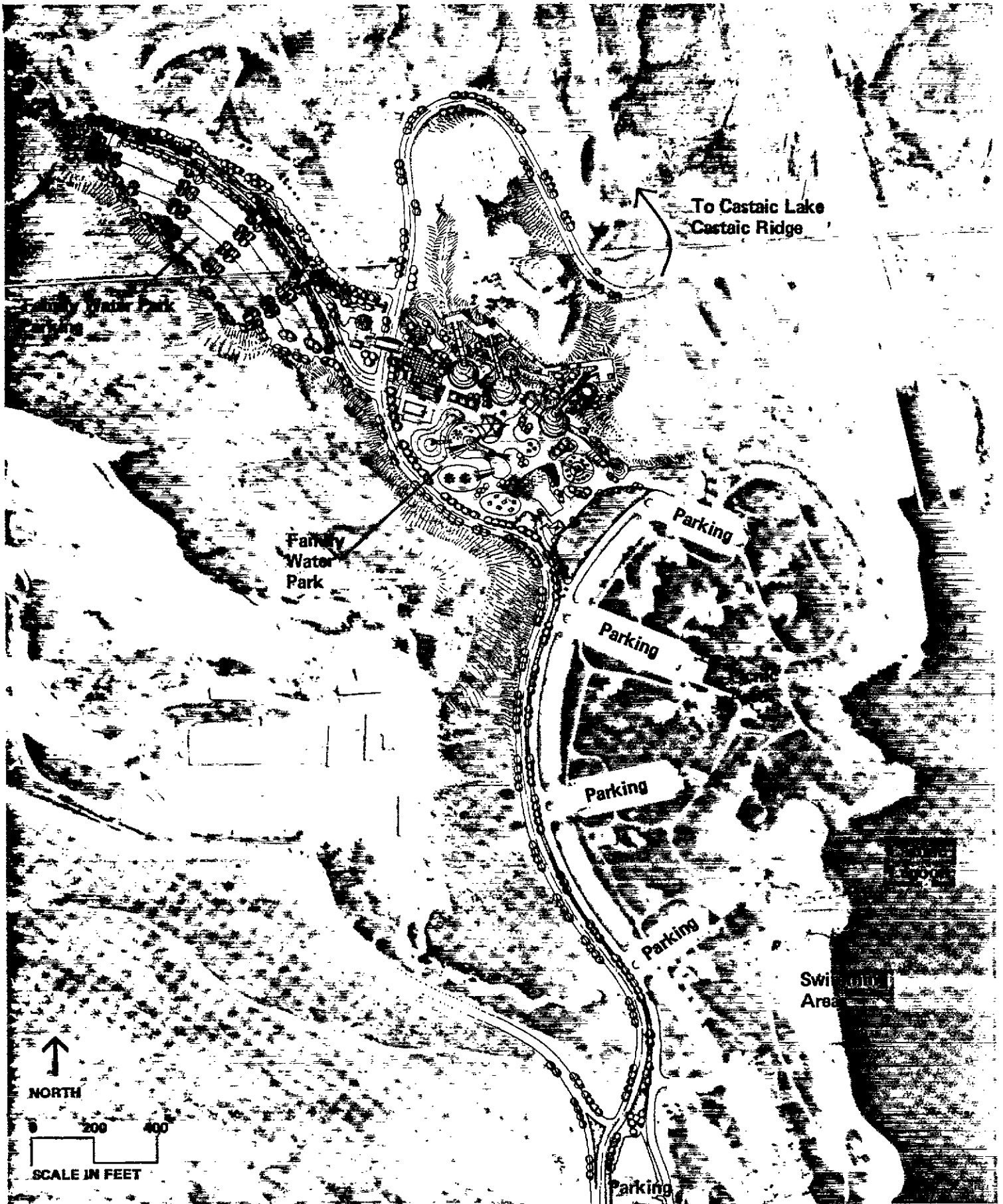


Figure 17
CASTAIC LAGOON AREA
ILLUSTRATIVE SITE CONCEPT
FAMILY WATER PARK

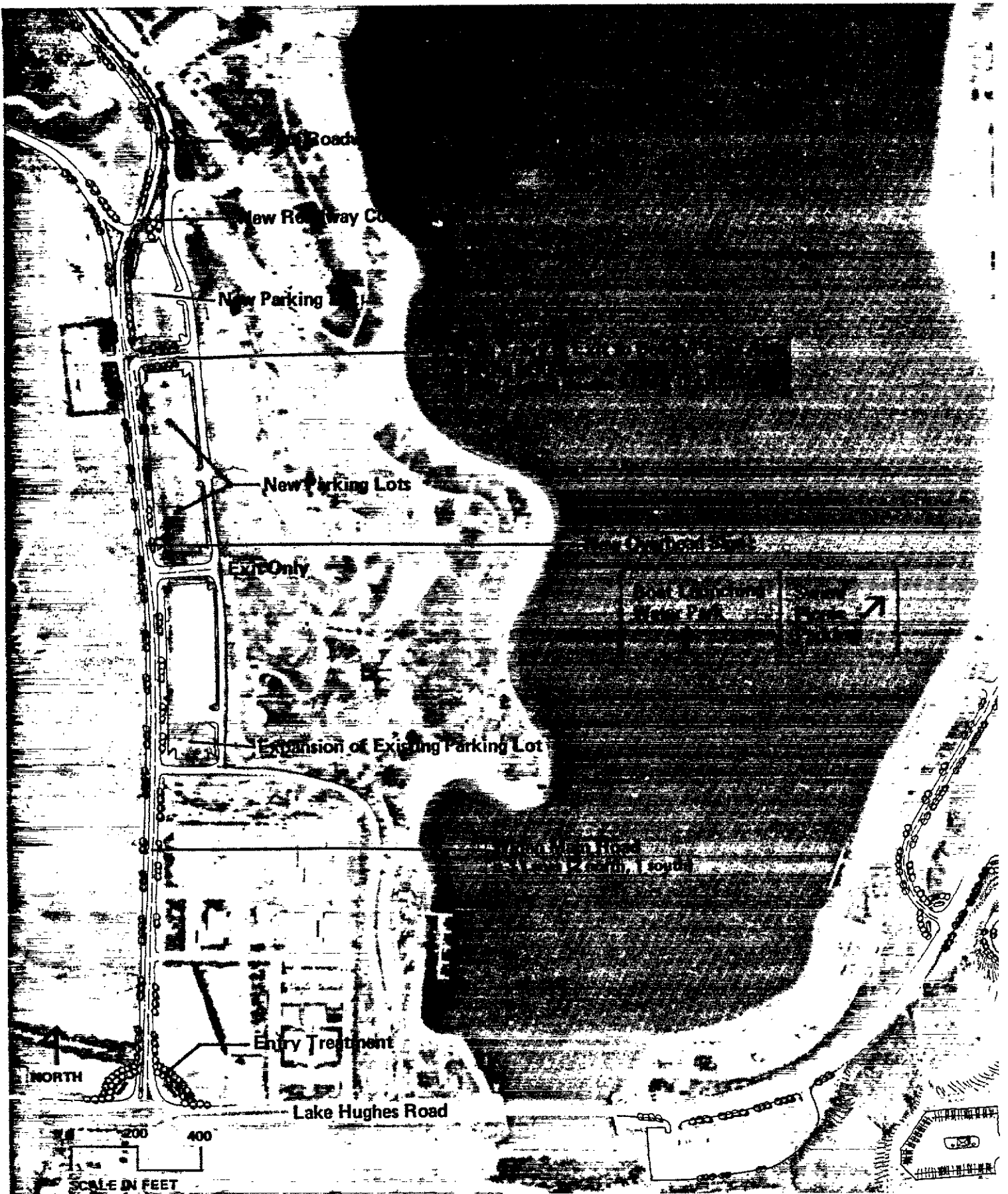


Figure 18
**CASTAIC LAGOON AREA
 ILLUSTRATIVE SITE
 ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

- o Widening by one lane of northbound Old Ridge Route from Lake Hughes Road to main gate.
- o Provision of right-turn pocket from back-up entry gate to main gate.
- o Reconfiguration/widening of main entry gate to include two inbound lanes (and control booths) plus one exit lane (see sketch concept, Figure 19).
- o Construction of a new two-lane transitional connection between Old Ridge Route and west launch ramp (including demolition of unneeded existing two-lane road to west launch ramp).
- o Construction of connection/stop sign at new "T" intersection between Old Ridge Route and new transitional connection to west launch ramp access road.
- o Improved barrier and/or landscaping separating Lagoon parking access road and west launch ramp access road.
- o Provision of new signing as suggested on Figure 18.
- o Reconfiguration of existing back-up entry to serve as an exit only.
- o New entry treatment and roadside landscaping.

This improvement concept has been developed to accomplish two major objectives: (1) more efficient handling of "peak day" traffic attracted to the Castaic Lagoon facilities; and (2) provision of separate, uncongested access to the west launch ramp and proposed Family Water Park Facility. Prior to actual design and construction of these site access improvements, additional investigation is required to assure that the optimum solution is found consistent with the overall objectives of this General Plan Amendment. Specifically, a traffic analysis of the proposed Family Water Park Facility would be prepared as part of the EIR process required for each major facility developed in conformance with this General Plan Amendment.

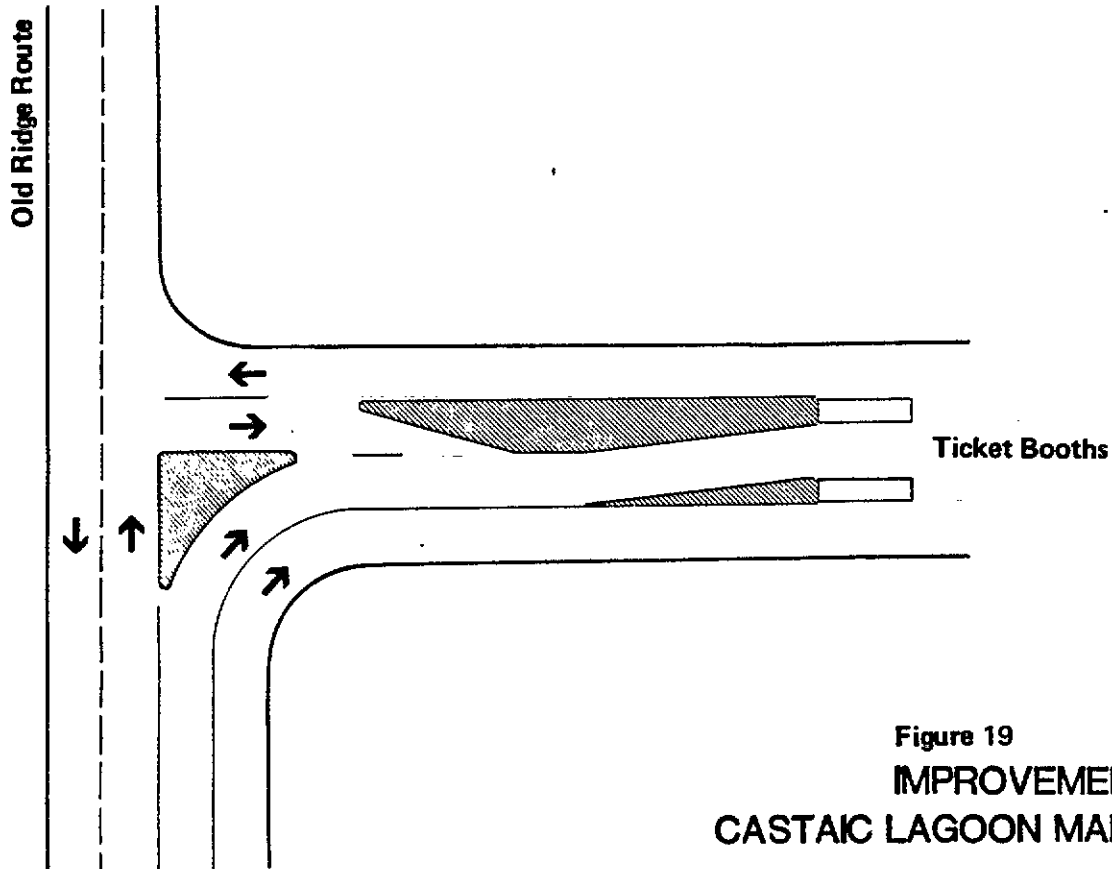


Figure 19
**IMPROVEMENT CONCEPT
 CASTAIC LAGOON MAIN ENTRANCE**

In addition to the preceding improvements, a demonstrated need exists for additional public parking. Opportunities to add to the existing parking supply are also indicated on Figure 18. Provision of additional shaded picnic areas throughout the western portion of the Lagoon should also be developed as part of the overall program to relax existing capacity restraints on visitation.

Once all of the Castaic Lagoon Area improvements are successfully in place, including expansion of the recreational vehicle campground, the provision of a water taxi service linking the eastern and western areas should be developed. Such transportation services will allow greater patronage of the Water Park Facility without a commensurate increase in parking requirements within the leasehold.

BAAL POINT/VISITOR CENTER AREA

The second major focus of near-term development is anticipated in the vicinity of Baal Point and the DWR Visitor Center. The focal point of this area would be a 250-slip marina as depicted on Figure 20. In addition, under the General Plan Amendment the existing Baal Point picnic area (currently not in use due to road closure) would be converted to an overnight facility with pedestrian connections to the marina.

In the long term it is anticipated that the existing DWR Visitor Center site which features majestic, panoramic views of most of the Castaic SRA would be offered as a concession. It is recommended that a conference lodge reuse concept be sought as the most desirable use.

The marina concept as shown on Figure 20 provides easy access off Lake Hughes Road and adequate parking to serve the 250 slips. A proposed simple funicular system is recommended to accommodate the steep terrain while minimizing required grading. An adjacent trail is also planned to connect the upper parking lot with the marina.

Services to be provided at the marina would include fueling, restrooms, and snack bar. Slip sizes would range in length from 12 to 26 feet. There will be a mix of leased slips and day rental boat slips. It is recommended that at least one quarter of the slips be furnished with day rental boats in order to provide for public day use.

The marina concept illustrated on Figure 20 employs an adjustable floating dock system to accommodate falling or rising water levels. Cable adjustments would likely be required every two to three days as the water varies between the 1,515-foot and 1,425-foot levels. Normal marina operations would be very difficult for water levels below the 1,425-foot level.

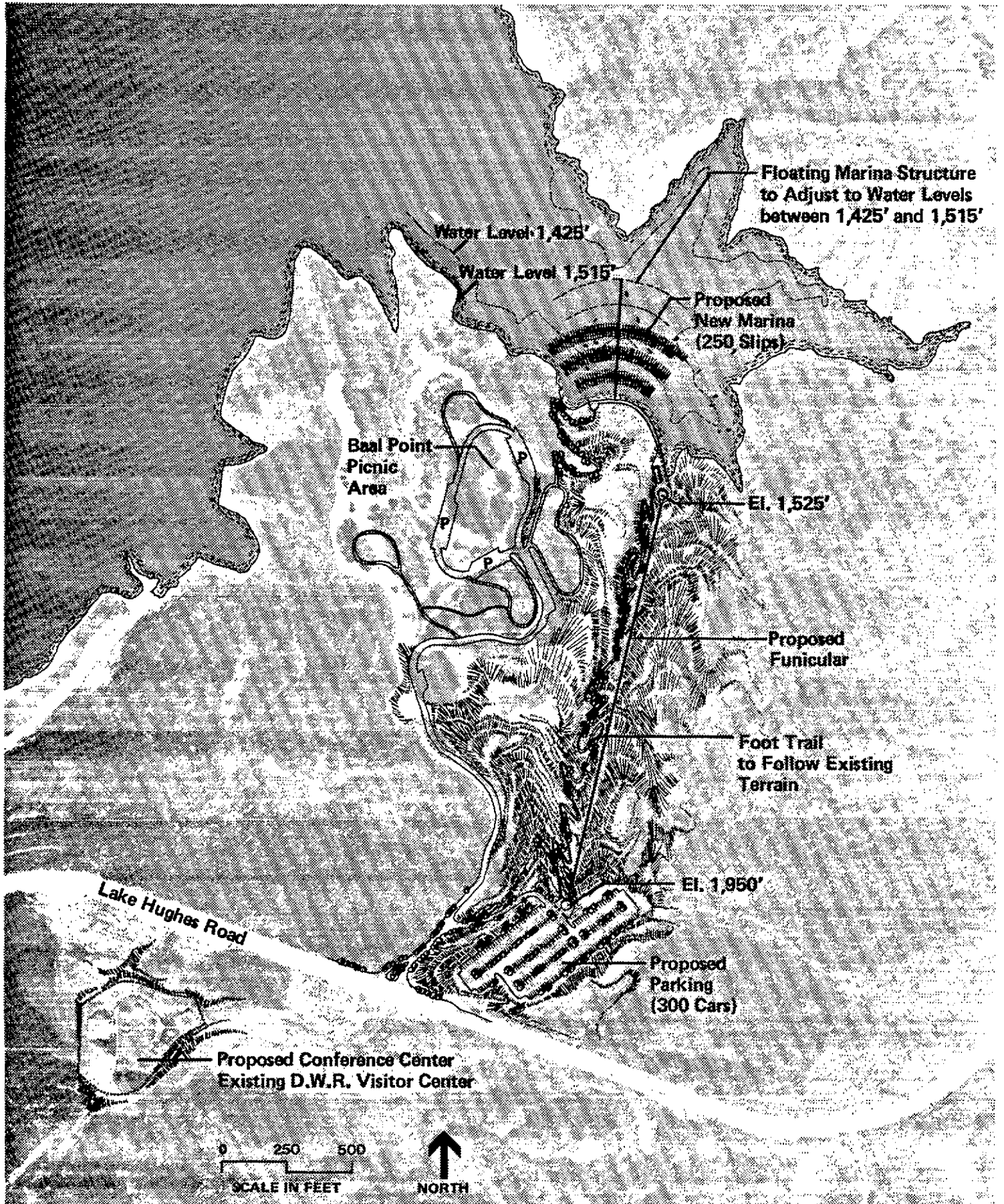


Figure 20
**BAAL POINT
 ILLUSTRATIVE SITE PLAN**

IV. CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

Current Agreements and Operations

Concessionaires and leaseholders at Castaic Lake will be operating under several jurisdictional requirements. The basic agreement between the State of California and the County of Los Angeles, for 50 years of State Recreation Area operation, was entered into in 1969 and thus has roughly 34 years to run. Concessions and leaseholds upon which significant private capital improvements may be created will need to construct their financing in such a way that improvement debt will be fully amortized several years before termination of the lease. Further, as previously mentioned, all concessionaire/leasehold contracts that are negotiated with the County of Los Angeles will need to be approved by the State of California and, where lands lie within U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management ownerships, also by the appropriate Federal agency.

Current concessions at the Castaic Lake Recreation Area have been let for the main reservoir boat rental operation at the easterly launch ramp and for concession food services and non-motorized boat rentals at Castaic Lagoon in the Afterbay. There are no other current concession contracts. Both existing concession contracts may also be grouped with future additional offerings of new concession/leasehold opportunities within the park.

User agreements that are not concession contracts have been established with California State University Northridge for a waterskiing educational program in the Necktie Canyon waterbay area and for a small sailing craft operation at the east edge of the Castaic Lagoon. The latter occupies a building originally constructed to be a concession for food services on the east side of the Afterbay. It is expected that future user agreements will include revenue provisions based upon greater coverage of related costs as well as collection of individual entry fees.

During the course of the calendar year, several outdoor recreational events are sponsored primarily on the main reservoir water surface. These include sailboating, waterski competitions, and other boating activities. Auto and other types of display shows are also drawing attendance. None of these activities have yet achieved an annual sequence that has high imagability as a patron draw to Castaic Lake. The County will continue to charge the show promoters use fees for such events that will cover related park operation costs to accommodate the events.

In the 1971 plan prepared by the State, provision was made for additional recreational operations including concessionaire/leasehold opportunities that would enhance public usage of the park spaces. This Concessions Element of the General Plan recognizes the need to attract additional investor/operators into the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area to build facilities that provide additional recreation opportunities for the vast public in Los Angeles County and Southern California.

Evaluation of Current Concessions

Boat rental on the main reservoir has been concessioned over the years and is a successful business operation. The 1983 season recorded the highest total gross receipts for the operation at \$288,000 of which \$51,000 were paid to the County of Los Angeles as rent under the concession contract. Boats are primarily rented for purposes of year-round fishing particularly in the east arm of the main reservoir. A subsidiary of Newhall Land and Farming Corporation holds the current concession for boat rentals at the main reservoir. This contract will expire in 1985.

The concession at Castaic Lagoon for food service and boat rentals suffered during 1982 and 1983 because of water quality problems that were resolved in mid-summer 1983 by the installation of a point source aerator which measurably assisted in cleaning up the water quality difficulties. Of four concession buildings available at Castaic Lagoon, three lie on the west

side of the Lagoon along the swimming beaches. The remaining facility is located on the east side of the Lagoon and is now occupied by the California State University Northridge for its sailing program. On the west side of the Lagoon, all three concession buildings are not readily seen from the parking lots which hold the majority of the vehicle capacity. The south facility, called Paradise Cove, is directly reachable by automobile. The other two concession buildings are located adjacent to parking lots.

The current concession operator at Castaic Lagoon has subcontracted the rental of the sailing craft, rowboats, and windsurfers to another operator.

Key issues that affect the framework within which the current concessions now operate, and also provide the economic environment within which potential new concession/leaseholds will operate, are as follows:

1. Water quality in Castaic Lagoon may become an ongoing key issue for park management. Thus, it is possible that heavy seasonal use of the Lagoon swimming beaches may require temporary and short-term interruptions in order to restore water quality. This matter was further dealt with during the 1983 operating season by installation of an aeration device. The County and the State Department of Water Resources will continue to cooperate to maintain water quality in the Lagoon.
2. Traffic congestion on peak weekends at literally all available sites that relate to the main reservoir launch ramps and to Castaic Lagoon constrains the access to locations that may potentially be highly marketable for additional concessionaire/leasehold operations. Entryway traffic circulation improvements have been recommended for the west side of the Lagoon and the access to the main reservoir west launch ramp. Other than a modest informal parking lot on the south

side of Lake Hughes Road near the Afterbay dam structure, there are literally no off-site or overflow parking or vehicle storage capabilities. Thus, a walk-in phenomenon at the Lagoon has been observed in the past on peak weekends.

3. Completion and occupancy of the lifeguard headquarters at the main reservoir west launch ramp has significantly improved the actual and psychological sense of water safety on the main reservoir. It is likely that this facility can be utilized for dispatch of safety personnel who may be required to serve the boat-in campgrounds proposed to be opened in 1986 on the north shore of the main Lake.
4. Concession leaseholds currently operated at Castaic Lake have not been substantially improved by the holders of the concession contracts. The four buildings at Castaic Lagoon were built by the County of Los Angeles with State funds and are provided in the concession contract for use by the food concessionaire. The boat rental facility at the east launch ramp, including the storage cage structure, is owned by the boat rental concessionaire. The proposals for new concession/leasehold public recreation facilities development by private investor/operators are based upon the premise that the investors will construct substantial improvements in place with year-round recreational service capabilities. Thus, the market will be tested for the first time for very long-term leaseholds during which the investor/operator will amortize site improvement debt.
5. The primary water supply function of Castaic Lake can be expected to continue to require maintenance activities which will cause Lake level fluctuations similar to those in 1984. Concession and leasehold contracts will need to reflect adjustable minimum rents if use of the recreational facilities is adversely affected. Rent adjustments may be made on the basis of specific Lake levels as they offset use.

6. There is no real competition in the immediate region for the provision of large-scale additional outdoor recreational opportunities and experiences. Only Pyramid Lake, operated by the U.S. Forest Service under long-term contract with the State of California, has somewhat comparable facilities including 200 new overnight campsites which were completed in 1985.

Additional Concessions/Leaseholds Development Framework

The effect of this General Plan Amendment is to authorize the County of Los Angeles to continue the development of the 1971 Development Plan which provided for numerous facilities not yet realized within the park service. In addition, this Plan has identified, through the investigative/feasibility analysis, several primary opportunities which appear to have excellent market potential. For the most part, however, the identified opportunities fit within the character of the Castaic Lake Plan of 1971 and do not represent a significant departure from the outdoor recreation experience emphasis which has consistently been a major theme for the State Recreation Area.

The County of Los Angeles has developed an Enterprise Division within the Parks and Recreation Department that defines explicit opportunities, markets the concession/leasehold opportunities, selects the most qualified proposers, negotiates the long-term contracts, and implements the County's responsibilities within such leasehold contracts. An excellent example is the installation by a private investor/operator of the Raging Waters facility within the Bonelli Regional Park in the San Dimas area.

Once the County has selected a proposer and has negotiated an attractive lease for both parties, the County is required to submit the concession proposal to the State of California for review.

Other approvals must be gained from other County of Los Angeles agencies, from the State Department of Water Resources wherein there may be questions of new types of main reservoir water recreation uses, and from the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in any case where Federal lands may be identified for long-term leasehold operations.

The U.S. Forest Service lands are located on both sides of the East Arm of the main reservoir. When new and additional concessions and leaseholds are negotiated in this area, the Forest Service will require issuance of a special use permit, and can be expected to request a portion of the concession/leasehold revenues, consistent with Forest Service legislative mandates. Any special use permit will also require satisfactory completion of environmental clearances, as mandated in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

The basic policy objective for the Concessions Element of this Plan Amendment is to enhance the County's service to the public which demands recreation opportunities by inducing additional recreation operations in the park through private investor/operator development of leaseholds which provide for year-round recreational activities at affordable prices.

Competitive Position of the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area

Unique to the Castaic Lake SRA is its location in north Los Angeles County at the northerly edge of the regional market population concentration. Thus, the park draws from a half-moon shaped area of dense population and receives relatively little visitation from areas to the north of the main reservoir which are, for the most part, uninhabited or at extreme highway distances from the Lake.

Nearby recreation opportunities are provided for the population that seeks theme park recreational activities at the Six Flags Magic Mountain facility. The Magic Mountain theme park has proven over time to be

attractive, particularly to the teenage and young adult groups, because of its emphasis on monumental-scale thriller rides and other attractive amenities. The Magic Mountain Park acts somewhat as an "intercept" competitor with Castaic Lake in that decisions taken by the Six Flags Corporation to add new facilities may compete directly with some operations that appear to have market demand at Castaic Lake.

Developments at Pyramid Lake, as previously noted, are confined to a much smaller scale of on-the-lake boating capacity and the development of 200 overnight campsites. Comparable lake and land resource parks lie at farther distances in Southern California and include Gachuma Lake, operated by Santa Barbara County under a long-term lease from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Lake Casitas boating and park facilities, operated in Ventura County by the Water District which owns the reservoir. Both facilities experience frequent and continuous summer peak demands as does Castaic Lake.

The recent success of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation in engaging an investor/operator to construct the Raging Waters facility at Bonelli Park indicates the capacity of the County to seek and negotiate an attractive long-term land lease on public property in Southern California. The same incentives will be applied to the opportunities that exist at Castaic Lake.

Recommended Concession/Leasehold Developments

The investigative/feasibility analysis completed in November 1983 recommended four key leasehold opportunities that appear to have significant market support:

1. The development of a recreational vehicle campground initially on the east side of Castaic Lagoon where day-use fishing now occurs. Overnight recreational vehicle campground demand appears sufficient for multiple opportunities in the Castaic lake area with several locations near the water, at the Lagoon, and at the main reservoir in Elizabeth Lake Canyon.
2. Development of a water slide park for family recreation in the Grasshopper Canyon area to the northwest of the Castaic Lagoon.
3. Development of a marina on the main reservoir in the bay between Baal Point and Vista Ridge.
4. The development of overnight conference lodging facilities which appear to be at more risk, but may take the form of rustic cabinettes, linked with a conference lodge at the site of the DWR Visitor Center.

It is the intention of this Concession Element to provide the opportunity for the broadest array of potential future concessions at Castaic Lake. This provides the County of Los Angeles with an array of marketing opportunities in order to continue to better serve the regional market population.

As a guideline for the near-term development of concessions and leaseholds under private-public partnerships at the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, the following priorities for implementation are recommended:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Phasing</u>
East side of Castaic Lagoon	Recreational Vehicle Campground 225 spaces	1985/86
North Shore Campgrounds	Concession the overnight campgrounds in combination with a Lake ferry/store boat	1985/86
Old Equestrian Area (south of Lake Hughes Road)	Second phase Recreation Vehicle Campground 100 spaces	1986/87
Grasshopper Canyon	Family Water Park at scale of 160,000 visitors per season	1986/87
DWR Overlook Center	Conversion to operation as a Conference Lodge, initially without overnight accommodations	1986/87
Elizabeth Lake Canyon	Third phase Recreational Vehicle Campground with small boat launch 15 spaces	1987/88
Baal Point Cove	Floating Marina 250 slips	1987/88

The County may elect to offer these investor/operator opportunities in groups and may allow phased development of facilities as market demand increments are experienced.

This concession element also proposes the following operating policies concerning development of concession/leasehold opportunities at Castaic Lake:

1. The County recognizes the desires of businesspersons in the Castaic community to provide commercial retail and services to the visiting public. Activities that now occur in the Castaic community include auto services and fueling, boat repair and fueling, fishing supplies sales, food and beverage sales, restaurant and fast-food operations, and other activities. Consistent with the General Plan for Los

Angeles County, the land use opportunities in the Castaic community should continue to be developed, rehabilitated and diversified to better serve the very large numbers of the recreation-seeking population who continually pass through the community.

2. At such times in the near future as existing concession contracts come up for renewal, the County may determine to group said contracts with new leasehold opportunities it seeks to develop.
3. The County may seek to group concession and leasehold opportunities in functional service areas such as those that relate to marinas, boat rentals, boat storage, passenger ferry and on-the-lake boat store, and north shore campground operations.
4. To determine the viability of investor/operator administration of overnight campgrounds on the north shore of the main Lake, the County may also elect to define concession contract opportunities for the operation of facilities recently built at Waterski Landing and Fisherman's Rest, and may separately define additional opportunities, or add to future master contract facilities which may be developed at Baal Point, Vista Ridge, Bunny Meadow, and at other locations.

V. OPERATIONS ELEMENT

Current Agreements and Operations

At this time, the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area is operated under a number of formal agreements that provide the jurisdictional framework for Los Angeles County recreational operations. The several individual agreements are as follows:

- o The 50-year operations, maintenance, and development contract between the County of Los Angeles and the State of California for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area initiated in 1969 and expiring 2019.
- o State water project operation of the main reservoir as important water storage capacity for much of Southern California.
- o The Lake level fluctuation agreement between the State and the County of Los Angeles.
- o Los Angeles Department of Water and Power operation of the Elderberry Forebay for power generation purposes which excludes use of that water surface for recreational purposes.
- o Land use and new facilities approvals requirements that must be sought from the State of California (and from the U.S. Forest Service or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management if on Federal lands) when new public facilities or concessionaire/leasehold recreational developments are proposed. The USFS has previously granted special use permits to the State Department of Water Resources for reservoir use and to the DWR for public recreational developments at Baal Point and Vista Ridge. DWR in turn conveyed the permit to the State Parks Department and hence to the County of Los Angeles as operator. These

several jurisdictional realities provide the framework for the planning of operations and maintenance in the future by the County of Los Angeles.

The County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department currently covers all costs of operations and maintenance of the recreational facilities at Castaic Lake. The total expenditures in Fiscal Year 1983-84 were \$1,659,510, as against fee collections by the County for park entry, boat launches, and from concessionaire lease payments. Total County fee collection within the recreational area was \$612,371 for the same period. Thus, the County had to cover from other resources in its general funds the \$1,047,139 in operations and maintenance costs that were not met by fees and charges and other incomes from within the park. The County seeks to achieve a balanced position in the operation of the Castaic Lake Recreation Area and asserts the need for additional supporting revenues. It is reasonable to plan deliberately for revenue increments that will balance annual operations and maintenance costs within two decades.

If the opening of completed boat-in campgrounds occurs in the near future (1985/1986), requiring an increase in public operations budgets, and inflation moves forward at 6 to 8 percent per year, park operations will need to collect revenues at the same inflationary rate of 6 to 8 percent per year, plus an estimated additional \$125,000 in new revenues to maintain the current situation whereby the County must come up with \$1.0 million per year from other sources.

To arrive at a balanced position during the next two decades by which time the County is able to cover all Castaic Lake SRA operations and maintenance costs, the County must keep pace with inflation and raise the additional \$1.0 million in the period 1985-2005. Such supporting revenues are expected to come from the concessionaire/leasehold of existing and new recreational facilities that may be developed by the private investors/operators of for-profit public recreational experiences that will

return significant leasehold revenues to the County. New concessionaire facilities will be built in response to demonstrated market demand for the recreational experience as outlined in the preceding Investigative Feasibility Study Report of November 1983:

Overall Operations Emphasis

Consistent with the stated policy of the State of California for State Recreation Areas, the County of Los Angeles seeks to increase the outdoor recreational experience which is uniquely available because of the water attraction provided by the Castaic Reservoir and the Castaic Lagoon. In addition, extensive land resources, particularly on the north shore of the reservoir, are available for the introduction of new recreational experiences, particularly overnight camping.

Current Operations and Management Evaluation

The County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department provides on-site park management, lifeguard services, and park areas maintenance. The park headquarters is currently located on the west side of the Castaic Lagoon and is reached from the Old Ridge Route. A new lifeguard station has recently been opened at the west launch ramp on the main reservoir. This new facility provides for visual surveillance of the main reservoir and for dispatch of lifeguard patrols on the main lake.

Since 1978 the effects of Proposition 13 have resulted in reduced County general fund support for the maintenance and operations of Castaic Lake State Recreation Area primarily in the area of maintenance staffing. The County now seeks, through this General Plan Amendment, to define revenue sources that can provide for increased maintenance activities within the SRA. Fortunately, all fees and revenues earned within the park, under the stipulations of the 50-year operating contract with the State, must be expended on-site for operations, maintenance, and for capital improvements.

At this time, in 1985, several facilities have been built which are ready to open but require basic increments in County Parks' staffing in order to provide for site operation, maintenance, and emergency life safety response:

- o Two boat-in campgrounds at Waterski landing and at Fisherman's Rest.
- o The day-use and possibly overnight camping location at Baal Point, which requires reconfiguration of the entrance roadway at an additional capital expenditure prior to effective opening.

These three facilities set in motion two key changes for County operation at Castaic Lake: (1) the move to open the north shore of the main lake and (2) the introduction of overnight camping within the park at several locations requiring the establishment of management policies and the commitment of in-park staffing on a round-the-clock basis. Current operations at Castaic Lake are confined to daytime, daylight period recreational activities, with the exception of 24-hour fishing access on the east side of the Lagoon.

Thus, in the implementation of the General Plan Amendment for Castaic Lake the County must acquire resources for continued maintenance and operation of current recreational facilities, and must also identify additional resources that will allow the introduction of overnight camping. Fees and user charges for overnight camping will need to be imposed by the County in each area where the camping has not been concessioned. Where concessioned, the base contract should collect at least the equivalent fees.

Services by Other Agencies that are Expected to Continue

Life and property protection services, beyond those which are currently provided by the County park patrol and the lifeguards, have been performed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department and the Los Angeles County Forester and Fire Warden. (The latter includes paramedic response in time of personal injury.) These services will continue to be provided. Opening of the north shore of the main lake for boat-in overnight camping will require tactical planning for day and night emergency response, and for group evacuation in case of life-threatening events.

County lifeguards conduct boat safety checks as appropriate. The U.S. Coast Guard periodically conducts boat equipment checks on an unannounced schedule at the launch ramps and on the water.

Vegetation resource protection is currently carried out by several groups within the boundaries of the park. The United States Forest Service manages large acreages on the East Arm of Castaic Lake which lie within its jurisdictional boundaries. The County Forester and Fire Warden provides forest plantation area fire protection services in various locations throughout the recreation area. Crews from the Wayside Honor Rancho and from the Juvenile Facility nearby also provide brush clearance and plantation area maintenance services. These activities must continue and may increase as additional forest plantations are introduced in the recreational area and as plans for the effective protection of camping areas on the north shore of the main lake are developed.

Game fish are stocked at Castaic Lake throughout the year by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Basic County Responsibility

The County of Los Angeles has undertaken all responsibilities for development, providing environmental review, park planning, the investigative/feasibility study, construction documents, development administration, grant applications, public involvement, and concessionaire/leasehold development solicitation. This is in conformance with the basic 1969 agreement between the State of California and the County of Los Angeles.

Development of additional concessionaire/leasehold facilities within the recreation area is subject to the approvals process established in SB-1632, legislation of the 1982 session designed to provide for enhanced review by the State Parks Commission, the State Legislature, and the Governor's Office over concession proposals which yield more than \$100,000 in annual revenues.

Operations Objectives

During the course of preparation of this General Plan Amendment, it became apparent that additional operations and maintenance objectives for the future must be established as a framework for park operations. The following objectives are important increments to the available recreational experiences:

1. Public recreational opportunities must be spread throughout the entire year in order to more effectively utilize park visitation capacity not now in demand. Peak summer use density may have been reached in 1981 at the Lagoon.

2. The planned introduction of overnight camping facilities at several locations throughout the park requires establishment of 24-hour park management and security staffing, as well as a reservation for use system, with accompanying fee schedules designed to cover operations and maintenance costs.
3. As additional concession/leaseholds are identified, each will be required to carry full responsibility for complete site maintenance by the investor/operator. Thus, the County should not be required to accept additional maintenance and operations responsibility that is not met by leasehold revenue payments.
4. Funding priorities for capital expenditures should initially flow to the maintenance and upgrading of the extensive existing infrastructure which support virtually all of the existing park facilities and most of the identified new opportunity areas.
5. Funding priorities for operations and maintenance must initially be directed at enhanced park maintenance standards, which in the future will be a combination of County Parks maintenance and concessionaire/leaseholder site maintenance.
6. In order to effectively attract the new concessionaire/leasehold developments and public recreational services therein, the County will need to establish the appropriate resources to market the leasehold opportunities and to negotiate for high-quality private investor/operator performance within the park.
7. As private investor/operators develop public recreational facilities at Castaic Lake, the County and the operators must cooperatively set aside budget resources for a coordinated annual attractions management program that features all of the facilities through a calendar of events, tournaments, and seasonal recreational specialty

cycles. Thus, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area becomes a year-round public recreational destination in Southern California. This enhances the levels of service and creates the revenues needed by the County and by the for-profit concessionaire/leaseholder operators.

8. It will be appropriate for the County Parks and Recreation Department to work with the ongoing Citizens Advisory Committee after plan adoption to create a "Friends of Castaic Lake" non-profit corporation for the support of park operations and improvements and to effectively communicate with the surrounding Castaic community. Such an organization may also work directly with the County in the co-promotion of high quality, outdoor recreational events that will increase year-round park usership and park image. The Lake has already seen waterskiing championships, sailboat races, and other types of competitions and tournaments well suited to the Lake and to the extensive land area. The park is admirably suited by location to provide such opportunities to the entire Los Angeles basin.

Opening of New Recreational Facilities

Clear-cut policies for the opening of new recreational facilities should be stated for Castaic Lake. New facilities should be capable of economically viable year-round operation. Thus, the land use plan identifies uses in each of the existing and proposed park development areas, and the Concession Element recommends a priority use to initially pursue.

It will be appropriate for the County of Los Angeles to group or to package concessionaire/leaseholds by functional recreation type and by related service types. Thus, the County may issue requests for proposals for multiple sites as well as for adjoining sites where it appears that there are connected elements of market demand as well as economies of operating scale between closely related recreational uses. An example would be the potential connection between launch ramp concessions, marina development

and operation, boat storage, and an on-the-lake store boat and passenger ferry service.

For each new recreation facility determined to be viable within the park, it is strongly recommended that the County first determine whether the project can be concessioned so that private capital investment and operation can be captured rather than development and self-operation by the County.

Other Controls/Other Operating Entities

This General Plan Amendment has recognized the continuing Department of Water and Power electrical generation activities above the Elderberry Forebay structure. Rapid fluctuations in Forebay water depth indicate the need to discourage recreational users in this area.

The State Department of Water Resources has planned the development of an overnight campground to the northwest of the Forebay for the future. It is believed this campground may be most effectively operated by agreement between the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Forest Service; this is suggested inasmuch as the remoteness of the location makes County Parks Department management and maintenance of the site very difficult.

The General Plan Amendment emphasizes early development of several recreational vehicle and overnight tent camping facilities. Completed boat-in overnight campgrounds on the north shore of the main reservoir can be opened in 1985/86. The introduction of overnight campers in several locations suggests that the current prohibition of hunting in the State Recreation Area be maintained.

If a marina is developed adjacent to Baal Point, the speed of water craft leaving the marina will need to be controlled until they are clear of the East Arm. High speed movement will only be allowed in the West Arm where waterskiing and power boating now occur. This will maintain the long-term commitment for slow speed boating for fishing purposes in the East Arm of the Lake.

VI. INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Previous activities and investments at the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area have emphasized development of outdoor recreation opportunities. Because of the large size of the state water project facilities and the associated land areas, investment in the recreation activities has occurred on roughly 456 acres of land adjoining the main reservoir and the Afterbay Lagoon. Only the Department of Water Resources Overlook Facility on the high knoll west of Lake Hughes Road has been developed as an interpretive resource, primarily describing the California Water Project and the Castaic Dam Project. The DWR Interpretive Overlook Facility does contain momentos and artifacts of historical and archeological items discovered during the period of reservoir construction.

This Plan proposes eventual reuse of the DWR Overlook site and building facilities. It is proposed that the interpretative displays either be retained when the Overlook Facility is reused as a conference lodge or be relocated to the DWR Administrative quarters at the intersection of Lake Hughes Road and Castaic Road. Alternatively, durable all weather, information boards which describe the Castaic Dam and associated water impoundment facilities could be placed at roadside turnouts on Lake Hughes Road just below the DWR Overlook Facility.

Prior development of the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area has not encouraged use of the north shores of the main reservoir. Development of the boat-in campground facilities will generate overnight use of the campgrounds and exploration of the surrounding land areas by campers and hikers. While this Plan Amendment suggests no additional physical facility investments for interpretive purposes, several opportunities exist for the development of interpretive pamphlets which may be used by

day-use park visitors, campers, hikers, and boaters. The materials should initially contain two types of information:

- o Public and personal safety information for hikers, campers, and boaters who are venturing onto the north shore lands which are remote from vehicle access. This type of information should include warnings concerning plant types, reptiles, and land forms or conditions which may present safety problems for the unwary hiker and/or camper.
- o Truly interpretative information about the flora, fauna, and land forms which are unique to the chaparral environment which composes most of the north shore ecology.

At each boat-in campground site, large-scale information boards should be erected to inform the day and overnight users of both opportunities and cautions concerning use of the facility and the adjoining wild lands. Special seasonal postings of cautionary information should be presented as a part of such information boards.

Because of the vastness of the SRA, it is recommended that the interpretive effort primarily be conducted through the availability of pamphlets to all park users. Pamphlets could be updated on a quarterly basis in order to provide data and information specific to seasonal changes and park use cautionary advice. The pamphlets would also guide the park user to different interpretive opportunities including self-guided tours, the locations of overlook dioramas and information boards and the location of various campground and boating opportunities. Such pamphlets should also present the basic operating hours of the park, regulations concerning park user conduct, and the locations and phone numbers of park administrative, lifeguard, police, and other personnel.

In order to provide for adequate safety for groups entering the park for conduct of interpretive experiences, it will be appropriate for the park management to require a permit and the filing of a hiking plan and schedule, with formal hiking party checkout procedures. In cases where parties will be distant from vehicle access, or on the north shores of the main reservoir, for an extended period of time, park management may need to impose specific regulations concerning first aid capability in the hiking party, prohibition against fires in certain seasons, and require the acceptance of personal liability on the part of the hiking and/or camping group in case of personal injuries, property damage, or resource damage.

The overall intent of this interpretive element for the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area is to inform the park user of controlled opportunities for self interpretation of the recreational opportunities, the state water project facilities, and of the numerous resources within the park boundaries. The interpretive element does not recommend construction of substantial facilities for interpretive uses.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Summary

This Environmental Impact Element has been prepared in accordance with Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code that requires each State park unit general plan include an environmental impact assessment that satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA). The entire General Plan Amendment, including the Environmental Impact Element, represents a report on the project for the purposes of CEQA.

The description of the project and the environmental setting are contained in the preceding sections of this report.

Environmental Impact

The impact on the environment caused by implementation of the proposed Castaic Lake SRA General Plan Amendment will be relatively minor and very localized due to the following factors:

1. The proposed General Plan Amendment represents a redirection/modification of the previous Plan for the SRA which was prepared in conjunction with the State aqueduct project. Environmental documentation was prepared for the originally planned recreational and visitor-serving facilities as well as subsequent revisions.¹³

¹³See Final Environmental Impact Report, Main Reservoir, Phase I, Castaic Lake State and County Region Park, 1974; Waterski Landing Development Negative Declaration, 1978; and Negative Declaration, Addendum to Environmental Impact Report, Fisherman's Rest and Waterski Landing Development; all prepared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

2. As described in preceding sections of this report, substantial progress has been made by the State and County in the development of originally planned recreational facilities. However, site-specific development to date encompasses only 456 acres of the roughly 8,788 acres of lands within the SRA (exclusive of water area). This General Plan Amendment proposes site-specific uses that would total some 100 acres of currently undeveloped land. Other uses contemplated in the General Plan Amendment are either consistent with the original plan or represent a conversion of use on already developed sites such as the DWR Visitor Center and the Old Equestrian Center.
3. The development concept generally features emphasis on provision of clusters of new recreational resources in currently developed areas served by roads and utilities.
4. Existing and future recreational developments represent minimal environmental impact potential when contrasted with the effects related to the creation of the main lake and Afterbay as part of the California Water Project.¹⁴ (See aerial photograph on following page.)

¹⁴See Final Environmental Impact Statement, California Aqueduct Project No. 2426, prepared by Federal Power Commission, Bureau of Power; and Final Environmental Impact Report for Main Conveyance and Treatment Facilities for State Water Project, Castaic Lake Water Agency, Santa Clarita Valley, Los Angeles County, California.

5. Studies prepared by the County of Los Angeles as part of the countywide General Plan revision effort have indicated that the Castaic SRA and vicinity do not constitute a Significant Ecological Area, which is defined as follows:¹⁵

¹⁵See Land Capability/Suitability Study, Los Angeles County General Plan Revision Program, prepared in 1976 for Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and Environmental Systems Research Institute by England and Nelson, Environmental Consultants; and Santa Clarita Valley Proposed Areawide General Plan, op. cit., p. 29.



Aerial photograph of Castaic Lake, Dam, and Afterbay following completion of DWR facilities but prior to construction of recreational improvements.

Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) are ecologically important or fragile land and water areas valuable as plant or animal communities. Significant Ecological Areas have been designated for being one or more of the following:

- a habitat for rare and endangered species of plants and animals,
- a restricted natural community which is scarce on a regional basis,
- a habitat of restricted distribution in the County,
- a breeding or nesting ground, an unusual biotic community,
- a site with critical wildlife and fish value, and/or
- a relatively undisturbed habitat.

The nearest designated SEA is Number 19 which encompasses San Francisquito Canyon (located about three miles southeast of Castaic SRA).

While the overall level of impact associated with implementation of the General Plan is anticipated to be minimal due to the preceding considerations there are several areas of environmental concern as discussed below.

Furthermore, as part of the development process for each major facility added, a project-specific EIR will be prepared, if necessary, based on initial study findings.

AFTERBAY WATER QUALITY

A long-term solution to the Afterbay water quality problem has not yet been fully demonstrated based on summer 1983 and summer 1984 experiences. If problems arise during the 1985 season further measures may be required including intercepting drainage flows into the Afterbay.¹⁶ Unless the Afterbay water quality problems are resolved, swimming activities may have to be constrained with an attendant adverse long-term effect on visitation and potential for achieving the overall objectives of the General Plan Amendment with regard to the proposed Lagoon Area improvements.

¹⁶Water Quality Study, Castaic Afterbay, op. cit., pp. 1-2.

CIRCULATION AND PARKING

Current visitation at Castaic Lake is constrained on peak summer weekend days by available access and parking capacity. In addition, congestion and related effects are being experienced throughout the unincorporated community of Castaic. The proposed long-range site access and parking improvements would help to alleviate these existing problems, if implemented, and could provide sufficient traffic handling capacity to accommodate anticipated future visitation levels. As previously noted in Chapter III, additional investigation of access is required prior to initiating design of access improvements.

FIRE HAZARDS

The opening of Fisherman's Rest and Waterski Landing for 24-hour use, and the possible long-term development of Bunny Meadow and Elizabeth Lake Canyon for similar purposes, will increase the potential for forest fires. Expanded prescribed burn programs will be required by the U.S. Forest Service and Los Angeles County Fire Department to provide protection of human life, recreational developments, existing/future forestation areas, and valuable watershed.

LANDFORMS

The project will modify the topography of a small portion of the SRA. This modification will be required to construct recommended road and parking lot improvements and grading required by the placement of proposed permanent structures and camping sites. In addition, it is anticipated that some dredging may be required in connection with the proposed marina facility near Baal Point.

OTHER POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The potential significance of the following impacts could not be ascertained based on studies conducted as part of the General Plan Amendment process and previous environmental documents for projects within the SRA:

- o Air Quality
- o Noise
- o Cultural
- o Biotic
- o Hydrology
- o Aesthetics

These impacts will be assessed as part of the project-specific environmental documentation process for each new facility added within the SRA.

Adverse Environmental Effects That Cannot be Avoided

The redirection/modification of the original recreation development plan which could occur under this new General Plan Amendment would have the following unavoidable adverse effects:

1. The anticipated increase in visitation would increase the risk of forest fires, particularly in the upland areas north of the main lake.
2. The contemplated improvements would require the commitment of some 100 acres of currently undeveloped land, and the possible conversion of use for areas such as the DWR Visitor Center, the Old Equestrian Center, Baal Point, and Vista Ridge.

3. Some modification of existing landforms will be required in the placement of road improvements, parking lots, buildings, support and other recreation and visitor-serving uses contemplated by the General Plan Amendment.

Mitigation Measures Proposed to
Minimize the Impact

The following measures are proposed to mitigate the impacts likely to occur as a result of implementing the General Plan Amendment:

1. The State and County are committed to achieving a long-term solution to the Afterbay water quality problems. If the current point aeration system does not prove effective as a long-term mitigation measure, other possible means will be investigated (including bubble aeration system, drainage intercept system, etc.). Additionally, successful development of the Family Water Park facility should tend to reduce use of the Lagoon for swimming, with an attendant expected increase in water quality.
2. The proposed long-range site access and parking improvements would mitigate the existing traffic-related problems, and would allow increased visitation levels in the future. These improvements should also significantly benefit the Castaic community by reducing congestion while allowing increased tourism.
3. The anticipated increase in fire hazards can be somewhat mitigated by expanded prescribed burn programs on the part of the U.S. Forest Service and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
4. Site-specific planning and development will be executed by design professionals with expertise related to sensitively limiting impacts on the landform.

5. Project-specific design of anticipated improvements will visually improve the existing SRA, especially in the east Afterbay area, Bunny Meadow, Baal Point, Vista Ridge, Elizabeth Lake Canyon, and other future forestation areas to be provided upland of the main lake's northern shoreline.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

This alternative would represent a continuation of the "status quo;" i.e., any future development would follow the original recreation development plan (as amended). Since the original plan did not contemplate a major role for the private sector, and given the current financial ability of the the State and County to fund and operate new improvements, it is highly unlikely that any beneficial change would occur as a result of this alternative.

REDUCED SCOPE ALTERNATIVES

The primary object of the Castaic Lake SRA is to serve regional recreational needs for a growing population. A reduced scope alternative would severely limit the ability of the County to effectively operate and maintain the existing facilities under increased visitation loads, let alone make any significant improvements.

ALTERNATE DEVELOPMENT SITES

One of the major intents of this General Plan Amendment is flexibility. The specific site and use combinations previously presented in text and graphic form are not meant to be all inclusive and fixed. A certain amount of latitude may be necessary in order to implement the plan in light of

currently unknown site-specific constraints and the likelihood of creative proposals by the private sector. Thus, alternate adjacent development sites will be considered as consistent with the General Plan Amendment if they are compatible with the overall objectives, resource element, infrastructure capacities, and with the cumulative level of impacts discussed in this Environmental Impact Element.

The Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

In the short-term, implementing the proposed new facilities would entail construction-related impacts and modification of existing landforms associated with converting about 100 acres of currently undeveloped land. These short-term effects must be weighed against the benefit of significant potential increases in annual visitor-days within the SRA and potential long-term adverse risks related to forest fires and boating safety.

Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Resulting from Project Implementation

The development of the proposed facilities contained in this General Plan Amendment would require the conversion of some 100 acres of currently undeveloped land to active recreational and visitor-serving uses. The particular facilities and sites would not involve the commitment of significant wildlife habitats. No known cultural resources are likely to be affected or lost as a result of actions contemplated under this plan amendment.

Growth Inducing Impact

The proposed project is not anticipated to directly provide an impetus for further growth in the area adjacent to the SRA; i.e., the community of Castaic. However, effective solution of current traffic congestion and increased tourism could indirectly create a demand for additional visitor-serving development in the Castaic community. Such increased services, if realized, could foster additional residential development if the goal of spreading the recreation season at Castaic Lake can be successfully achieved.

VIII. ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONSULTED

Agencies and Organizations
Receiving General Plan Amendment

This General Plan Amendment is being circulated for comments to the following agencies, organizations, and individuals.

1. Los Angeles County Departments
 - County-Engineer Facilities
 - Forester and Fire Warden
 - Health Services
 - Flood Control District
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Regional Planning
 - Road Department
 - Sanitation Districts
 - Sheriff's Department
 - South Coast Air Quality Management District
2. County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Commission
3. County of Los Angeles Fish and Game Commission
4. State of California Agencies
 - Caltrans
 - Fish and Game
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Department of Boating and Waterways
 - Department of Parks and Recreation

5. United States Agencies

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Fish and Wildlife Service
Weather Service

6. Castaic Lake Advisory Group (Friends of Castaic)

Ward Albright	Mike Lyons
Garry Buterbaugh	Jim McCartin
Paul Celebron	Steven Perez
Davie Churchill	Hank Pfenning
Syd St. Clair	Roberta Posner
Peggy Freeman	Earl Stogner
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List of References and Resources

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RESOURCES

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