



# Wilder Ranch State Park

PRELIMINARY

## GENERAL PLAN

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

March 1980



WILDER RANCH STATE PARK  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
AND GENERAL PLAN

This Addendum should be attached to the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report of March 1980. (SCH 80012914). This attachment and the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report constitutes the Final Environmental Impact Report and General Plan for Wilder Ranch State Park.

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1. Resolution 20-80; California Park and Recreation Commission
2. Errata Sheet - Wilder Ranch State Park
3. Comments and Responses

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COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS ADDED LATER:

21-80

22-80

6-86

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



## Resolution 20-80

Resolution adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in Santa Cruz, California  
May 9, 1980

## Resolution 20-80

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan for Wilder Ranch State Park, preliminary dated March 1980, with the following amendments:

1. That no recreational development shall occur on the ocean side of State Highway 1, except for the Natural and Cultural Preserves and administrative support facilities for those preserves, until Commission and departmental pesticide policies for agricultural use have been established for state park and recreational facilities;
2. The Commission endorses the concept of existing agricultural uses subject to such advances in the field of pesticide control management as will be conducive to the safe development of the park for public use;
3. The Commission adopts the concept of organic gardens and directs the Department to seek suitable locations for this purpose;
4. The Department will seek the advice of local and State Native American advisory groups concerning the interpretation, protection, and display of recorded and unrecorded Native American history sites, ceremonial sites, religious sites, burial sites, and any of the other relevant Native American cultural and historical resources;
5. The Department is encouraged to seek private funding sources to augment the realization of the proposed dairy museum;

6. The Department shall investigate the demand for equestrian and pedestrian trail use, and equestrian use will be extended beyond the nine miles noted in the plan;
7. The Department shall investigate the possibility of relocating the proposed hostel at the Lower Baldwin Canyon area;

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

Commissioner Gee moved that the following resolution be adopted, which was seconded by Commissioner Whitehead and carried with Commissioners Araujo, Gee, Gibson, Whitehead, and Berk voting AYE and Commissioner Norris voting NAY. X

RESOLUTION FOR  
ADOPTION OF A  
CULTURAL  
PRESERVE AT  
WILDER RANCH  
STATE PARK

Resolution 21-80

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5019.50 and 5002.3 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings had in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act contained in Section 11370 et. seq. of the Government Code, the State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the Wilder Dairy Ranch Complex, including the grounds immediately surrounding it, the corral complex north of State Highway 1, and three associated Native American sites as shown on Map #17457, on Wilder Ranch State Park as a cultural preserve and names said preserve Wilder Dairy Cultural Preserve.

Commissioner Gee moved that the following resolution be adopted, which was seconded by Commissioner Gibson and carried with Commissioners Araujo, Gee, Gibson, Whitehead, and Berk voting AYE and Commissioner Norris voting NAY.

RESOLUTION FOR  
ADOPTION OF A  
NATURAL  
PRESERVE AT  
WILDER RANCH  
STATE PARK

Resolution 22-80

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Sections 5019.50 and 5002.3 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings had in accordance with the Administration Procedure Act contained in Section 11370 et. seq. of the Government Code, the State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies approximately 80.3 acres of wetland and coastal strand at the mouth of Wilder Creek on Wilder Ranch State Park as a natural preserve and names said preserve Wilder Beach Natural Preserve.



359-1-456  
Wunder Roach

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City Council Chambers  
809 Center Street  
Santa Cruz, California  
May 9, 1980  
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

ATTENDANCE

Mrs. Ida Berk, Chairwoman  
Mr. James Whitehead, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Trusse Norris  
Mrs. Victoria Gibson  
Mrs. Victoria Araujo  
Mr. Gary Gee

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Helen Reddy Wald  
Miss Michelle Egizi  
Mr. Robert Trent Jones, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Alice Huffman, Chief Deputy Director  
Neil Johannsen, Deputy Director  
Ross T. Henry, Chief, Planning Division  
Kenneth McClellan, Chief, Development Division  
William Dillinger, Chief, Information Office  
James Tryner, Chief, Resource Protection Division  
Lee Warren, Development Division  
Roger Calloway, Development Division, Landscape Architect  
David Schaub, Natural Heritage  
John Kelly, Cultural Heritage  
Kerry Gates, Executive Office  
Robert Acrea, Development Division, Landscape Architect  
Gregg Albright, Development Division, Landscape Architect  
Richard L. Menefee, Area Manager, Pajaro Coast  
Joann Weiler, Interpretive Planning  
George Stammerjohan, Cultural Heritage  
Charles Mehlert, District 4 Headquarters  
Charles G. Cline, District 4 Headquarters  
Milton Frincke, District Superintendent, District 4 Headquarters  
Lawrence Cermak, Pajaro Coast  
Charles Gordon, Pajaro Coast  
Linda Gresham, Recording Secretary

STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

Walt Wunderlich, Deputy Attorney General

Commissioner Whitehead moved that the following resolution be adopted which was seconded by Commissioner Araujo and approved with Commissioners Araujo, Gee, Gibson, Whitehead, Norris, and Berk voting AYE.

RESOLUTION  
FOR ADOPTION  
OF GENERAL PLAN  
FOR WILDER RANCH  
STATE PARK

Resolution 20-80

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan for Wilder Ranch State Park, preliminary dated March 1980, with the following amendments:

1. That no recreational development shall occur on the ocean side of State Highway 1, except for the Natural and Cultural Preserves and administrative support facilities for those preserves, until Commission and departmental pesticide policies for agricultural use have been established for state park and recreational facilities;
2. The Commission endorses the concept of existing agricultural uses subject to such advances in the field of pesticide control management as will be conducive to the safe development of the park for public use;
3. The Commission adopts the concept of organic gardens and directs the Department to seek suitable locations for this purpose;
4. The Department will seek the advice of local and State Native American advisory groups concerning the interpretation, protection, and display of recorded

and unrecorded Native American history sites, ceremonial sites, religious sites, burial sites, and any of the other relevant Native American cultural and historical resources;

5. The Department is encouraged to seek private funding sources to augment the realization of the proposed dairy museum;
6. The Department shall investigate the demand for equestrian and pedestrian trail use, and equestrian use will be extended beyond the nine miles noted in the plan;
7. The Department shall investigate the possibility of relocating the proposed hostel at the Lower Baldwin Canyon area;

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

Before the vote was called, Commissioner Norris expressed his concern for pedestrian safety while crossing and parking on Highway 1. He believed the Commission should consider development of a daytime-only parking lot on the ocean side of the highway to eliminate pedestrians crossing or parking on the highway.

Speaking to Commissioner Norris' proposal, Commissioner Whitehead stated he was not prepared to encourage people to go any farther into the pesticide area than was absolutely necessary. He proposed that signs be posted to acquaint them with the hazards.

Commissioner Norris proposed a motion for the development of a parking lot on the ocean side of the highway; however, it died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Norris referred to the proposed buffer zone between the farming and the trails. He suggested that the Department not develop the trails and that the farmers cease farming adjacent to the proposed buffer zone areas so that plant-life restoration on that particular soil could begin relatively soon. He believed this would assure that the soil would be fairly free of chemical compound character.

Commissioner Whitehead believed this was a good idea and asked staff if the Department could prevent the use of the area without developing trails. Mr. Tryner thought the concept was practical; however, he wanted to point out that the concerned agriculturalists believe if the farmers discontinue the use of toxiphene, this would not be necessary.

The vote for the approval of the General Plan was taken at this time.

Commissioner Gee moved that the following resolution be adopted, which was seconded by Commissioner Whitehead and carried with Commissioners Araujo, Gee, Gibson, Whitehead, and Berk voting AYE and Commissioner Norris voting NAY.

RESOLUTION FOR  
ADOPTION OF A  
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PRESERVE AT  
WILDER RANCH  
STATE PARK

Resolution 21-80

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Commissioner Gee moved that the following resolution be adopted, which was seconded by Commissioner Gibson and carried with Commissioners Araujo, Gee, Gibson, Whitehead, and Berk voting AYE and Commissioner Norris voting NAY.

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ERRATA SHEET

WILDER RANCH STATE PARK

The terms "garbage dump" and "chemical ponds" are used in the General Plan. The term "sanitary landfill" should replace any reference to "garbage dump" and the term "leachate control ponds" should be used in place of "chemical ponds".

Please change these terms as used in the following references:

Page 19, paragraph 4 - "...Residential development, mining, and a garbage dump." Replace "garbage dump" with "sanitary landfill."

Page 35, paragraph 6 - "Chemical waste ponds, developed on a ridge...." Replace "chemical waste ponds" with "leachate control ponds."

Page 38, paragraph 1 - "Chemical ponds appear to be the primary source....." Replace "Chemical ponds" with "leachate control ponds."

Also in regard to the chapter on Appropriate Future Land Acquisition, please change the following:

Page 73, paragraph 1." ....department's best interest to acquire these inholdings." Replace "acquire these inholdings" with "consider acquisition of these inholdings."



COMMENTS AND RESPONSES  
WILDER RANCH STATE PARK  
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN

The Preliminary General Plan for Wilder Ranch State Park, including Draft Environmental Impact Report was circulated through the State Clearinghouse (10) copies, California Coastal Commission, Association of Bay Area Governments, Santa Cruz County Planning Commission, and the Sierra Club. Comments were received from the following:

State of California, Department of Transportation

State of California, Department of Fish and Game

City of Santa Cruz, Planning and Community Development

City of Santa Cruz, Director of Public Works

The numbered responses correspond to numbers adjacent to the comments following these responses.

1. The Department of Parks and Recreation has on file quantitative information on traffic conditions on Highway 1 and the Mission Street Corridor of Highway 1 in the City of Santa Cruz. The data was supplied to us by the City of Santa Cruz and the California Department of Transportation. This data is used as a basis for the discussion on traffic in the description of the Environmental setting.

The design capacity for the number of vehicles is listed in the Preliminary General Plan. This is based on the Allowable Use Intensity Chapter in the Resource Element in the General Plan.

The number of vehicles expected to travel to Wilder Ranch State Park via Highway 1 has been divided between arrivals from the northwest and southeast (through Santa Cruz and the Mission Street Corridor).

Estimates are that 25% will arrive from the northwest and 75% from the southeast. The preferred design capacity for parking facilities for standard vehicles and busses is set at 336. 75% of this total is approximately 250. If each of these vehicles made one trip to and from the park daily and there was a turn-over factor of 2, then the park would generate approximately 1,000 vehicles along the Mission Street Corridor on one day. This would be a capacity day and would probably occur on weekends during the summer months, and would not occur for many years. 1,000 vehicles is a small percentage of the total daily traffic projected along Mission Street. The Mission Street traffic problems will probably be solved by the time the park is developed to its design capacity.

2. Department of Parks and Recreation will coordinate with Cal Trans and the City during the preparation of specific phases of Wilder Ranch State Park General Plan. We plan to work with these two agencies in encouraging alternate types of transportation and on the entire transportation problem.
3. We agree with the Department of Fish and Game's suggestion that the Interpretive Program be expanded to include wildlife observations in all the different types of habitat within the Wilder Ranch.

4. Department of Parks and Recreation will submit notification of proposed channel modifications to the Department of Fish and Game and execute streambed agreements. Department of Parks and Recreation will coordinate with Department of Fish and Game during the preparation of different plan phases of the project.
5. Please see Response #1.
6. Please see Response #1.
7. The General Plan is a guide to future development at Wilder Ranch State Park. The project will not exceed the design capacity. If in the future, a development were proposed that is not discussed in the General Plan, then a new environmental document would be prepared and the California Environmental Quality Act would be followed.
8. No change is expected in the 10% agricultural reduction proposal stated in the General Plan. The California Environmental Quality Act would be followed if any substantial change were proposed.
9. We concur with the concept of a coastal trail system. One is now proposed along most of the bluff. A trail linking the east end of the park to the Wilder Ranch Complex on the north side of the railroad tracks should be studied. A trail cannot cross the proposed natural preserve or cross the agricultural row-crops lands. Toxic pesticides used on the row crops, will cause closure to trails along the bluffs for much of the time. Trails in the upland area could be connected to existing and proposed countywide trail systems.
10. We agree that the rural and undeveloped appearance of the ~~land~~ landscape should be retained. Mitigation measures 4 and 9 specifically discuss measures that will reduce the visual impact of the proposed facilities. The General Plan proposes low density use through out most of the unit and very few buildings are proposed.
11. We agree; The term "sanitary landfill" should be used rather than the term "dump" and the fact that it is a Santa Cruz City sanitary landfill should be noted.

12. The term "chemical waste ponds" should be "leachate control ponds".
13. Department of Parks and Recreation recognizes the solid waste problem facing cities such as Santa Cruz. We recognize the necessary service the sanitary landfill provides, but we are concerned with long term problems such as drainage and water quality resulting from a large sanitary landfill inholding in the middle of Wilder Ranch State Park.
14. See Response #12 for the term leachate control ponds. However, we still contend that there are objectionable odors emanating from the sanitary landfill. There is empirical evidence supporting this contention.
15. The Department of Parks and Recreation has reviewed the report by Raymond Vail and Assoc., July 1979. Department of Parks and Recreation will not have a General Plan on land that is not in the State Park System or on land that will probably not be acquired in the near future. It is not the purpose of the General Plan to plan on land which we have no control and which are not compatible with State Park purposes.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P. O. BOX 3366 RINCON ANNEX

SAN FRANCISCO 94119

(415) 557-1840



February 29, 1980

04-SCR-1 PM 22+  
SCH #80012914

James M. Doyle  
State Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Caltrans District 4 comments on the Draft of  
Preliminary Wilder Ranch State Park General Plan

The document does not supply any quantitative traffic data that may assist in evaluating traffic operational impacts that may be associated with the Park. When specific development plans are proposed, we should be consulted for our concerns during the preparation process of the appropriate environmental document. 1 2

Sincerely yours,

T. R. LAMMERS  
District Director

By *R. W. Sieker*  
R. W. SIEKER  
District CEQA Coordinator

cc: State Clearinghouse



# Memorandum

To : 1. Jim Burns, Projects Coordinator  
Resources Agency

Date: February 28, 1980

2. James M. Doyle  
State Department Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone: ATSS ( ) 485-3531  
Public (916) 445-3531

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Draft Preliminary EIR, Wilder Ranch State Park General Plan, Santa Cruz County;  
SCH 80012914A

Department of Fish and Game personnel have reviewed the subject report and find it adequately describes project impacts on fish and wildlife resources. However, we have some comments and recommendations.

We concur with many of your policies for the preservation and protection of wildlife and its habitat, especially your policy for the establishment of the Natural Preserve and the management of the wetlands, including the feasibility study to determine the potential for returning the four hectare (10 acre) cultivated field, adjacent to the proposed natural area, to wetland habitat.

We commend your policy on ecological burning designed to restore and perpetrate natural habitats.

We recommend the Interpretive Program be expanded to include wildlife observations in all the different types of habitat within the Wilder Ranch. 3

As you may be aware, the Department of Fish and Game has direct jurisdiction pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1601 in regard to any proposed activities that would substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel or bank of any stream. Therefore, for the removal of the remaining portions of the man-made dike, the operator will be required to submit notification of proposed channel modifications to the Department. Work cannot be initiated until streambed agreements are executed. 4

Department of Fish and Game personnel are available to discuss any phase of the plan in more detail. If you desire a meeting or require more information, please contact Mr. John M. Parrish, Wildlife Management Supervisor, Region 3, Department of Fish and Game, P. O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599, telephone (707) 944-2443.

*EC Fullerton*

Director



## City of Santa Cruz

CITY HALL • 809 CENTER STREET  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060  
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
TELEPHONE (408) 429-3555

March 24, 1980

Mike Doyle  
Environmental Review Section  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2930  
Sacramento, Ca. 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Based on a review of the draft Wilder Ranch State Park General Plan and a discussion of the Plan with Roger Calloway, the following comments are offered. The comments are based on policies in the recently adopted (January 1980) General Plan and Sanitary Land Fill Master Plan.

The development of Wilder Ranch State Park will result in additional traffic on Mission Street, an already heavily congested state highway. The Plan and the environmental impact report briefly recognize the impact, page 95, but propose no solutions. 5

The City has been working with Cal-Trans to come up with solutions to this problem as it exists today, and state park development would only add to the problem. State park developments could be phased with Mission Street improvements so that, once the park is developed, users will be able to get to it without major congestion or danger to their lives. 6

To accommodate park visitors and promote travel modes other than the auto, it is planned that 75% of the park visitors would reach the park by auto and 25% by other modes, page 81. Accordingly, park spaces are provided, 334 for day use and 183 for camping overnight use. These plans are in agreement with City emphasis on reducing reliance on the automobile and, more particularly, the impact of park traffic on Mission Street.

In order to provide some assurances that this policy will be carried out, a new policy should be added to the Plan stating that, in no case will more than the number of parking spaces in the Plan be provided 7

without an amendment to the Wilder Ranch Park Plan, including a local public hearing. This would ensure that the original intent of the Plan is followed.

This same type of policy should be adopted to make sure agricultural uses are maintained. The Plan states, Page 52, that 90% of the existing agricultural row-crop acreage will remain in agricultural production. The City strongly supports this policy and suggests that the policy be strengthened to make sure that the 90% agricultural policy is followed by adding a policy: "No more than the 10% of the existing agricultural row-crop acreage will be put to non-row-crop uses without an amendment to the Wilder Ranch Plan including a local public hearing on the amendment." 8

A pedestrian link is needed, other than along Highway One between City and other state coastal attractions, Municipal Wharf and beach, Lighthouse Field, West Cliff Drive and Natural Bridges State Park and Wilder Ranch State Park. The coastal trail system is a sound planning concept and should be included in the Park Plan. 9

With development on the North Coast bench lands and marine terrace, special measures will have to be taken to minimize the visual impact of such development. Currently, the North Coast area presents a rural undeveloped image as contrasted by development along Mission Street in Santa Cruz. It is important to the City that the rural character of the North Coast be maintained even though it is in park use. The siting of facilities and buffering and landscaping in project development can provide for this if done sensitively. 10

The Plan needs to consider further the implications of completion of the sanitary land fill and its ultimate use. The attached memorandum from W. Fieberling, Public Works Director, comments on the Plan and raises questions that need further consideration.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN S. RUSSELL  
Senior Planner

cc: Bill Fieberling  
Roger Calloway

SR/fp  
1.7.18

Encl.

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ  
CALIFORNIA

File  
1.1.18

Date: March 20, 1980

TO Director of Planning  
FROM Director of Public Works  
SUBJECT GENERAL PLAN FOR THE WILDER RANCH STATE PARK

We have reviewed the preliminary draft of the General Plan for the Wilder Ranch State Park dated January 1980. The following are my specific comments and recommendations page by page.

1. Page 19, next to last paragraph. The landfill area is described as a Santa Cruz County sanitation landfill. It is, in fact, a Santa Cruz City sanitary landfill. } 11
2. Page 22, paragraph 2. The words garbage dump should be changed to sanitary landfill. This will be in keeping with other sections of the General Plan.
3. Page 38, paragraph 4. I concur that the sanitary landfill is a detraction, however, the words chemical waste ponds should be eliminated from the plan. No chemical wastes are deposited in these ponds. The liquid in the ponds is runoff water from the landfill area which cannot be allowed to travel down the stream as it has had some contact with the waste material in the landfill. These are certainly not chemical wastes. 12
4. Page 38, paragraph 4. It is stated that the City and County, as well as the State, should attempt to relocate the landfill site to a less conspicuous area. We are not aware of a less conspicuous area anywhere in Santa Cruz County. The landfill is a very necessary public service. I feel that emphasis should be given to determining the configuration of the landfill when it has been fully filled. The area could be an asset to the park. 13
5. Page 97, paragraph 2. We are not aware of odors in the Dimeo Road area. There are no chemical ponds located on the landfill site. Chemical ponds did exist several years ago but are no longer in existence and should not be mentioned as a source of objectional odors. The landfill area is about one-half mile north of the end of Dimeo Lane and it would be quite unlikely for any odors of any kind to reach this area. Reports of odors are from past years when the landfill area was at the southerly end of the site. The City has no intention of filling at the southerly end of the site and there is no possibility of odors reaching that area from the existing landfill area. 14

RECEIVED

MAR 20 1980

CITY PLANNING DEPT.

Director of Planning  
March 20, 1980  
Page 2

6. The General Plan in its preliminary form is seriously deficient in that it has not considered the ultimate development of the City of Santa Cruz sanitary landfill area. No General Plan for a park could possibly be considered complete without discussing the ultimate configuration and use for a 100-acre parcel that is right in the middle of it. The City has recently completed a long-range development plan for the site. This was prepared by Raymond Vail and Associates in July 1979. This plan has been approved by the staff of the State Solid Waste Board and other local and State agencies. Upon completion of the landfill, two of the streams will be effectively blocked and large trenches will remain which are the upper reaches of the two drainage areas contributing to these streams. These canyons could be filled with refuse in order to provide a level area for recreational uses. On the other hand, these two canyons could be made into lakes or water reservoirs to supply water during dry periods to the Santa Cruz area or to the park. The lakes could be recreational facilities also. It is not within the province of the City of Santa Cruz to plan this facility, however, to virtually ignore the existence of the landfill and not include it as a part of the Wilder Ranch State Park in its General Plan is foolish. The purpose of a General Plan is to consider and provide for such features.

  
WILSON H. FIEBERLING

cc: City Manager  
Water Director

15



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 6-86  
adopted by the  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
at its regular meeting in Sacramento on  
January 16, 1986

WHEREAS, at its meeting on May 9, 1980, the Commission approved the General Plan for Wilder Ranch State Park subject to certain amendments including Amendments 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, Amendments 1 and 2 included strict limitations on recreational development allowed on the ocean side of State Highway 1 within the park until the establishment of Commission and departmental pesticide policies for agricultural uses within State Park System units, and an endorsement of the concept of existing agricultural uses subject to advances in the field of pesticide control management which will allow the public to use the park in safety; and

WHEREAS, the Department subsequently contracted for studies which have verified that residual toxic materials within Wilder Ranch State Park are not a hazard, and for development of a pest control program which has reduced the use of toxic chemicals on the agricultural lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Park and Recreation Commission finds that the criteria of the Wilder Ranch State Park General Plan Amendments 1 and 2 have been completed.

# Wilder Ranch State Park

Preliminary General Plan

March 1980

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor of California

Huey D. Johnson  
Secretary for Resources

Russell W. Cahill  
Director



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

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## Summary

Wilder Ranch State Park is located about one mile west of the City of Santa Cruz and stretches along five miles of scenic coastline. The anticipated final boundaries of the park will contain 1,834 hectares (4,528 acres) and will include extensive uplands, coastal benchlands, several year-round streams, five beaches, and significant portions of the offshore submerged lands. Besides a wide variety of natural resources, there are a number of Native American sites and two historic ranch complexes. This region was an important dairy ranching area historically and agriculture still plays a significant role. Currently approximately 900 acres in the unit are under brussels sprouts cultivation and some of the uplands are used for grazing.

This General Plan recognizes the potential of Wilder Ranch State Park to help meet California's critical recreation demands. At the same time, it provides for the preservation of those natural and cultural resources that are of special significance and for the proper protection of all resources. The wetlands and coastal strand of Wilder Beach are proposed as a Natural Preserve, the offshore submerged lands are proposed as an extension of the state park, and the Wilder Ranch complex is proposed as a Cultural Preserve where dairy ranching of the past century will be interpreted.



It is recommended that most of the cultivated lands be retained under agriculture. This use of the land preserves historically accurate activities and maintains open space and visual qualities in the region.

The public has been involved in each step of the planning process and every effort has been made to make Wilder Ranch State Park a unit that will complement local facilities that offer Californians recreational and educational opportunities.

The lands of Wilder Ranch State Park will serve the public in a wide variety of ways -- natural and cultural preserves, agricultural lands, and diverse recreational activities. The facilities needed to implement these numerous uses have been carefully designed to be in harmony with the environments in which they are located and to serve their purposes efficiently.

The retention of Wilder Ranch's natural and scenic qualities was one of the department's underlying planning concepts. This has been accomplished by clustering intensive developments together, leaving most of the site in its natural state or minimally developed.

The following outline summarizes the land uses and facilities proposed in this General Plan.

#### Summary of Proposed Land Uses and Facilities

##### Natural Preserve

Wilder Beach and wetlands - 32.5 ha (80.3 ac.)

##### Cultural Preserve

Wilder Ranch Complex including house museums, demonstrations, environmental living programs, and California Dairy Museum

##### Underwater Area

Portions of Four Mile Beach, Three Mile Beach, and Strawberry Beach have been designated as access points to underwater areas.

The marine environment along the entire coastal border of Wilder Ranch State Park is recommended as an underwater addition to the unit.

##### Agricultural Lands

This plan proposes that more than 90% of the existing cultivated lands be retained for agricultural purposes.

Trails

Hiking only trails	44.0 km (27.4 mi.)
Equestrian/hiking trails	14.6 km ( 9.1 mi.)
<u>Interpretive tours &amp; trails</u>	<u>4.7 km ( 2.9 mi.)</u>
Total*	63.3 km (39.4 mi.)

Hostel

Hostel located near the Bicentennial Bike Route along Highway 1.

Design capacity of parking lots

	<u>Standard Vehicles</u>	<u>Buses</u>
Wilder Ranch Use area	74	4
Four Mile Beach use area	113	3
Lower Baldwin Canyon/uplands staging area	94	1
Group camper bus parking		10
Majors Creek walk-in campground parking	23	2
<u>Hostel parking</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	314	22

Picnic Areas

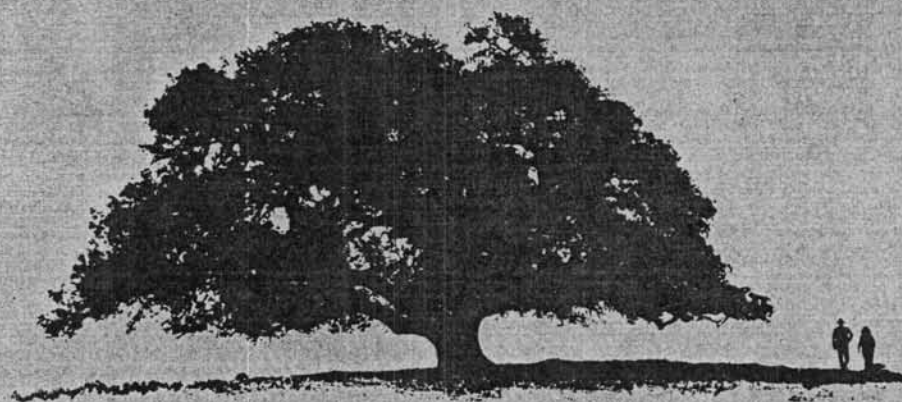
Peasley Gulch  
Wilder Creek  
Uplands Camp Center  
Lower Baldwin Canyon

Campgrounds/Overnight Use

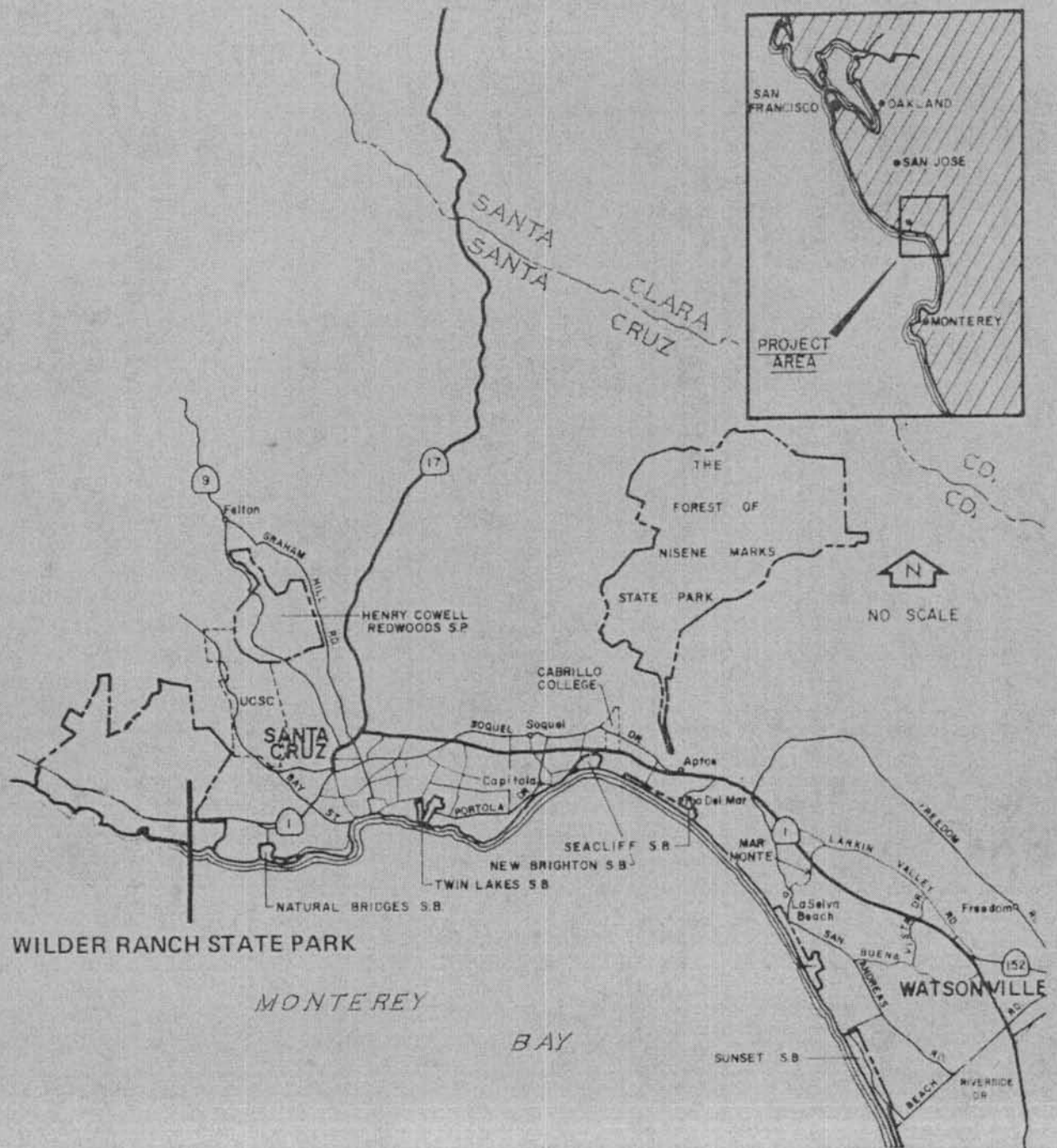
Four Mile Beach Campground	120 sites
Lower Baldwin Canyon	
Equestrian overnight parking	20 sites
En-route overnight parking	13 sites
Hike-in campgrounds	
Upper Baldwin Creek camp	1 site (or 30 group users)
Upper Corral Camp	8 sites (or 64 group users)
Hidden Oaks camp	4 sites (or 80 group users)
Horse Shoe camp	13 sites (or 104 group users)
Big Meadow camp	10 sites (or 80 group users)
Majors Creek "walk-in" campground	30 sites
<u>Marine Terrace campground</u>	<u>130 sites</u>
Total	349 sites

\*Offsite trail connections are not included.

A Technical Appendix is on file at Central Records, Development Division, Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division, and the Pajaro Coast Area and District 4 headquarters.



# INTRODUCTION



**LOCATION**  
FIGURE 1



## PURPOSE OF PLAN

Wilder Ranch State Park is a new addition to the State Park System with unique opportunities and problems. This general plan is the first step in defining the special needs and restrictions of the property and the degree of development and use that will be allowed. Specific designs will be further refined when specific items are funded for development.

The Resource Element is a summary of the natural and cultural resources of the area and sets management policies for the protection and use of these resources.

The Land Use and Facilities Element describes the current and proposed land uses, discusses relevant planning issues, and describes the proposed facilities.

The Operations Element describes specific operational requirements unique to this park unit.

The Environmental Impact Element combined with the rest of this report serves as the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Detailed environmental documents will be filed when specific construction funding is proposed.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wilder Ranch State Park is located on the northern coast of Santa Cruz County, about one mile west of the City of Santa Cruz. The study area is comprised of 1,834 hectares (4,528 acres) in three sections. The westernmost portion (see figure 2) consists of 384 hectares (950 acres) of State School Lands that will come under Department of Parks and Recreation management in the future. The 1,300 hectares (3,210 acres) of the central portion are also state owned and currently managed by General Services. This central portion contains two inholdings -- the 40-acre hectare (100-acre) City of Santa Cruz sanitary landfill and a privately owned granite rock sand quarry that occupies 120 hectares (300 acres). The third portion is to the east, on the north side of Highway 1, and consists of two parcels totalling 149 hectares (368 acres) that are in process of being acquired by the state.

Access to the park is by Highway 1, which traverses the park. The Bicentennial Bike Trail is along the highway, and Southern Pacific Railroad parallels it, providing freight service to the granite sand plant and to the Davenport Cement Plant further upcoast.

Almost all the state-owned land south of Highway 1 and several fields in the uplands are under cultivation in brussels sprouts. This area accounts for more than 16 percent of state acreage under cultivation to that vegetable and 12 percent of the nation's production of brussels sprouts. Some of the uplands are currently used for cattle grazing, and in the past commercial logging and hay growing took place here.

The property can be described as a series of steps or marine terraces deeply cut by three major watercourses: Wilder Creek, Baldwin Creek, and Majors Creek. Small beaches have developed where these creeks empty into the ocean -- Wilder Beach, Four Mile Beach, and Red White and Blue Beach. Additionally, smaller beaches have developed in lesser drainages: Three Mile Beach, Strawberry Beach, and Old Landing Beach. During periods of low tide, there are also a small number of pocket beaches at the base of the 15.25-meter (50-foot) high cliffs west of Four Mile Beach.

No rare or endangered plants or animals inhabit the site. However, the snowy plover, whose resting habitat has been greatly reduced along the central coast, nests on the open sand at Wilder Beach. Two other wildlife concerns were brought to our attention during the public involvement program. The cliffs along Majors Creek were identified as good potential sites for raptor nests; however, none have been observed in this area. Secondly, a small herd of seals is frequently seen resting on a shelf of rock near the Old Coast Landing.

The visual qualities of the site are outstanding. The rugged Pacific coastline offers hikers many dramatic vantage points. Travelers are aware of the peaceful agricultural fields in contrast to the hustle and bustle of Santa Cruz just one mile downcoast. Hikers report beautiful panoramas of Monterey Bay in addition to the lovely delicate detail of small rivulets tumbling through redwood-covered canyons. Artists are frequently found on the property painting the picturesque farm buildings.

A number of structures have been constructed on the park property. Wilder Ranch Dairy was built in a topographic depression sheltered from the prevailing winds. The Bolcoff Adobe occupied the site prior to the dairy and evidence also exists that Native Americans occupied the site prior to the adobe. Early dairies also existed at the mouths of Baldwin and Majors creeks. However, brussels sprouts farming changed the settlement pattern of the coast in this area. Farmers leasing the brussels sprout fields placed structures in the less desirable windswept terraces and smaller depressions.

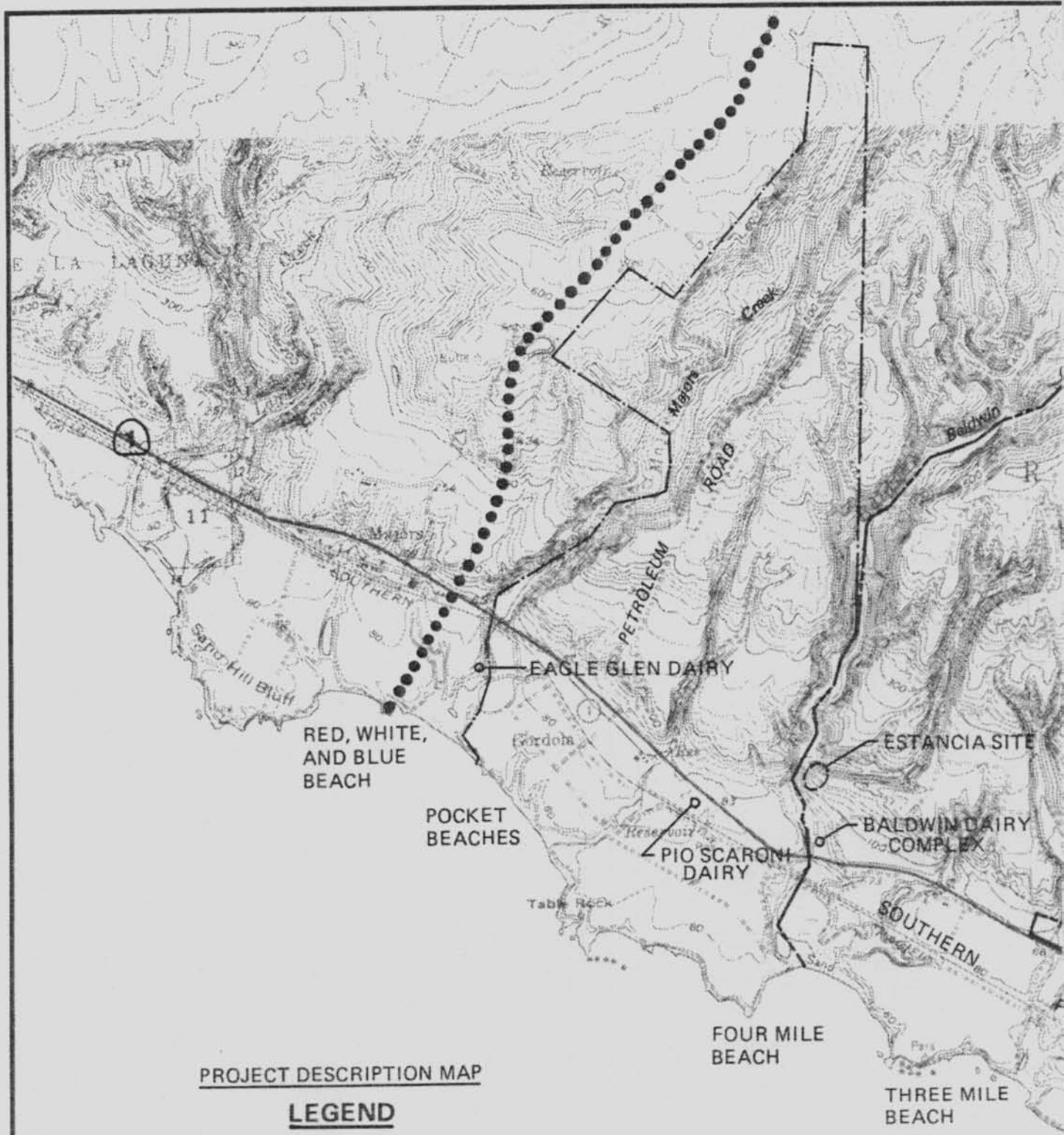
#### Historical Background

The area of Wilder Ranch State Park lies in the territory of the Coastanoans. These Native Americans had both temporary and permanent villages in the region.

The first European contact was a brief visit by Captain Gaspar de Portola in 1769. The Spanish returned in 1791 to establish a mission at Santa Cruz. Associated with the mission was an Estancia (station) for the Rancho Arroyo de Matadero, located on Baldwin Creek. It appears that the rancho served as the slaughtering grounds for the mission's annual fall kill of cattle.

The history of ownership of these lands is complex. Among the early agriculturists were Jose Bolcoff, who built several adobes; Pio Scaroni, who had a dairy farm on what is now the State School Lands section; and, of course, Levi Baldwin and Deloss D. Wilder, both dairy ranchers.

While the Wilder Dairy is the focus of historic dairy farming in the area, it must be remembered that the entire coastal region south of San Francisco was a dairy region, with numerous successful operations producing quality milk, butter, cheese, and other farm products.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION MAP

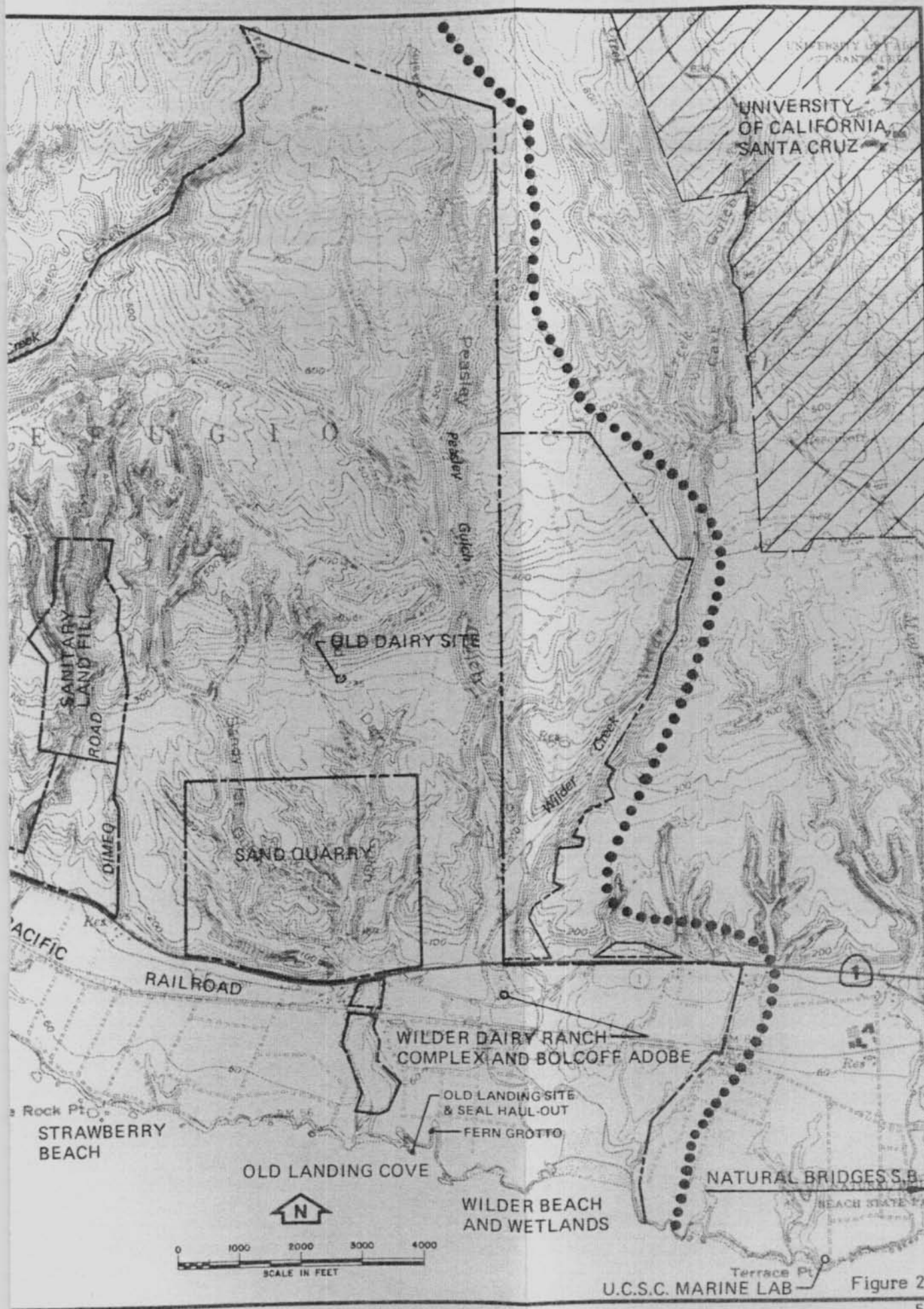
LEGEND

- EXISTING STATE PARK OWNERSHIP
- STATE SCHOOL LANDS
- LANDS BEING ACQUIRED
- STUDY AREA

NOTE: ALL BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.

Needle





DESIGNED	DATE
DRAWN	REVISIONS
DEC. 1979	APPROVED
CHECKED	DATE
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA	
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	
WILDER RANCH STATE PARK	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION MAP</b>	
DRAWING NO	
17293	
SHEET NO	
3	
OF	
15	

Figure 2  
U.C.S.C. MARINE LAB

## PLANNING PROCESS

### Study Area

The study area, as delineated in this report, includes state lands and the immediate viewshed which includes adjacent private property. This area makes a logical planning unit for resource evaluation purposes. No inference of a recommendation to acquire these surrounding lands should be made; they are included for planning purposes only.

### Public Involvement

Public involvement played an important role in formulating this plan. The planning process consisted of six basic steps.

#### 1. Initial Phase

Since this project was relatively unknown to the general public, the major emphasis of the initial phase was to generate public awareness of the park's potential, the planning process, and schedule. To start this phase, an open house was held on May 6 and 7, 1978, at the Wilder Ranch compound. More than 1,400 persons visited the open house with many visitors filling out our questionnaires and discussing planning concepts with the interpreters and planners. In addition to the open house, special tours were conducted for television crews, radio and newspaper reporters, and public officials to publicize the park's planning program.



## 2. Data Collection

Two public meetings were held to obtain pertinent data from interested citizens. In addition, three special resource-gathering projects were conducted with students from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Archeological investigations were undertaken by department specialists and also by student archeologists under the direction of Cabrillo College. A historical narrative was developed, and special research on soils, wildlife, plants, and geology was done by department staff. The Advisory Board on Underwater Parks and Reserves conducted an investigation of the project's underwater resources and has recommended that the submerged lands off this unit be added to the park.

## 3. Analysis

One of the data-gathering student groups from the University of California at Santa Cruz went on to analyze the problems and develop alternative land use plans. Seven students and department staff worked closely on this project over a three-month period.

## 4. Development of Alternatives

The student project developed five alternative plans that were further evaluated and refined by an interdivisional team of department staff members.

## 5. Review of Alternatives

During intensive public workshop sessions department staff, county and state Coastal Commission staff, as well as the public, evaluated the alternatives. The components that were most favorably received were at this point incorporated into the plan.

## 6. Preliminary Plan

A plan was then prepared to reflect the department's preferred concepts and presented at a public meeting for review. Further refinement produced this preliminary plan, which will be submitted to the California State Park and Recreation Commission.

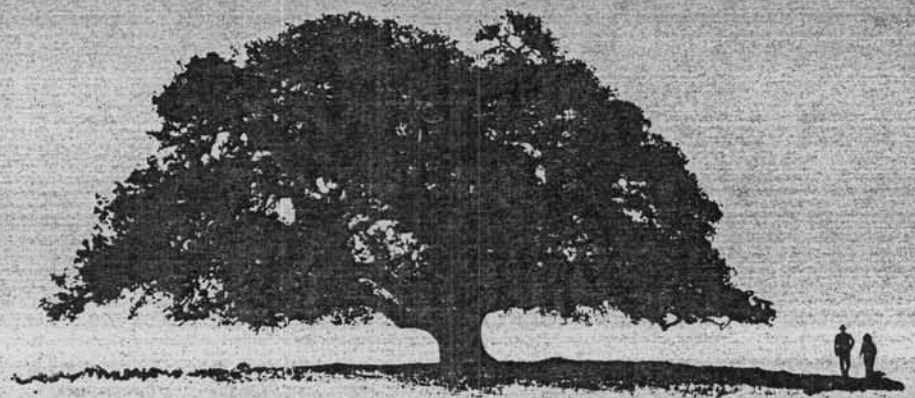
### Conformance to Coastal Act of 1976

A number of local and state plans that discussed issues relating to Wilder Ranch State Park were reviewed in the course of preparing this plan. For example, a local coastal study now being made by Santa Cruz County was consulted to ensure that the department's plans for Wilder Ranch do not conflict with county plans. Of prime importance in formulating this General Plan was conformance to the Coastal Act of 1976. The chief relevant policies of this legislation are paraphrased here. (See also Technical Appendix, Excerpts from Coastal Act of 1976.)



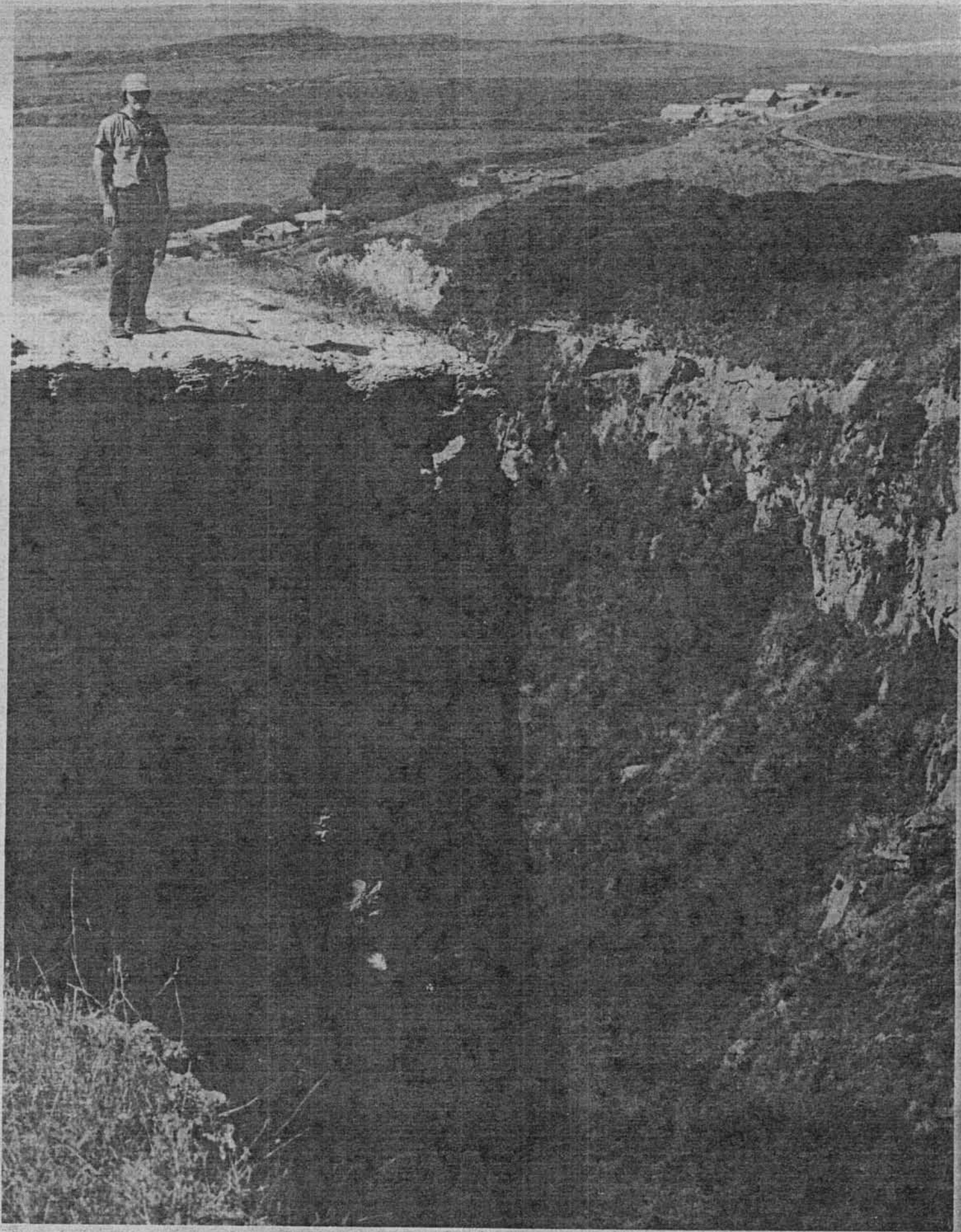
Some of the things the Coastal Act of 1976 provides for are:

- 1) Maximum coastal access and recreational opportunities be offered, consistent with safety, public and private property rights, and protection of natural resources.
- 2) Public facilities, including parking, shall be distributed to avoid overcrowding or overuse of any single area.
- 3) Lower cost recreational facilities and housing is to be encouraged.
- 4) Coastal water-oriented facilities that can't be provided at inland areas shall be protected.
- 5) Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for that use unless demand is already met by existing development.
- 6) Private coastal recreational facilities have priority, but not over agricultural use or coastal-dependent industries.
- 7) Supportive uplands areas shall be preserved, where feasible.
- 8) Environmentally sensitive natural areas shall be preserved
  - a) Habitats preserved
  - b) Areas adjacent to habitats set aside as buffer zones
  - c) Marine environment protected
  - d) Quality of all waters shall be maintained
- 9) Prime agricultural lands shall be preserved and any conflicts in use minimized by:
  - a) Establishing buffer areas, where necessary
  - b) Limiting conversion to other uses to something leading to natural urban limits
  - c) Developing nonagricultural lands first
  - d) Not permitting development to impair agricultural productivity through such impacts as increased assessment costs, poor air or water quality, and the like
  - e) Not converting lands suitable for agricultural use to nonagricultural use unless: (1) continued or renewed agricultural use is not feasible; or (2) such conversion would preserve prime agricultural land or concentrate development consistent with Section 30250. Any such permitted conversion shall be compatible with continued agricultural use on surrounding lands. (Section 30250 states that visitor-serving facilities that cannot feasibly be located in existing developed areas shall be located in existing isolated developments or at selected points of attraction for visitors.)
  - f) Maintaining long-term productivity of soils and timberlands.



# RESOURCE ELEMENT







## RESOURCE ELEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Resource Element is to establish the specific long-range resource management objectives and policies necessary to protect and perpetuate the resource values of the park. This element identifies specific resource sensitivities and physical constraints, and establishes the department's guidelines for acceptable levels of development and use with respect to these values. The major programs that need to be developed to protect and perpetuate the natural and cultural resources of the park are identified; however, specific means of implementing these programs are to be formulated after further, more in-depth study.

This Resource Element has been prepared for lands in Wilder Ranch State Park as of July 1, 1979, and proposed acquisition lands identified as State School Lands between Baldwin and Majors creeks.

Any proposed acquisition must be properly evaluated, selected, negotiated, and funded before its actual purchase. If any such lands are acquired, no development shall be permitted until Inventory of Features and General Plan amendments have been prepared for those lands by staff members, and the General Plan changes adopted by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

### CLASSIFICATION

The initial acquisition of land in the unit was in 1974 from Moroto Investment Company, which had purchased most of the property from the Wilder family in 1969. The Moroto Company initially proposed a large development of commercial, industrial, and residential land use; however, local opposition and Coastal Commission restrictions reportedly led to the abandonment of the project.

The unit was classified as a state park in 1976, while under the administration of the State Department of General Services. Currently the lands are still being administered by this department pending approval of this General Plan by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Portions of the Public Resources Code's definition of a state park, cultural preserve, and natural preserve which are pertinent to general planning efforts are as follows:

#### State Park

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

Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, nature study, hiking, and horseback riding, so long as such improvements involve no major

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This element has been prepared pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 4332 of the Administrative Code.

modification of lands, forests, or waters. Improvements which do not directly enhance the public's enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public in a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.

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

#### Cultural Preserves

Cultural preserves ... (are) established ... for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California. Areas set aside as cultural preserves shall be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from potentially damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources. Within cultural preserves, complete integrity of the cultural resources shall be sought, and no structures or improvements which conflict with such integrity shall be permitted. The recommended name for this unit is Arroyo De Matadero Cultural Preserve.

#### Natural Preserves

Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations which constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve. Wilder Ranch Natural Preserve is the recommended name for this unit.

#### Proposed Cultural Preserve

The Wilder Ranch complex, including two associated Native American sites, is recommended for sub-unit classification as a cultural preserve. This area is located adjacent to Highway 1 and Wilder Creek near the western corner of the park (see Project Description Map.) The recommendation is based on the statewide historic significance of the area and its association with dairy farming, a primary agricultural occupation in this region, as well as on the variety of architectural styles represented by structures in the complex (the Bolcoff adobe, the first frame ranch house, the Victorian ranch house, the dairy barn, and the mansard-roofed horse barn, among others).

#### Proposed Natural Preserve

A portion of the recently acquired parcel at the mouth of Wilder Creek is recommended for sub-unit classification as a natural preserve (see Project Description Map). This recommendation is based on the site's value as a representative example of a type of ecosystem that has been subject to severe impacts by general development and heavy recreation use elsewhere along the coast. The wetlands of the creek's mouth and the coastal strand and dunes have not been significantly disturbed; the sandy area is still used as nesting habitat by the snowy plover. Classification as a natural preserve is needed to protect natural values and ensure that recreation use of the area will be restricted to nature observation.

## DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The purpose of Wilder Ranch State Park is to protect, preserve, and make available to visitors the cultural and natural resources, including historic features, natural biotic communities, geologic and edaphic resources, and related recreational values of this portion of the coastline and coastal mountain region of central California. Public use and enjoyment of the park is to be encouraged in the limits established by the state park classification and resource sensitivities.

Cultivated agricultural lands in the unit represent an important aspect of the area's history and are recognized as significant to the community and the state in terms of their present productivity. However, retention of this land in cultivated agriculture is considered of secondary importance to that of providing appropriate recreational opportunities and of protecting any outstanding cultural or natural resources.

The purpose of the proposed Cultural Preserve at Wilder Ranch State Park is to preserve the cultural resources of the Wilder Ranch complex area. The Native American resources in the preserve are the most intact occupation site areas in the park. The historic resources are of statewide significance.

The purpose of the proposed Natural Preserve at the mouth of Wilder Creek is to protect the wetlands and coastal strand and one of only two nesting sites in Santa Cruz County still used by the snowy plover.

## RESOURCE SUMMARY, EVALUATIONS, AND DECLARATION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

### Zone of Primary Interest

The department has a concern for all lands adjacent to the unit upon which any new development or land use change could jeopardize or degrade the resources of the park.

### Natural Resources

The management of the Natural resources within the State Park System is governed by statutes, policies, and directives. The following sections of the Public Resources Code are particularly applicable to the management of natural resources: Section 5019.71 (if a natural preserve is designated); Section 5019.53.

The specific directives from the Department's Resource Management Directives that pertain particularly to the natural resources of Wilder Ranch State Park are: 33, 34, 36, 38-41, 43, 45-47, and 49.

### Natural Preserve

Although the wetlands and coastal strand communities of Wilder Beach are not now totally pristine, they do reflect the efforts of earlier landowners to manage the area as a wildlife preserve.



Historically the snowy plover, a small shorebird, nested on many of the beaches in this region. However, due to increasing human use, only one other coastal site in the county is used by nesting plovers. Nesting colonies do occur in other coastal regions and inland valleys in California.

**Policy:**

The primary objective in the management of the Natural Preserve shall be to protect and perpetuate its natural resource values. General beach recreation activities, such as sunbathing, picnicking, surfing, and the like, shall be prohibited in the preserve in order to protect fragile coastal strand vegetation and other habitat values. Visitor use of the preserve shall be restricted to authorized conducted tours. Appropriate measures, such as complete closure, shall be taken if adverse impacts due to visitor use become apparent.

That portion of the preserve used by snowy plovers for nesting shall be closed to the general public during the breeding season, mid-March through June. Operationally, it may be more practical to close the entire preserve during this period.

Within the Wilder Creek floodplain and just west of the proposed natural preserve lies a 4-hectare (10-acre) field now under cultivation for brussels sprouts production. It is believed that much of this land was reclaimed from the adjacent wetland marsh many years ago.

**Policy:**

A feasibility study shall be made to determine the potential for returning all or a portion of the 4-hectare (10-acre) cultivated field adjacent to the proposed natural preserve to natural wetlands habitat. If restoration is deemed feasible, the department shall endeavor to rehabilitate the area to its original wetlands state and maintain it as part of the proposed Natural Preserve when funds become available.

Topography

The terrain of Wilder Ranch State Park includes several marine terraces which have undergone varying levels of erosion and uplift. These terraces are dissected by three major and four minor drainages. The lowest terrace appears as a flat benchland between the ocean bluff and State Highway 1, 20 meters (70 feet) above mean sea level. The coastline and lower portions of the major drainages are typically well defined by steep-sided bluffs. The upland region of the unit is composed of several terraces at varying elevations. Major drainages, and some of the minor ones, are deeply incised with extremely steep canyon walls, with slopes of more than 45°. The canyon wall on the southwest side of Majors Creek, 600 meters (2,000 feet) upstream from Highway 1, drops vertically for more than 25 meters (80 feet) from the flat marine terrace to the lower canyon forest. The canyon walls at the upper reaches of the drainages are generally of more moderate slope.

The highest point in the park, near the headwaters of Peasley Gulch, is 260 meters (860 feet) above mean sea level.

## Climate

The climate in this region is mild and is controlled by a series of high and low pressure areas over the Pacific Ocean that follow typical seasonal patterns. The mean July maximum temperature in the Santa Cruz area is 21°C (70°F), while the January mean minimum is 3°C (38°F). In the summer, fog is frequently present during the mornings and evenings. The prevailing winds throughout the year are from the west and northwest. Occasionally in summer, but more frequently in the fall, a very dry east wind of high velocity called the Santa Ana occurs which aggravates the wildland fire danger. Annual precipitation near the coastal portion of the park is about 75 centimeters (30 inches) and 100 centimeters (40 inches) in the higher, upland area.

## Geology

Wilder Ranch State Park is located on the southwestern flank of the Santa Cruz Mountains, in the Coast Range Geomorphic Province. The region is part of a large, distinctive, structural block, bounded on the west by the San Gregorio fault and on the east by the San Andreas fault. Termed the Salinian Block, it is characterized by metamorphosed Paleozoic (greater than 225 million years old) sediments and Cretaceous (approximately 80-90 million years old) granitic igneous rocks, which are not found west or east of this fault-bounded block.

The igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Salinian Block are exposed in the northeastern portion of the park. Overlying these, in a gently to moderately seaward dipping sequence, are sedimentary rocks of mid- to late-Tertiary age (25 to about 7 million years old). Of these, the Santa Margarita Sandstone and overlying Santa Cruz Mudstone are the most extensive, the mudstone comprising all of the coastal bluffs in the park. These sediments were, in many cases, derived from Ben Lomond Mountain to the northeast and deposited as a shallow marine sequence which thickens to the southwest.

Quaternary units (2 million years ago to present) in this area include silt, sand, and gravel deposited on a series of four wave-cut terraces. These terraces, or benches, are particularly well displayed at this site and record previous levels of the sea. Alluvial sand, silt, and clay have been deposited in thicknesses of a few feet to a few tens of feet in many stream valleys.

Ongoing processes include downcutting in stream valleys and sedimentation in the lower reaches. Of greater importance to planning is the continued modification of the landscape by landslides and rockfalls in oversteepened and/or saturated hill slopes. Rapid up-valley migration of gullies in some drainages seems to be instigated by disturbances such as road cuts and cattle grazing. Wave erosion plays an important role in coastal morphology, accounting for as much as 14 centimeters (5.5 inches) of seacliff retreat per year.

A large landslide is very evident on Baldwin Creek, 2.7 kilometers (1.75 miles) upstream from the creek mouth. Major movement of this slide, which reportedly occurred in 1955, formed a low earthen dam across Baldwin Creek, creating a long, narrow, shallow reservoir.

Although the geologic units are highly deformed farther to the north, in the Wilder Ranch area they are only mildly deformed, with minor open, small folds in some areas superposed on the regionally seaward dipping strata. No major faults lie in the study area; however, both the San Gregorio fault 8 kilometers (5 miles) offshore, and the San Andreas fault 24 kilometers (15 miles) to the northeast, are capable of causing severe ground shaking, associated landsliding, liquefaction, and tsunamis (seismic sea waves) during an earthquake. No evidence of recent faulting was found on the site.



a) Geologic Hazards Mitigation

Geologic hazards in Wilder Ranch State Park include landslides, rockfalls from steep canyon walls, and earthquake-triggered phenomena that could damage or destroy the works of man or be a threat to human safety.

Policy:

Geologically hazardous areas shall be posted, or the hazard reduced to the extent required to enable the public to use the areas in safety. Decisions regarding the reduction of geologic hazards will be made by employees of the department whose professional competence in the field has been recognized by the director.

Structures shall be designed to minimize hazards to human health by obtaining geologic expertise during the siting and design phase of any development. All structures should be designed to withstand a 1906 earthquake-type event generated either 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) east or 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) offshore.

In addition, these general guidelines shall apply:

- o Areas in the 100-year floodplain or in the 100-year tsunami inundation zone should be limited to day use, unless mitigated;
- o Areas noted as unstable or marginally stable should be evaluated by a geologist prior to development;
- o All cuts greater than five feet in height and steeper than 2:1 should be evaluated by a geologist prior to, during, and after grading (Chapter 70, Uniform Building Code).

Soils

More than thirty soil types occur in the unit. Predominant types include Watsonville loam, Elkhorn sandy loam, and Bonnydoon loam. Soils occurring to a lesser extent include Bonnydoon-Rock outcrop complex, Ben Lomond-Catelli-Sur complex, Los Osos loams, and others. A detailed analysis of the unit's soils and their various erosion potentials is given in the Technical Appendix.

Areas where soil characteristics may act as constraints on development are indicated on the Detailed Allowable Use Intensity Map (see Technical Appendix). It should be noted that the drainages in the upper regions of the unit are subject to rapid runoff with a high to very high hazard of erosion. These areas are poorly suited to building site development and onsite sewage disposal because of their steep slopes.

General Erosion Control

Although erosion is not a major problem at present (with the notable exception of the coast), it could become a serious threat in certain areas as modifications to the natural ecosystem are introduced. The various ecosystems have adjusted to natural levels of erosion. However, accelerated erosion will cause undue damage. Roads and trails now in the park were constructed without adequately considering the erosion-preventive measures that could have been incorporated. In both the granitic rocks of the northeastern portion of the property and in the terrace deposits, unnatural or accelerated erosion has been precipitated both by man's activities and by cattle grazing.



Additionally, the Santa Cruz County sanitation landfill and a private sand quarry in the boundaries have been stripped of the protective vegetative-soil cover, leading to shedding of significant quantities of sediment into adjacent streams and catchment basins.

Policy:

Destructive or unnatural erosion shall be controlled and prevented by means that are in harmony with the purposes of the park. Artificial controls shall be introduced only under the most extreme circumstances, and then only when conversion to a natural condition in the future is the objective. The primary objective of erosion control shall be to prevent, rather than to cure or correct, conditions of accelerated or unnatural erosion. Where correction is imperative, all measures used shall be as unobtrusive as possible, fitting naturally into the environment, with the objective of restoring the natural condition.

The department shall control and regulate the climbing of rocks, peaks, coastal bluffs, and other eminences, to prevent deterioration of such features.

Steps shall be taken to correct existing erosion problems and eroded areas in the park. Areas of severe gully erosion shall be fully protected and the resulting effects monitored to determine if the problem can be corrected on its own. Revegetation of problem areas with native grasses may be warranted in some areas, and shall be undertaken when needed.

Coastal Erosion Control

Human activities along the Wilder Ranch coastline have done much to increase the naturally high actual erosion rates. Along the coastline, waves are undermining slopes and creating unstable areas, leading to rockfalls, landslides, and collapse of natural bridges. The following excerpt from a memorandum from Huey D. Johnson, Secretary for Resources, on September 14, 1978, states the policy of the Resources Agency regarding coastal erosion at state parks and beaches.



The planning and improvement of parks and beaches should be done in a way consistent with protection against the potential erosion of the affected segment of the coastline, and any structures located in areas subject to erosion damage should be expendable or movable.

Coastal erosion or seacliff retreat is caused by both surf action and runoff from upland sources. Recent studies of erosion in Santa Cruz County identified some locations along Wilder Ranch State Park that eroded at average rates of 14 centimeters (5.5 inches) per year between the years 1943 and 1963. Much of this erosion was episodic and was the result of undercutting by high surf during major storms. However, runoff from agricultural uses and other human activities in the unit may also be adding to the relatively high rate of cliff retreat.

Policy:

Trails shall be designed so as to avoid concentrating runoff and discharging it over the seacliff. Trails shall not be placed over sea caves, natural bridges, or undercut seacliffs. Trails shall be constructed no closer than 5 meters (16 feet) to the edge of the cliff or a vertical extending upward from the base of the cliff, whichever is further inland. This latter provision will provide some measure of safety; however, it should be realized that, based on the average rate of seacliff retreat, 50 percent of the original trail may be hazardous, or entirely eroded away, by about thirty-five years after construction. Periodic inspections of such trails shall be made by an engineering geologist, and the trail shall be relocated when deemed a serious hazard.

Structures, major roadways, and improvements shall be placed no closer to a vertical extending upward from the base of the cliff than twice the height of the seacliff (based on Chapter 70 of the Uniform Building Code).

In no case may unnatural drainage from agricultural lands be allowed to cause accelerated erosion.

Minerals and Paleontological Resources

The major mineral resource of the immediate area is sand quarried from Santa Margarita Sandstone. Macadam (tar) deposits have been mined for local use, but are not a major resource that could be commercially exploited in the near future.

Paleontological information for the area is very limited. Evidence of a fossilized whale skeleton has been reported on adjacent lands in the Wilder Creek area.

a) Mineralogical and Paleontological Site Protection

No rare or precious mineral deposits have been described as occurring within the project boundaries. A diverse fossil fauna has been described in these rocks in other areas; however, no sites have been located in the park.

Policy:

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

## Coastline Recreational/Interpretive Trails

The development of recreational/interpretive trails near the coastal bluff joining the downcoast portion of the unit with the upcoast region has high potential in this unit. Continuance of agricultural uses of the benchland will necessitate the establishment of certain policies to minimize user conflicts and other impacts associated with any development of recreational/interpretive trails along the coastline.

### Policy:

It shall be the policy of the department to establish a buffer zone of native vegetation between any recreational/interpretive trail along the coastline and adjoining inland agricultural land use. This buffer zone shall be at least 6 meters (20 feet) wide and shall be managed to perpetuate vegetation native to the coastline portion of the benchland in the region. Activities relating to the agricultural use of state park land shall not adversely impact the established buffer zone.

## Hydrology

A limited hydrologic study of Wilder Ranch State Park yielded sufficient data for general planning purposes. However, further investigations may be required for specific siting and design of facilities.

The study area contains all or parts of six major watersheds plus several minor coastal watersheds. Major uses in these watersheds include row agriculture, grazing, residential development, mining, and a garbage dump. Potential exists for further residential development and timber harvesting. Majors Creek provides some water for the City of Santa Cruz. Several small reservoirs used for stock watering or irrigation also exist on site. A landslide on Baldwin Creek has formed a long, narrow shallow pond.

The major groundwater aquifer for the coastal area is the Santa Margarita Sandstone; the Lompico Sandstone and the igneous rocks also create aquifers in some localities. Recharge areas of these aquifers are located in and near the state park.

Constraints on land use include flooding along major streams near the coast, perched water tables in upland areas, high water tables in some areas near the coast, limited quantity of water in some upland areas, the potential for tsunamis (seismic sea waves) along the coast, and potential water quality problems, especially downstream of the city sanitation landfill and the quarry.

## Plant Life

The native flora of Wilder Ranch State Park has been greatly modified by human activities including grazing; clearing of scrub, chaparral, and oak woodland; the logging of redwood and Douglas-fir; lime quarrying and tanbark oak collecting; row crop farming; and planting of exotic trees and shrubs. Nonetheless, the park contains several natural plant communities and numerous native and exotic plant species.

Table 1 lists the eight plant communities of the park and their important characteristics. A thorough botanic inventory has not yet been carried out; therefore, this list may be revised at a later date.

Table 1  
**PLANT COMMUNITIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE  
 AT WILDER RANCH STATE PARK**

Plant Community/Occurrence	Representative Plants	Representative Wildlife	Comments
<b>North Coastal Forest</b> a. Coastal Redwood Forest Upper portions of Peasley Creek (canyon bottoms); Majors Creek (canyon bottoms and some on steep canyon sides); at least one location along Wilder Creek  b. Mixed Evergreen Forest Sides of the canyons and ravines that drain the upland plateaus; on some portions of gently sloping uplands, particularly near canyon rims	Coastal redwood, tanbark oak, Douglas-fir, California laurel, undergrowth mainly ferns and other herbaceous plants  Douglas-fir, California laurel, coast live oak, and madrone; undergrowth includes numerous shrubs (poison oak, blackberry, gooseberry, ceanothus, and coyote brush)	Amphibians (rough-skinned newt, California newt, ensatina, California slender salamander); birds (ruby-crowned kinglet, Myrtle's warbler, dark-eyed junco, Stellar's jay, hermit thrush, raptors); mammals (coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, black-tailed deer, Botta pocket gopher, ringtail, striped skunk, gray squirrel)	<b>Coastal Redwood Forest</b> Just outside park boundary in upper portion of Majors Creek Canyon is stand of large redwoods spared from past logging activity. Here tanbark oak and redwood from a complete canopy; open forest floor beneath contains a number of large trees  <b>Mixed Evergreen Forest</b> Most widespread forest community in the park  North Coastal Forest provides important habitat not afforded within other plant communities in park
<b>Riparian Forest</b> Along perennial or nearly perennial streams in lower reaches of ocean-facing canyon bottoms	Willow (predominant), alder, blackberry, thimbleberry, poison oak, and poison hemlock	Variety of amphibians and insects	Generally dense growth of hydrophytic trees, shrubs, and herbs  Lush vegetation supports large insect populations that in turn provide food for large species
<b>Northern Coastal Scrub</b> Primarily on steep slopes near the coast, particularly on lower portions of uplands	Coastal areas primarily coyote brush and California sage, inland areas contain ceanothus, poison oak, toyon	Wide variety of birds, many of the small passerine types, small mammals (California pocket mouse, deer mouse, Botta pocket gopher, brush rabbit, long-tailed weasel, spotted skunk, and occasionally gray fox)	Dense shrubs with occasional openings of grasses and herbs; occupies areas of greater moisture than does chaparral. Shrub height varies from 2 feet in coastal areas to 13 feet in inland areas and along protected slopes
<b>California Coastal Chaparral</b> Mainly along ridgetops in higher elevations	Chamise, ceanothus, scrub oak, manzanita	Many species common to coastal scrub also here, other mammals include Merriam chipmunk, dusky-footed wood rat, coyote, ringtail, and bobcat	Dense interwoven shrubs from 6 to 9 feet in height; often on sites with thin, poor soils on dry, south-facing slopes  Chaparral hillsides, particularly if recently burned, provide good habitat for black-tailed deer which browse on tender shrub sprouts and forage on grasses and herbaceous plants
<b>Coastal Strand</b> Mainly at Wilder, Three Mile, Four Mile beaches	Beach burr, sea rocket, New Zealand spinach, potentilla, Hottentot fig, sand verbena, saltgrass; dune grass occurs at Three Mile Beach	Along sandy beaches - whimbrel, sanderling, willet, killdeer, western gull; on rocky areas - black turnstone, spotted sandpiper, black oyster catcher	Beach and dune vegetation  Wilder Beach is one of few remaining nesting sites for snowy plover in Santa Cruz, California
<b>Saltwater Marsh</b> Major marshland at mouths of Baldwin and Wilder creeks, smaller wetland at Three Mile Beach	Salicornia and potentilla	Wading birds (great blue heron, common egret, snowy egret); small rodents (California meadow mouse, western harvest mouse)	Dense mats of vegetation
<b>Freshwater Marsh</b> Along edges of creeks and reservoirs (largest reservoir is 5-acre pond at Four Mile Beach)	Cattail, tule, and other herbaceous plants	Wide variety of shore birds and waterfowl	Dense upright growth  Supports important food base for wide variety of wildlife; limited information is available on fish populations
<b>Annual Grassland</b> Primarily on gently sloping uplands	Annual grasses, plantain, filaree, other weedy forbs, patches of coastal scrub species (coyote brush and coastal sage)	Birds (passerines are most abundant) including western bluebird, common crow, western meadowlark, savanna sparrow, western kingbird, and raptors; mammals (Botta pocket gopher, California pocket mouse, Herrmann's kangaroo rat, deer mouse, California meadow mouse, California (Beechey) ground squirrel, black-tailed hare, badger, coyote, black-tailed deer)	About 40% of upland plateaus are grassland  Black-tailed deer frequent the grassland margins, particularly during the spring



a) General Vegetation Management

The single most conspicuous and dynamic element in natural landscape is usually the vegetation. Therefore, vegetation is usually the primary object of resource management.

Policy:

Vegetation management shall follow established policies and directives for units classified as state parks. Agricultural lease areas and associated farm residences and facility areas are recognized as being interpretive in nature. No previously uncultivated lands now occupied by natural vegetation shall be put into cultivation. Please see page regarding specific policies or restrictions for agricultural lease areas.

The California Department of Transportation right-of-way lands bordering State Highway 1 are important to the visual continuity of the park from the standpoint of vegetation. The department shall encourage the California Department of Transportation to plant and maintain only indigenous natural vegetation, including grasses and shrubs common to the grasslands and coastal scrub communities.

b) Rare and Endangered Plants

No rare or endangered plant species have been recorded in the park boundaries according to records of the California Native Plant Society (1974; 1978). Since there has not been a systematic botanical survey of the unit, conclusions as to the presence of rare or endangered plants cannot be made.

Policy:

The department shall conduct or shall have conducted a thorough plant species inventory. Particular attention shall be given to rare or endangered plants that occur in the area but have not been systematically searched for in the park. Any rare or endangered plants that are found in the park shall be protected and the supporting lands managed for their perpetuation.

c) Exotic Species

Exotic vegetation often competes successfully with natural vegetation, upsetting ecosystems and altering natural scenes.

Policy:

Aggressive exotic plant species, including but not limited to eucalyptus and pampas grass, shall be removed (in accordance with policies set forth in the Resource Management Directives). Exceptions include those trees growing in lands under cultivation, in the Cultural Preserve, associated with farm residences and facilities being retained, or along the highway right-of-way. Such exotics, where retained, shall not be allowed to spread.

In 1978 a reforestation project was begun on the State School Lands in Majors Creek canyon. About 214 hectares (53 acres) on the east side of the canyon at elevations of 107-137 meters (350-450 feet) were cleared and planted. A total of 36,000 redwood and Douglas-fir seedlings were planted. In addition, about 500 nonindigenous trees from other western states were planted.

Policy:

Upon transfer of the State School Lands to the State Park System, the department shall remove all nonindigenous trees planted in the Majors Creek reforestation project area.

When ornamental (exotic) plants are used as landscaping around park facilities, they often contrast with the natural vegetation, calling attention to themselves and appearing unnatural. Some ornamentals are also capable of spreading into native plant communities.

Policy:

No ornamental (exotic) trees or shrubs shall be planted in the park outside the Cultural Preserve for landscaping or other purposes. Where landscaping or other plantings are necessary, plants indigenous to the site and soils involved will be used. Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

d) Plant Succession

Most of the terrestrial plant communities in the upland region of the unit are in a dynamic or successional state, where species composition is changing over time. These changes are the result of a complex interaction of biotic and abiotic factors. By far the most significant modifications to the land have been caused relatively recently by human activities.

Logging, brush clearing, and livestock grazing are some of the major factors altering the vegetation of the unit over the past 200 years. Also, the suppression of wildfires, particularly during the last 50 years, has created conditions that favor the growth of nonnative species and are detrimental to native plants, which are well adapted, and in some cases, completely dependent upon periodic fires for reproductive success.

A preliminary study to determine the potential native vegetation of the area has been made, but the many factors involved must be studied in depth.

To get some indication as to what the native vegetation of the upland region of the unit might have been without modern human influence, a comparison was made between the existing grassland and the potential native vegetation, determined by soil-vegetation relationships developed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The potential native vegetation of the area was compared to the acreage of the existing grassland by map overlay. Approximately 640 hectares (1,580 acres) in the upland region is at present considered grassland. Grassland, composed of greater than 70 percent grasses and forbs, was shown to be the potential native vegetation on about 500 hectares (1,240 acres) or 80 percent of this present grassland community. Shrub or forest land, composed of less than 70 percent grasses and forbs, was shown to be the potential native vegetation on about 100 hectares (250 acres) or 15 percent of the existing grassland. Potential vegetation on about 30 hectares (80 acres) or 5 percent of the present grassland was listed as undetermined.



Although this evaluation does give some idea as to the type of vegetation that could have been expected on the site if left undisturbed, the information cannot be solely used in determining future floristic changes in the grassland community when factors, such as grazing, are terminated and more natural influences are restored, such as periodic burning through prescribed management. Other factors, including the alteration of soil characteristics which has occurred under past land uses, must also be considered.

Policy:

A program shall be developed to identify the distribution of plant communities in the park prior to the impact of European man. This program shall identify specific management methods to be used to restore and maintain, as completely as possible, a native flora on lands north of State Highway 1. Maintenance of some of the open grassland views now afforded in the uplands shall be considered in the management objectives.

Forests which have been logged of redwood and have revegetated with various evergreen forest species shall be managed toward their climax communities proceeding from present conditions. Replanting of redwood is a possibility, but this shall occur only after a study of soils and the existing vegetative complexes is made. Findings shall direct the department in accurately reestablishing redwood if this becomes desirable.

e) Ecological Burning

Natural fire in certain habitats, especially in chaparral, is recognized as one of the ecological factors contributing to the perpetuation of plants and animals in those habitats. In recent times, man has had an influence on the vegetation in the area through the suppression of fire. Likewise, the suppression of fire has created a greater wildfire risk with the buildup of vegetation and plant litter. Controlled ecological burning of small parcels on a periodic rotational basis reduces the risk of destructive, uncontrolled wildfires, and also maintains vegetative ecosystems and wildlife diversity.

Policy:

An ecological burning program designed to restore and perpetuate natural habitats shall be developed and implemented.

f) Fire History Records

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

Policy:

A program for recording fire history in the park shall be developed and implemented. This program shall apply to all burned areas of 0.5 hectare (1 acre) or more in size. Coordination will be made with local fire departments.

### Wildfire Protection

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

#### Policy:

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

### Animal Life and Habitats

Wilder Ranch State Park is in the Pacific Coastal Wildlife Region. The region extends along the coastal mountains from Monterey County, California, northward to the southern part of British Columbia.

Animal life is quite diverse in the park because of the unit's large size and variety of habitats. Table 1, page 30, indicates the pertinent information on the eight major terrestrial habitat types in the park.

#### a) Wildlife Management

The protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations is one of the major elements in the management objectives for the unit.

Feeding often causes an imbalance in the natural diet of wildlife and may also result in other behavioral changes that reduce the animal's ability to survive under natural conditions. Feeding of wildlife, particularly larger species, may also pose a health and safety hazard to the park visitor. Animals such as deer and raccoon, which have a tendency to become tame around campgrounds and day-use areas, can suddenly bite or kick when frightened, resulting in injury to the visitor.

#### Policy:

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

Deliberate feeding of wildlife shall be strongly discouraged to protect both the animals and park visitors.



b) Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection

Coastal wetlands are associated with most of the major drainages in the unit. The most extensive wetland areas lie at the mouths of Wilder Creek and Baldwin Creek. Policies for the protection and enhancement of the Wilder Creek wetland are given in the policy section for the proposed natural preserve. The wetland at the mouth of Baldwin Creek (Four Mile Beach) is not as extensive as the Wilder Creek wetland, but does provide important wetland habitat.

Policy:

Coastal wetlands shall be managed in compliance with the Resources Agency's Policy for Preservation of Wetlands in Perpetuity (Sept. 1977). This policy states that the "Agency and its Departments, Boards and Commissions will not authorize or approve projects that fill or otherwise harm or destroy coastal, estuarine, or inland wetlands."

Natural tidal exchange to the Salicornia-Potentilla vegetation at the mouth of Baldwin Creek shall be enhanced by the removal of a low dike across one of the main rivulets feeding the marsh. The interior of the wetland shall be protected from visitor intrusion by excavation of a small channel along the inland and downcoast border of the wetland. This channel shall also be designed to increase circulation and tidal flushing of the area.

Riparian corridors along watercourses also provide outstanding habitat values.

Policy:

Riparian corridors along perennial creeks in the unit shall be protected against significant alteration of vegetation and loss of other important habitat values. The borders of the protected riparian zone corridor shall extend at least 15 meters (50 feet) from both sides of the creeks. Any exception to this standard setback, such as along that portion of Wilder Creek that flows through the proposed Cultural Preserve, must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The existing zone of riparian or natural growth along Wilder Creek below the Wilder Ranch complex shall be widened to at least 15 meters (50 feet) on each side of the creek by realignment of the existing agricultural access road. This will require the loss of some agricultural production but will increase important wildlife values.

c) Rare and Endangered Wildlife Species

Wilder Ranch State Park is not known to provide important habitat for any rare or endangered wildlife species listed by the California Department of Fish and Game. However, the endangered brown pelican can be seen flying over and feeding offshore. Also, the endangered peregrine falcon can be expected to be observed infrequently along the coastline in this area.

d) Marine Life

The topography of the sea floor off Wilder Ranch State Park varies considerably. The area inside the kelp beds is generally more diverse than areas outside the kelp beds. Inside the kelp beds the substrata vary from low relief rock with sand channels and large boulders to high rocks with deeply cut, sand-filled canyons with numerous crevices and overhangs that in some areas gradually slope into flat rock terraces. Immediately seaward of the kelp the relief is usually less pronounced; it varies from relatively flat rocks with shallow ledges and low relief in most areas to some localized areas with a more variable topography of large rock outcrops, boulders, and wide sand channels.

The subtidal flora is dominated by beds of pea kelp. In some areas the seaward edges of these beds are fringed with bull kelp. The understory consists mainly of foliose red algae and variable amounts of three types of brown algae. More than 80 other species of algae are present in the area and some may be locally abundant.

More than 150 species of intertidal and subtidal invertebrates have been recorded from the ocean in the vicinity of Wilder Ranch State Park. Subtidally encrusting compound tunicates, solitary tunicates, sponges, and hydroids form the thickest groundcovers, but even these are not dense in some areas. Giant red sea urchins and several types of sea stars are the most numerous macroinvertebrates. Crabs and abalone occur in the region but in most areas are sparse.

The marine environment off Wilder Ranch is within the Central California Seascape Province which is a region of characteristic geological, chemical, and biological features extending south from San Francisco Bay to Point Conception.

Based on the number and kinds of species of both marine plants and animals present, the area is not particularly rich or unique in species composition when compared to other areas along this portion of coast. However, the site does support an ecosystem representative of this section of the coast and this particular location is more suitable and accessible to the underwater recreationists than most others in the area.



## Domestic Animal Control

In order to achieve a more natural wildlife population in the park, adverse influences by domestic animals must be minimized. Uncontrolled domestic animals, particularly dogs and cats, in the park may seriously disturb wildlife. Also, a visitor's experience can be disturbed by the sight or intimidating action of a stray dog.

### Policy:

It shall be the policy of the department to strictly enforce department rules and regulations regarding dogs and other domestic animals in units of the State Park System. Domestic animals kept by residents on agricultural lease lands in the unit shall be subject to the same rules and regulations, except when in the immediate residence area. Domestic animals that relate well to the interpretive theme of the unit may be kept in the Cultural Preserve or in the areas designated for the interpretation of agriculture.

## Vector Control

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

### Policy:

The populations of animals that are important vectors of disease, such as ground squirrels, skunks, and raccoons, shall be visually monitored by field personnel while pursuing their regular duties. If significant increases in animal observations are reported in any particular area a public health officer shall be consulted. Should epizootic levels of disease be found in areas frequented by the public, actions that lower the vector population shall be investigated and carried out as necessary for public safety.

## Pesticides

The department, by virtue of its responsibilities in preserving, protecting, and managing substantial portions of the California landscape and the ecosystems therein, must take a leading role in preventing environmental pollution, whether by harmful pesticides or other pollutants.

### Policy:

Pesticide use in the unit shall be directed by the policies in the department's Pesticide Manual. In general, these policies require that chemical pesticides may not be used until other possible methods are explored and found to be inadequate for control of the pest(s) involved. These policies emphasize the use of biological control or integrated pest management approaches.



Lands designated for cultivated agricultural use pose special problems and management challenges. Standard agricultural practices currently employed for brussels sprouts production in the region includes the use of several different types of pesticides. Use of some of these in the unit or on adjacent lands potentially conflict with recreational land use and natural resource preservation. Many of the pesticides now used in the area are highly toxic to humans and extremely toxic to fish life.

The following policy is a guide to be used by the department in evaluating pesticide use on lands in state ownership designated for cultivated agriculture in or adjacent to the state park.

Policy:

In determining the acceptability of any pesticide on agricultural lands within or adjacent to the park the department shall give primary consideration to the health and safety of park visitors. Of secondary concern shall be the protection of important natural ecosystems within the unit. Agricultural productivity must be subordinate to these two concerns.

Pesticides that are determined by the department not to be potentially hazardous to park visitors or the natural environment may be approved for use.

Pesticides that are determined not to be potentially hazardous to park visitors but which would significantly degrade important natural ecosystems within the park shall be prohibited.

Two basic options are available to the department in making a determination on the use of pesticides that are considered to be hazardous to park visitors but are not a significant threat to natural ecosystems. The first option to be considered is the feasibility of using other less hazardous methods, including, but certainly not limited to, other chemical compounds and integrated pest management. Increased cost shall not necessarily be a factor in determining the feasibility of these alternatives. On state-owned lands it may be possible to adjust the fee schedule on agricultural leases to compensate lessees for any impact on operating expense and production. The second option in order of priority to be considered is the temporary closure of the portion of the park in which the toxic pesticide is to be used and where resultant health hazards would exist. With some pesticides commonly used in brussels sprouts production, safe reentry periods may exceed several days. In some areas where public use facilities are linear in nature, such as coastal hiking trails, closures may be necessary for several weeks, depending on the timing of chemical applications to adjoining fields along the entire length of the trail. When evaluating the appropriateness of the latter option, the loss of recreational opportunity shall be carefully weighed against the need for use of the pesticide in the context of the declared purpose of the park (see Declaration of Purpose).

## Cultural Resources

Both prehistoric and historic cultural resources are common in the park. Extensive prehistoric sites have been identified at all elevations; two of the largest of these are included in the proposed Cultural Preserve. The central portion of the park contains at least thirteen Native American sites, four historic zones, and several historic features. The State School Lands parcel has not been completely surveyed by the department's Cultural Heritage Planning Section, but investigation has shown one Native American site and three possible historic zones there.

The management of the cultural resources at Wilder Ranch State Park is governed by statutes, policies, and directives. The following portions of the Public Resources Code pertain to the management of cultural resources: Section 5019.74 (if a cultural preserve is designated); Section 5097.5; and Section 5097.9.

The specific directives from the department's Resource Management Directives that pertain to the cultural resources of Wilder Ranch State Park are: 11, 24, 25, 32, 50-53, 58-60, and 63-72.

### Native American Resources

The area of Wilder Ranch State Park lies completely in the territory of the Costanoan Indians, a Penutian-speaking people related both linguistically and culturally to the Coast Miwok of Marin County. A discussion of aspects of Costanoan ethnography and ethnohistory may be found in the Technical Appendix.

The Native American sites in the area of Wilder Ranch are of two types: 1) occupational sites, which are assumed to be areas where people lived for some time, either returning seasonally or remaining in residence throughout the year; and 2) task sites, areas that were used only for performing specific tasks. The occupation sites are classed as either temporary or permanent. As one might expect, the temporary sites are generally smaller and show less modification of the surrounding area than do permanent villages. The only known task site at Wilder Ranch State Park is a bedrock mortar site.

The locations of Native American sites in Wilder Ranch State Park can be divided topographically. Sites occur on the lowest marine terrace, the upper marine terraces, and in the upland region. For purposes of this discussion, the lower terrace is defined as the area to the south and southwest of the existing right-of-way of State Highway 1; the upper terrace is the area between Highway 1 and the 300-foot elevation level; and the uplands refers to all other portions of the park. All of these sites are in various states of preservation because of agricultural activity, hydraulic weathering, aeolian weathering, and vandalism, among other factors.

#### a) Lower Marine Terrace Sites

The lower terrace contains six Native American sites. All of these Native American sites are occupation areas with much organic debris, a moderate to high concentration of shellfish remains, and some chipped and ground stone. These sites include CA:SCR:25, 38, 39, 40, 123, and 124. SCR:25, 38, 40, and 124 are currently being affected by agricultural activities.

Policy:

It is the department's policy to mitigate further impacts on these sites by establishing a buffer zone for each site. The width for each of these zones shall be established on a case-by-case basis.

The least disturbed portions of these sites are along the bluff edges in areas that have not been seriously used for agricultural purposes.

Policy:

It is the policy of the department to totally curtail agricultural activities on these sites. Until such curtailment is accomplished, department policy shall be to identify buffer zones on a site-by-site basis during the trails planning effort.

SCR:39 and 123 underlie the Wilder Ranch complex. Both of these sites have been impacted by a variety of activities. SCR:39 has been significantly moved around during the construction activities on State Highway 1. It has also been moderately damaged by agricultural activities.

Policy:

It is the department's policy to establish a buffer zone near the bluff edge due west of the ranch complex to help preserve what remains of SCR:39 and the westernmost ranch structures.

SCR:123 is of undetermined size and lies under at least a portion of the structural components of the ranch complex. It is possible that the development of the ranch complex as a dairy museum and activities associated with the preservation of the structures in the complex will have an adverse impact on SCR:123.

Policy:

It is the department's policy that development in the Wilder Ranch complex shall not be permitted to have any further adverse impacts on SCR:123. If it is deemed that such impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation must be carried out at this site.

b) Upper Terrace and Uplands Sites

The upper terrace contains four archeological sites in the Wilder acquisition and one that is just inside the granite sand quarry. Because of the closeness of the granite sand quarry site to the park property line, it will be considered for management purposes. The upper terrace sites include three areas of habitation debris containing shell and organic remains, one rockshelter with associated habitation debris (in the granite sand quarry), and one bedrock outcropping containing mortars. Site numbers in the upper terrace include CA:SCR:108, 109, 110, 127, and 128.

Two other sites in the upland region of the park (CA:SCR:26 and 125) are reasonably large areas containing much organic debris, with a moderate to light shell content and stone tools on the surface. Several isolated artifacts were also noted in the upland area. These sites are sensitive to impacts from both weathering and visitor use. The sensitivity zones shown on the Detailed Allowable Use Intensity Map (Technical Appendix) are much larger than the actual site dimensions to maintain confidentiality of locations.

Only one Native American site has been noted on the State School Lands property. The site lies just above the highway to the west of Baldwin Creek and constitutes an extremely large deposit of cultural debris that is extremely sensitive. This site, recorded in 1950, is CA:SCR:10.

**Policy:**

The department's policy is to avoid primary impacts to these sites by careful on-site evaluation so that no development will encroach on these resources.

At this time, no excavation or similar mitigation of the sites is indicated. The sites should be examined at a future date to see if natural factors, such as aeolian and hydraulic erosion make it necessary for more active mitigative procedures. If any developments which should threaten any site are planned in the future, a field review of such developments shall be carried out per Resource Directive 70.

Due to the sensitivity of SCR:10 on the west bank of Baldwin Creek, all development in that area shall be avoided. Agricultural use of this area will be eliminated as soon as possible. In the interim, a 100-foot buffer zone around the area shall be established.

Euroamerican Resources

Historic resources in the Wilder Ranch acquisition include an old coast landing; an old dairy site; the Wilder Ranch complex, including the stream improvements in Wilder Creek; and the Baldwin Dairy Ranch complex, including the site of Estancia Rancho de Arroyo de Matadero of Mission Santa Cruz; plus old road and railroad routes, and the agricultural marine terraces.

The State School Lands property contains the remnants of the Scaroni Dairy Ranch, a water tunnel belonging to the City of Santa Cruz, and an early paved road, locally called Petroleum Mine Road.

A history of the area appears in the Technical Appendix.

Agricultural/Grazing Lands

Within Wilder Ranch State Park boundaries and along the coast in the park's area, agriculture and cattle grazing occurred as early as the nineteenth century. Row crop agriculture is known to have been practiced as early as ca. 1850, while the Santa Cruz Mission grazed cattle in the area even earlier.

**Policy:**

It is the policy of the department to perpetuate the visual qualities of the historic agricultural scene by maintaining and interpreting:

- 1) Dairy cattle grazing only on suitable lands within the Cultural Preserve.
- 2) Row crop agriculture on lands designated for such use (see Land Use and Facilities Plan Map, page 49). Reductions of acreage in row crop agriculture may be made to protect cultural and natural resources or to implement the department's objectives for public use. No additional lands shall be used for agricultural purposes without the specific approval of the department.



### Wilder Ranch Complex

The Wilder Ranch complex is the largest and most historically significant set of structures in the park. (See figure 3.) The sixteen remaining structures are in various states of preservation.

The Bolcoff Adobe (Building A) is in serious need of stabilization. Possibly the structure could be restored as a two-room adobe which could then be used as a facility to interpret the Mexican period of the property's history.

#### Policy:

Nothing shall be done to the adobe building until an interpretive program is formulated and a restoration study to determine preservation needs completed. These studies shall be carried out and the department shall follow their recommendations.

All structures in the Wilder Ranch complex, other than the Bolcoff Adobe, are wood frame buildings and each is in need of a certain amount of repair, restoration, and stabilization.

#### Policy:

Each structure shall be investigated separately. The department shall stabilize and restore each building to the extent deemed appropriate.

### Baldwin Dairy Ranch Complex

The same recommendations, in terms of stabilization and restoration of the Wilder Ranch complex, are true for the Baldwin Ranch complex. In fact, the milking barn and the creamery at the Baldwin Ranch may be older than any of the structures at the Wilder Ranch headquarters. Proposed use of the Baldwin Ranch complex as a staging area will not impact the cultural resources in the area.

#### Policy:

It is imperative that the Baldwin structures be seriously examined for restoration purposes at the earliest possible date. The structures most urgently needing restoration and stabilization are the Baldwin ranch house, creamery, and dairy barn.

### Historic Resources in Upper Terrace

Historic resources in the upper terrace zone of the Wilder Ranch parcel include the ruins of one or more cabins in Peasley Gulch, the old dairy site above Old Dairy Gulch, and several small outbuildings associated with the corrals due north of the Wilder Ranch complex.

#### Policy:

Any primary impacts to these sites shall be avoided.

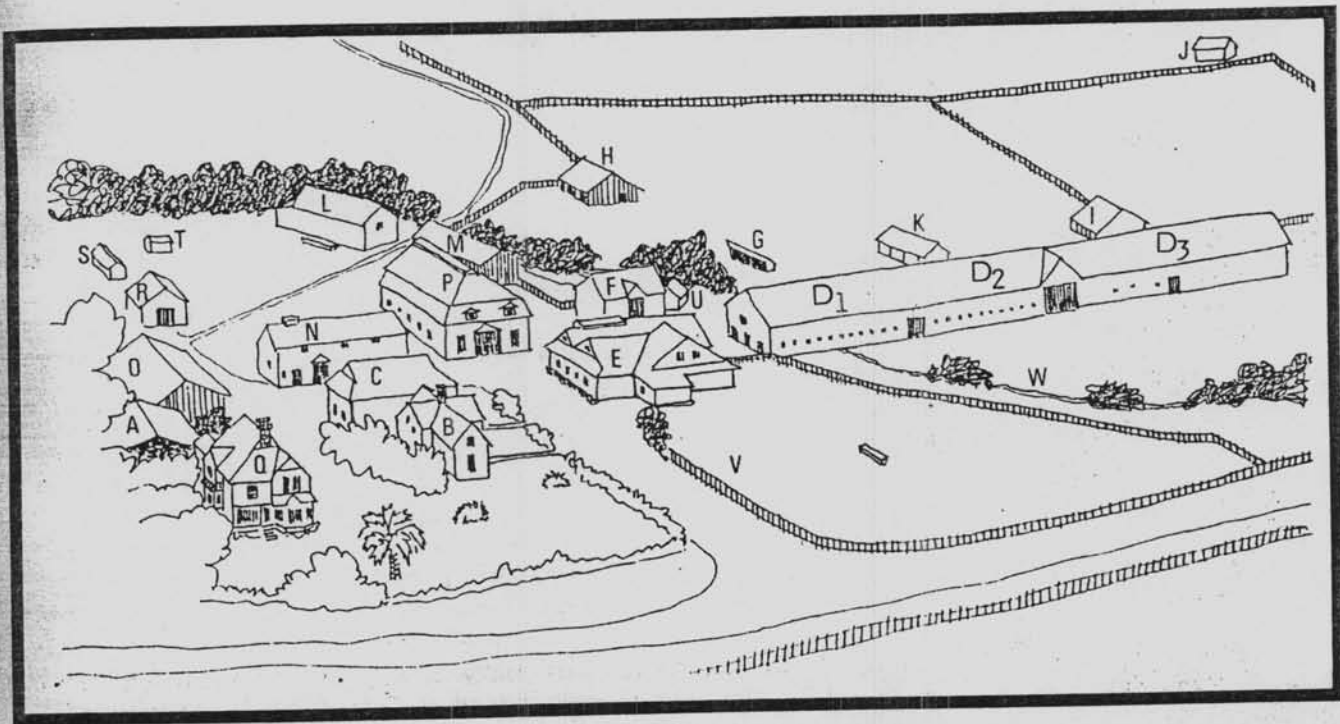


FIGURE 3

BUILDINGS OF THE HISTORIC WILDER RANCH  
(Drawn from a ca. 1933 aerial photo)

Legend: (Dates of construction are in parentheses)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Adobe (1839)   | *L. Storage barn; pig pen in back<br>(removed ca. 1945)    |
| B. First frame house (before 1871)  | *M. Dray horse barn  |
| C. Addition to house (1904)   | N. Shops/bunkhouse   |
| D. Cow barn: D1 and D2 (before 1871);<br>*D3 (added in 1875-removed late 1930s) | O. Equipment and carriage shed (1891)                      |
| *E. Creamery (ca. mid-1860s-burned 1957);<br>shown here with numerous additions | P. Horse barn (1891)                                       |
| F. Granary (1880)   | Q. Victorian house (1896); additions in<br>1930s and 1940s |
| G. Dairy heifer training shed   | R. Garage (1903)   |
| H. Dairy heifer feed shed   | S. Corncrib  |
| I. Bull shed for breed bulls  | *T. Old wooden tank  |
| J. Springhouse  | *U. Slaughterhouse   |
| K. Manure storage shed  | V. Site of existing house built in 1947                    |
|   | W. Wilder Creek (often called Meder Creek)                 |

\*No longer in existence

### Old Landing Site

The so-called Bolcoff or Cowell landing site is not sensitive to visitor impacts and need not be considered in terms of a long-term management effort.

### Historic Resources on the State School Lands Property

This property contains the site of the dairy ranch of Pio Scaroni.

Regardless of the historic significance of the Pio Scaronis as a dairying family in the Santa Cruz area, very little remains of their dairy complex. The Scaroni Dairy is moderately sensitive to visitor impacts. The remaining structures are probably best used for agricultural implement storage.

#### Policy:

Prior to any major development on the site, a testing program shall be carried out to try to establish the location of the ranch house and other outlying structures. As long as no development takes place in the area, the structures may retain their present use.

The other historic sites on the Scaroni property are not particularly susceptible to visitor impacts. The Petroleum Mine Road should be researched, and at least a small portion of it should be maintained as an interpretive exhibit. The City of Santa Cruz water tunnel should be maintained by the City of Santa Cruz, and if they intend to abandon the use of the reservoir and the associated trestle and tunnel, consideration should be given to maintenance of these features by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

#### Policy:

The department shall research and maintain, as appropriate, the Petroleum Mine Road and also the water tunnel if it is abandoned by the City of Santa Cruz.

It must be remembered that only 20 percent of the area of the Scaroni property has been adequately inventoried by Cultural Heritage Planning staff.

#### Policy:

A complete survey of this property shall occur if any development is planned for the area.

In summary, the principal cultural resource policies for Wilder Ranch State Park are preservation, with no development of the existing Native American sites in the park. The Wilder Ranch headquarters complex should be classified as a cultural preserve.

## Aesthetic Resources

Wilder Ranch State Park encompasses a variety of landscape and scenic features including rolling surf, coastal beaches and lagoons, ponds, flat to gently rolling marine terraces rising in step-like levels, dramatic cliffs, and deep wooded canyons which break the terraces at intervals from east to west. The lines, forms, colors, textures, and contrasts of these features present to the viewer a pleasing and sometimes exciting visual experience.

From the middle and upper terraces, there are outstanding panoramic views overlooking the grassland terraces, canyons, agriculture operations, and the beaches and coastline along Monterey Bay. An exceptional view of the lower Majors Creek drainage is afforded from an overlook atop the third marine terrace on the southeast edge of the canyon at an elevation of 120 meters (400 feet). Another outstanding view is that of the massive slide in Baldwin Canyon from the top of the slide area on the fourth marine terrace at an elevation of 170 meters (560 feet).

Closer views are afforded in the individual terraces which are framed to the east and west by the fringes of forest and brush of the canyons. Enclosed views are provided beneath the forest canopy, and especially beneath the riparian growth in the canyon bottoms. The scenic interests beneath the riparian forest are complemented by the sights and sounds of birds and by flowing water during the winter and spring seasons. Hanging ferns and flowers at the fern grotto near the historic landing site present an especially rare enclosed view.

Aside from the ocean, several smaller water bodies are, at close range, strong scenic elements here. These include Wildlife Lake at Four Mile Beach and several ponds along Baldwin Creek, and also in the grassland terraces. Visual interest here is heightened by the sights and sounds of birds, frogs, and other wild animals.

The Wilder Ranch complex, with its various buildings and facilities set amidst the pastoral scene, provides an interesting picture whether viewed close at hand or from a somewhat greater distance, such as an elevated vantage point in the uplands.

The visual qualities associated with the park do have some negative aspects. The major detraction is the sanitary landfill located near the center of the park. This inholding is owned and operated by the City of Santa Cruz. Chemical waste ponds, developed on a ridge east of the fill area, are visible from the middle to uppermost regions of the park. Offensive odors from these ponds and the landfill area itself occur in the area. The sights, sounds, and smells created by the operation present an atmosphere that extends beyond the boundaries of the site and which is perceived as incompatible with most park uses. It must be noted, however, that the landfill operation was begun long before the park was envisioned. Nevertheless, efforts should be made by the state and the city and county of Santa Cruz to relocate the landfill site to a less conspicuous location.

Another operation that lowers the scenic quality of the area is the sand quarry site north of and immediately adjacent to State Highway 1. The quarry is readily visible from some upland regions of the park. Landscaping measures taken along the highway have reduced the visibility of the site from passing motorists.



## Recreation Resources

The varied topographic features of the unit offer a variety of possible recreational opportunities.

### Beach and Coastline

Four Mile Beach is the longest high beach area in the unit. This area has been used for general beach activities for several years and good surfing is available off the upcoast portion. Other smaller beaches along the coast provide more isolated recreation opportunities. The coastline between major beaches is for the most part impassable during high and moderate tides due to the steep shoreline bluffs.

Notable spots in the area for nature observation include intertidal, table-like outcrops that provide some tidepool habitat. One of these table formations, just downcoast from the mouth of Old Dairy Gulch, is used extensively by harbor seals as a haul out area. The fern grotto, just downcoast of the haul out area, also has important value for nature observation. Visitor use in these areas must be controlled to minimize adverse impact to the resources.

Other activities possible in the coastal portion of the unit include surfing, swimming, picnicking, sunbathing, fishing, skin diving, photography, painting, and hiking. Use in certain areas may be restricted where dangerous conditions exist.

### Coastal Terrace Between the Ocean and State Highway 1

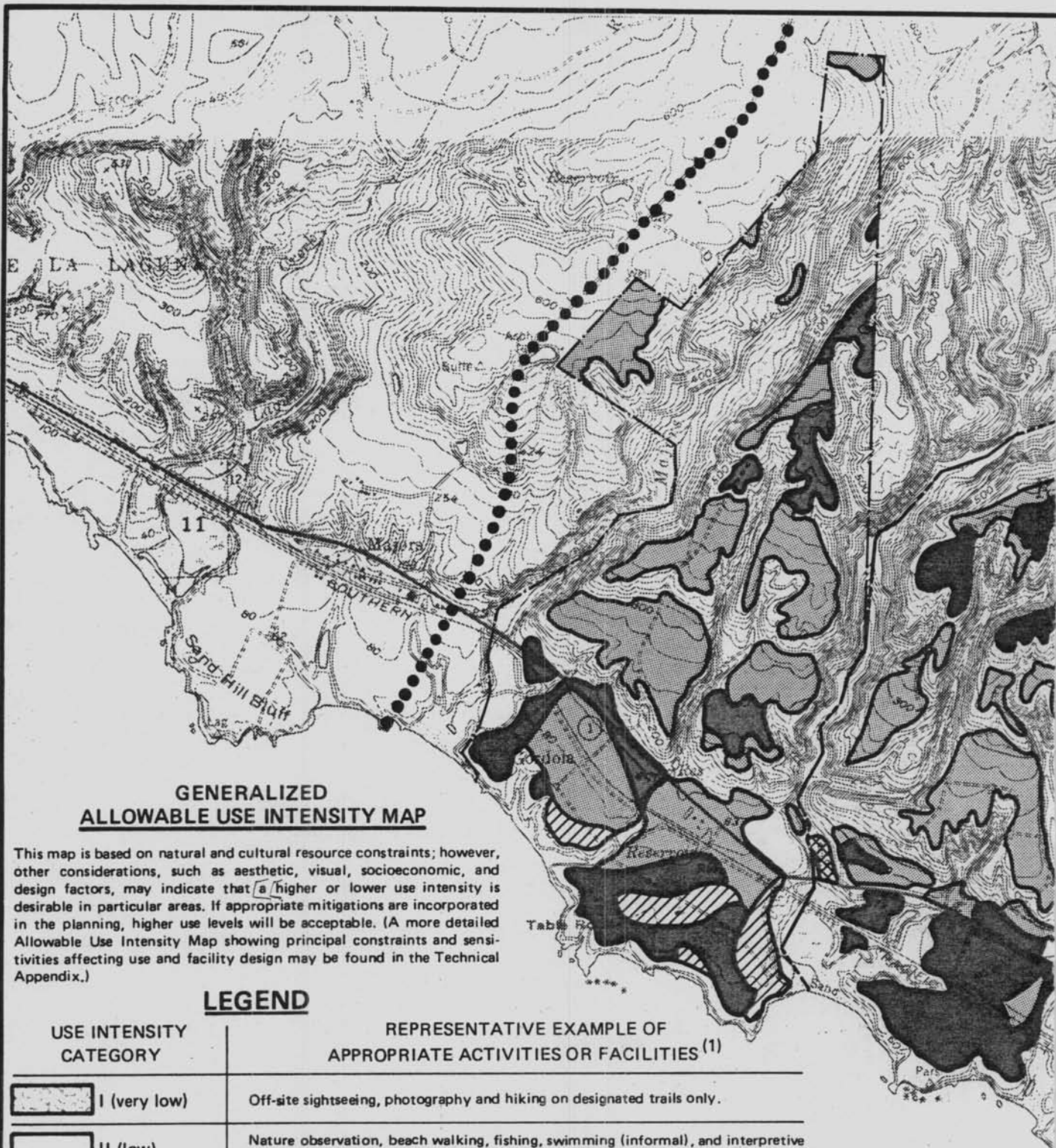
The principal recreational use of the extensive agricultural lands in this area is to provide access corridor to and along the shoreline. Interpretation of the history of the Wilder Ranch complex can provide important recreational opportunities.

### Uplands

The uplands provide an excellent opportunity for passive recreation and appreciation of the natural features in the park. The variation in land form and biotic communities in the area provide good opportunities for nature study and observation. The opportunities for hiking and horseback riding are fairly good, especially on the upper terraces. However, travel through the deep, heavily vegetated drainages that divide the terrace lands requires the use of established and maintained trails. Opportunities for destination-type activities, such as camping and picnicking, do exist on some of the the more gentle upland slopes.

## 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. As a step in determining carrying capacity, the department first 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.



### GENERALIZED ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY MAP

This map is based on natural and cultural resource constraints; however, other considerations, such as aesthetic, visual, socioeconomic, and design factors, may indicate that a higher or lower use intensity is desirable in particular areas. If appropriate mitigations are incorporated in the planning, higher use levels will be acceptable. (A more detailed Allowable Use Intensity Map showing principal constraints and sensitivities affecting use and facility design may be found in the Technical Appendix.)

### LEGEND

USE INTENSITY CATEGORY	REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE OF APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES OR FACILITIES <sup>(1)</sup>
 I (very low)	Off-site sightseeing, photography and hiking on designated trails only.
 II (low)	Nature observation, beach walking, fishing, swimming (informal), and interpretive trails.
 III (moderate)	Camping, picnicking and group camping (low and moderate density); bicycling, horseback riding, and general beach activities.
 IV (high)	Camping, picnicking, and group camping (high density).
 V (very high)	Large maintenance yard and major concession facilities.



Denotes historic zones in which use and its intensity shall be compatible with historic values.

--- STATE PARK BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)

--- STATE LANDS COMMISSION BOUNDARY (APPROXIMATE)

●●●●● STUDY BOUNDARY

(1) These examples are included as a general guide. Specific use and intensity shall be made prior to the approval of any





guide to appropriate uses. Detailed field investigations site's specific development.

0 1000 2000 3000 4000  
SCALE IN FEET

Terrace Pt

Figure 4

DESIGNED	NOV. 1979
	CHECKED
DATE	
REVISIONS	
RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	
APPROVED	DATE
<b>WILDER RANCH STATE PARK GENERALIZED ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY MAP</b>	
DRAWING NO	17293
SHEET NO	2 OF 15

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

The management objective for Wilder Ranch State Park is set forth in the statutes defining a state park (see Classification section, page 11).

The second component, visitor perceptions and attitudes, involves assessing the social objectives of the department, what the recreationist perceives 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. State park planners must take a leading role in increasing the public's awareness and appreciation of a high quality recreation experience.

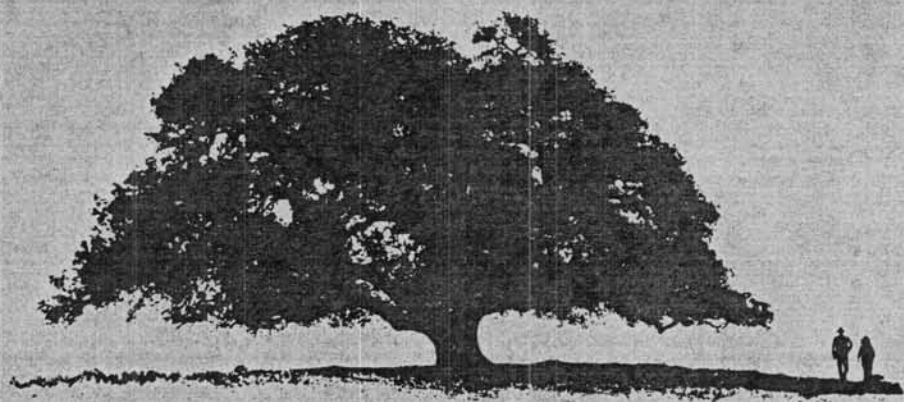
The third, and most important, component in determining allowable use intensity involves an analysis of the natural and cultural resources to determine the area's physical limitations for development of facilities, and the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity). This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

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensity for lands in Wilder Ranch State Park were determined as shown in the allowable use intensity map, figure 4. Five classes, ranging from very low to very high, are shown. Also included is a general description of the types of activities or uses which may be appropriate in each category. Acceptable intensity of use, which is often regulated by the density of facilities, is also given for some uses.

During the planning process, considerations other than those used in developing the allowable use intensity map, such as aesthetic, visual, socioeconomic, and design factors, indicated a need for use intensities in certain areas to be different from that shown on the use intensity map. Specific site investigations of these areas were made and it was determined that with appropriate precautions and mitigation measures, higher use intensity may be acceptable.

Criteria used in developing allowable use categories and the major supportive data on resource constraints and sensitivity area are summarized in the Technical Appendix. Additional data are on file with the department.





# LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT





## LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

### EXISTING LAND USE

#### Regional Land Use

Wilder Ranch State Park is located on the north coast of Santa Cruz County. This area is a mixture of industrial, residential, agricultural, park, and institutional lands.

Industrial activity is located near Natural Bridges State Beach and the community of Davenport. The City of Santa Cruz has intensive residential development while many of the lands near the park are developed as rural residences. Most of the north coast benchlands are under intensive agricultural uses in contrast with the steep, wooded canyons which are sources of commercial redwood timber. The University of California campus at Santa Cruz is located near the eastern boundary of Wilder Ranch State Park.

#### Project Area Land Use

State Highway 1 divides Wilder Ranch State Park into a coastal benchlands area and an uplands area. The benchlands south of the highway include the bluffs, terraces, estuaries, and beaches. The uplands to the north include gently sloping terraces, small creeks, and steep-walled, forested canyons.

High bluffs protect the coastal benches from the mighty Pacific along most of the unit's waterfront. Above the bluffs on the terraces are the open fields used for the cultivation of brussels sprouts. Clustered in several areas on the terraces are associated farm structures.

The bluffs are interrupted by a number of small beaches with estuaries that are important wildlife areas. Traditionally Wilder Beach and many of the smaller beaches have been protected from intensive human use and have developed into wildlife havens, particularly for birds. The larger beach areas are very popular recreation areas where surfing, sunbathing, and beach walking have been allowed. However, without supervision these areas have developed litter problems and some experience enough crime and questionable activities to make families hesitant to use these isolated beaches.

Portions of the uplands are also used for agriculture and grazing. There is some row crop production on the lower marine terraces; many of these fields are in seed production, supplying the needs of brussels sprouts growers on the benchlands. The open grasslands have been grazed by cattle since mission days. Currently certain areas are leased for grazing part of the year.

The steep canyons are perhaps the most scenic area of the uplands despite the evidence of early logging. These watercourses are still heavily wooded with second growth redwoods, oaks, California bay, and Douglas-fir.

At present two major inholdings in the unit can potentially conflict with visitors' sensory perceptions and enjoyment of Wilder Ranch State Park. The sand quarry and sanitary landfill are both visually unattractive and detract from the unit's scenic qualities. Additionally, the landfill can produce offensive odors and extensive noise pollution affecting various portions of the state park.

The inholdings should have a minimum effect on the park users. This can be accomplished by limiting public use near the affected areas or by mitigating or eliminating the undesirable activities.

## REGIONAL RECREATIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

Santa Cruz County is a major recreation destination for many northern Californians. The mild temperature of the coast contrasts with the extreme temperatures of the interior valleys, and the beaches and towering redwoods appeal to the nearby urban populations. It is estimated that more than five million people live in the San Francisco Bay Metropolitan complex while nearly one million persons reside in the Sacramento Valley Metropolitan area. Approximately four and one-half million people live in 1-1/2 hours' travel time of Wilder Ranch. Table 2 shows the day-use visitor origin for the state units in this area; table 3 shows the typical origin pattern of overnight visitors.

Table 2

### DAY-USE VISITOR ORIGINS FOR STATE BEACHES IN SANTA CRUZ AREA

<u>Origin</u>	<u>%</u>
San Francisco Bay Area & Central Valley	58
Santa Cruz County	16
Southern California	13
Out-of-state	10

Table 3

### OVERNIGHT VISITOR ORIGINS FOR SELECTED STATE PARK SYSTEM UNITS IN SANTA CRUZ AREA\*

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Henry Cowell Redwoods SP</u>	<u>New Brighton SB</u>	<u>Seacliff SB</u>
San Francisco Bay Area	58%	47%	44%
Central Valley and Northern California	14%	35%	33%
Southern California	19%	7%	2%
Santa Cruz County	5%	7%	16%
Out-of-State	4%	4%	5%

\*Data based on 1977 Ticketron reservations

#### Existing Facilities

A number of recreation opportunities exist in Santa Cruz County. Table 4, compiled from data supplied by Santa Cruz County, shows federal, state, county, and city recreational facilities in the county.

Demand for recreation opportunities is far greater than the available supply in Santa Cruz County. Coastal camping demand is extremely high. The facilities at New Brighton and Sunset state beaches are usually full throughout the summer camping season. Statistics reveal that Seacliff State Beach is full 100 percent of the time, with a turn-away factor of 92 percent (as measured by the Ticketron reservation system through TICKETRON). That is, only 8 percent of the people requesting space at Seacliff can be accommodated.



## RECREATION FACILITIES IN SANTA CRUZ AREA

Existing State Park Units in Santa Cruz County	ACRES	TRAILS			CAMPING			FACILITIES				WATER RECREATION			COMMENTS
Big Basin Redwoods SP Highway 9, Big Basin	14,576	41 mi.	15 mi.	.6 mi.	36 units	188 units	5 units	●	175 units	●	●	●			Our very first state park unit
Castle Rock SP Intersection Hwy. 9 & 35	1,372				25 units				5 units						
Henry Cowell Redwoods Highway 9, Felton	4,092	10 mi.	15 mi.	1 mi.		113 units		●	261 units						2 main entrances and units. Fall Creek suburb
Forest of Nisene Marks Aptos Creek Rd, Aptos	9,781														In permanent "wilderness" state
Manresa State Beach Watsonville	68											●			Plans for development with 65 walk-in sites
Natural Bridges SB Santa Cruz	54			2 mi.					60 units			●			
New Brighton SB Capitola	93	.2 mi.		8 mi.	12 units	115 units		●	37 units			●	●		5,000 LF of ocean frontage
Seacliff SB Aptos	85	.4 mi.				26 mi.			148 units			●	●		Class "T" campsites only
Sunset SB Watsonville	299	.3 mi.			2 units	90 units	1 unit		60 units			●	●		
Twin Lakes SB Santa Cruz	86											●	●		9,500 LF of ocean frontage
Wilder Ranch SP Santa Cruz (incl. school lands)	4,800														In planning stages
Santa Cruz Mission SHP Santa Cruz	1														Not yet open
LEGEND															
EXPLANATION		Hiking Only	Horseback Riding	Interpretive	Trail	Developed Class A	Group	Trailer Sanitation	Picnic	Exhibit	Food Service	Supplies	Swimming	Fishing	Boating

Existing Santa Cruz County Parks	ACRES	TRAILS			CAMPING			FACILITIES				WATER RECREATION			ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND COMMENTS
Aptos Village Park Soquel Dr., Aptos	8							●	●	●					Community building has a kitchen
Abbott Square Cooper St., Santa Cruz	.0367														Benches only
Ben Lomond Park Mill St., Ben Lomond	2.5							●		●					Community building has a kitchen. Library with annex.
Freedom Lake Freedom Blvd., Ben Lomond	34										●	●	●		Fishing lake and picnic facilities
Highlands Park Hwy. 9, Ben Lomond	26								●			●			Estate house, seniors cottage, bathhouse, swimming pool
Mesa Village Green Valley, Watsonville	2								●						
Moran Lake E. Cliff, Santa Cruz	8+														No facilities, nature exploration and beach access
Place de Mar	2.6														No facilities
Schwan Lake 17th Ave., Santa Cruz	15														No facilities
Pinto Lake County Park Watsonville	180								●			●	●	●	Caretaker's houses, boathouse and barns
Santa Cruz Gardens Katherine Lane, Santa Cruz	2														
Scott Park Freedom Blvd., Watsonville	5								●	●					
Soquel Roadside Park Main St., Soquel	1								●						
LEGEND		Hiking	Equestrian	Interpretive	Trail	Developed	Group	Community Building	BBQ/Picnic	Playground Equipment	Restrooms	Swimming	Fishing	Boating	

Table 4 (con't.)

Existing Santa Cruz City Parks	ACRES	TRAILS			FACILITIES										H <sub>2</sub> O REC		ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND COMMENTS
Bethany Curve	2.5	●															4 blocks of green belt with drainage stream
De Lavega Park	565	●	●	●			●	●	●								Group Picnic to 700. 2 basketball courts with lights
Derby Park	4							●	●								Just opened; skateboard court, restroom proposed
Fredrick Street Park	4							●	●								Skateboard court and large turf area
Garfield Park	1.8					●		●	●								Tree swing is a main feature
Grant Park	2					●		●	●								
Harvey West Park	2.5	●			●	●	●	●	●					●			Small snack stand with train concess. in summer. Clubhouse, 6 baseball
John Franks Park	.5							●	●								
Kaiser Plaza	1																Formal park with fountains and benches only
Lighthouse Point	.75							●									Lighthouse museum with telescope
Mike P. Fox	1.5								●								4 tennis courts with lights
Neary's Lagoon	40	●						●	●								Park and wildlife sanctuary. Catwalk proposed
Ocean View Park	2.5																Development to be expected summer 1979
San Lorenzo Park	8	●				●	●	●	●								Duck pond, bowling green, outdoor stage with lighting
Star of the Sea Park	1.8					●	●	●	●								Group picnic to 75 and large open lawn
West Lake Park	7	●						●	●								Lake, fishing for 16 and younger large turf
LEGEND		Hiking	Equestrian	Interpretive	Clubhouse	Restroom	Group Picnic	Picnic	Tot Lot	Basketball Court	Volleyball Court	Tennis Court	Baseball Field	Swimming Pool	Fishing		

Equestrian and Hiking Trails

Santa Cruz county has one of the highest horse/person ratios in the state. The majority of the horses are located in the suburban fringes around the cities and in the rural areas. The department has developed equestrian and hiking trails in most state parks of Santa Cruz county. Additionally, a 200-mile trail system has been planned to innerconnect the park trails. Wilder Ranch State Park has the potential of providing an important link in this trail network.

Hostel

In 1978 the department published the California State Parks System Coast Hostel Facilities Plan, proposing the establishment of hostel facilities at public park and recreation areas on or near the coast and readily accessible to low and middle income populations of major urban areas. The department has proposed the establishment of a pilot system of hostels -- one serving the San Francisco Metropolitan complex and one serving the Los Angeles/San Diego complex.

The proposed northern chain of pilot hostel projects would stretch from Marin County to Santa Cruz. In the Santa Cruz area, the plan recommended that a hostel be located at Natural Bridges State Beach, with Wilder Ranch as a recommended alternative site. Since the completion of the hostel plan, department staff has further evaluated the sites at Natural Bridges and Wilder Ranch and now recommends that the hostel be located at Wilder Ranch State Park.

### PLAN PROPOSALS

The proposals for land uses and facilities are meant to meet existing and anticipated resource and recreational needs. They reflect the opinions of concerned citizens as well as extensive study by department staff.

### PROPOSED LAND USE

All of the proposed land uses have been carefully formulated to accommodate natural and cultural resource needs, recreational deficiencies and opportunities, and operational requirements.

#### Cultural Preserve

The proposed cultural preserve will consist of the Wilder Ranch complex and grounds immediately surrounding it (see Land Use and Facilities, figure 5). This zone will be set aside for the sole purpose of interpreting and demonstrating the history of the area, the ranch, and the dairy industry. Only activities essential to the implementation of the program outlined in the Interpretive Prospectus will be allowed in this zone. Support facilities, such as parking lots and maintenance facilities, will be located outside the cultural preserve.



#### Natural Preserve

It is proposed that 32.6 hectares (80.3 acres) of wetlands at the mouth of Wilder Creek be set aside as a natural preserve (see figure 5). Strict adherence to policies defined in the Resource Element will be critical in the protection and enhancement of the Wilder Creek wetlands and beach area of the preserve.



Public access into the preserve will be restricted to authorized conducted tours. Only department staff and individuals authorized by the area manager will be allowed entry into the site for the purpose of investigations or habitat improvement. In addition to these tours, the coastal interpretive trail will permit interpretation and description of the preserve at overlook points along the coastal bluff bordering the wetlands.

### Agricultural Lands

Because the existing agricultural lands are of such significance, it is the department's intent to retain row crop production on existing agricultural lands not required for cultural and natural resource enhancement or public use. The boundaries of agricultural lands delineated in figure 5 represent a careful balance between public use and protection of coastal resources on the one hand and protection of the agricultural resources on the other. Additional reductions in agricultural lands will only be considered for the purpose of mitigating conflicts in the implementation of the department's objectives for resource protection and public use.



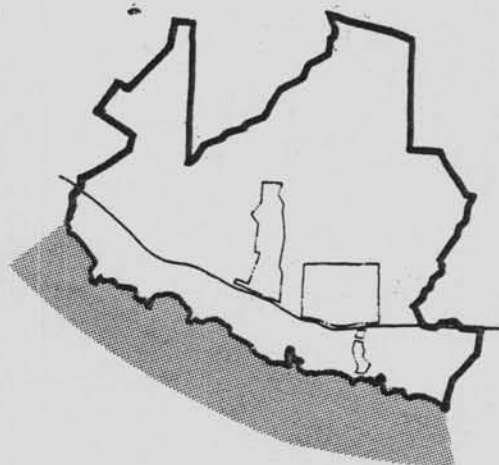
The implementation of this plan will result in less than 10 percent reduction of existing row crop acreage. Such reduction will occur in the following locations:

- o Adjacent to the cultural preserve for the purpose of vehicular circulation and parking.
- o Within the natural preserve and other riparian areas for the purpose of habitat enhancement.
- o Around the Four Mile Beach area for the purpose of vehicular and pedestrian circulation, day-use parking, and overnight camping.
- o Along the coastal bluff and perimeter of the agricultural fields to minimize coastal erosion and provide a linear path for the trail system and interpretive tour.

Other less significant reductions of agricultural production may occur as the result of administrative, management, or operational needs.

### Underwater Area

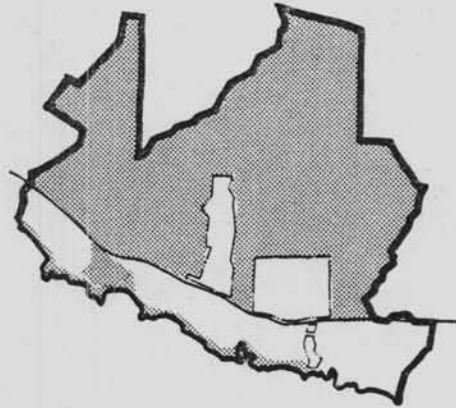
The Advisory Board on Underwater Parks and Reserves has recommended that the submerged lands off Wilder Ranch State Park to the 20 fathom depth line be designated as part of the unit. This action will preserve underwater resources and prevent commercial development of minerals. These areas will be managed and operated in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the California State Park System Underwater Parks Master Plan. To enhance and encourage scuba diving at Wilder Ranch State Park, access to underwater areas off Strawberry, Four Mile, and Three Mile beaches will be provided.





## Park Lands

The term "park lands" refers to all state park lands not previously zoned for a special purpose (i.e., cultural preserve, natural preserve, agricultural lands, and underwater areas). Land uses allowed in this zone are in accordance with the state park classification and will include day use, overnight use, and administrative and operational use.



## PROPOSED FACILITIES

The lands of Wilder Ranch State Park will serve the public in a wide variety of ways-- natural and cultural preserves, agricultural lands, and diverse recreational activities. The facilities needed to implement these numerous uses have been carefully designed to be in harmony with the environments in which they are located and to serve their purposes efficiently.

The retention of Wilder Ranch's natural and scenic qualities was one of the department's underlying planning concepts. This has been accomplished by clustering intensive developments together, leaving most of the site in its natural state or minimally developed.

Most intensive recreational developments are clustered in the Four Mile Beach use area and the Lower Baldwin Canyon use area. These areas are adjacent to Highway 1; therefore, vehicle intrusion into the interiors of the park have been reduced. The net result of this land use design is a less intrusive distribution of facilities.

## Trails

Since maintaining minimal vehicular circulation and penetration into the site was a prime consideration in the development of this plan, trails play an important role in the enjoyment and interpretation of Wilder Ranch State Park. This "hike and see" design concept is meant to emphasize the natural and scenic qualities of the park by deemphasizing the intrusive automobile.

One of the objectives of this trail system is to provide unobtrusive access to the various resources that make up Wilder Ranch State Park. The trail user will have the opportunity to experience many diverse environments-- sandy beaches and coves, coastal bluffs, open marine terraces, oak-covered canyons, grassy meadows, and redwood forest.

Beyond simple access, these trails also provide recreational opportunities. Not only will the avid backpacker have miles of challenging, wilderness-like trails, but the less athletic walker will be able to choose less challenging, short and level loop trails. Interpretive trails are being provided for those who wish to learn more about the natural and cultural values of this unit. Appropriate equestrian trails have been designated to open Wilder Ranch to those who enjoy horseback riding. The variety of trail types and environments will result in a trail system that satisfies the widest range of needs.

As indicated on the General Plan map, an equestrian/hiking trail connection is being developed between Wilder Ranch State Park and other park lands. This connection will tie into the Santa Cruz Mountains trail system identified in the California Recreational Trails Plan, linking Wilder Ranch State Park with Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park and Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Three existing underpasses will connect the uplands trails with the coastal trails. These trail underpasses are located at the Wilder Ranch area, Four Mile Beach/Lower Baldwin Canyon area, and, at the upper end of the park, below the Marine Terrace Campground. The Wilder Ranch underpass can be used for state park service vehicles; the others will be limited to pedestrian traffic only. For the layout of the Wilder Ranch trail system, see Land Use and Facilities Map, fig. 5.

The three different types of trails and their total lengths are as follows:

Hiking trails	59.40 kilometers (37.1 miles)
Equestrian/hiking trails	14.56 kilometers (9.1 miles)
Interpretive trails/tours	5.28 kilometers (3.3 miles)

### Trail Design Criteria

Trail design and construction should be in accordance with the Department of Parks and Recreation standards and specifications delineated in the California Recreational Trails Plan. Design criteria particularly applicable to Wilder Ranch State Park are as follows:

#### o Hiking Trails

When possible, all trails should follow existing logging and skid roads, wagon and jeep trails, or cattle paths.

Generally, the minimum width of the uplands hiking trail will be 0.6 meter (2 feet). At the trailheads or other areas of high concentration, a larger width may be required.

Vegetation and other obstacles will be sufficiently cleared from a trail to permit hikers to pass single file, free of hazards, and without touching vegetation. As a rule, the clearing will be 1.2 meters (4 feet) wide and 2.4 meters (8 feet) high.

The coastal hiking trail will require a buffer zone of native vegetation between itself and the bluff edge of 5 meters (16.4 feet). A 6-meter (19.7-foot) buffer zone will be maintained between the trail and agricultural lands. The native vegetation on the coastal side of the trail will help control bluff erosion and act as a safety measure. The buffer between the trail and the agricultural lands will segregate and help protect those two uses from each other. In areas that have a high potential for trespassing and crop vandalism, more aggressive buffers may be considered, such as mass planting of impenetrable vegetation, ditching, or fencing. (Because of agricultural irrigation practices, ditching is considered the most desirable by the farming interests.)

Both coastal and uplands trails will have occasional overlooks at points of interest. This will allow the department to choose safe viewing areas and will also reduce the chance of undesired straying off the established trail.

## UPLANDS CAMP CENTER AREA

- CAMP CENTER (COMFORT STATION, FOOD PREPARATION AREA, COOKING FACILITIES, COVERED EATING AREA & OUTDOOR EATING AREA)
- 5 HIKE-IN CAMPGROUNDS

## MAJORS CREEK WALK-IN CAMPGROUND

- 30 UNIT WALK-IN CAMPGROUND
- PARKING AREA 1/2 MILE FROM CAMPGROUND

## MARINE TERRACE CAMPGROUND

- ENTRANCE STATION & KIOSK
- 130 UNIT CAMPGROUND

## LOWER BALDWIN CANYON UPLAND STAGING AREA

- PARK OFFICE & VISITOR ORIENTATION CENTER WITH PARKING FOR 6 AUTOS & 3 TRUCK/TRAILERS
- UPLANDS DAY-USER PARKING FOR 26 AUTOS & 1 BUS
- ENROUTE CAMPER PARKING FOR 13 VEHICLES
- HIKE-IN CAMPER PARKING FOR 48 VEHICLES
- EQUESTRIAN DAY & OVERNIGHT PARKING FOR 20 TRUCK/TRAILERS

## FOUR MILE BEACH USE AREA

- ENTRANCE STATION & KIOSK
- 120 UNIT CAMPGROUND
- HOSTEL
- TRAILHEAD FOR COASTAL HIKING TRAIL
- BEACH DAY-USER PARKING FOR 113 AUTOS & 3 BUSES

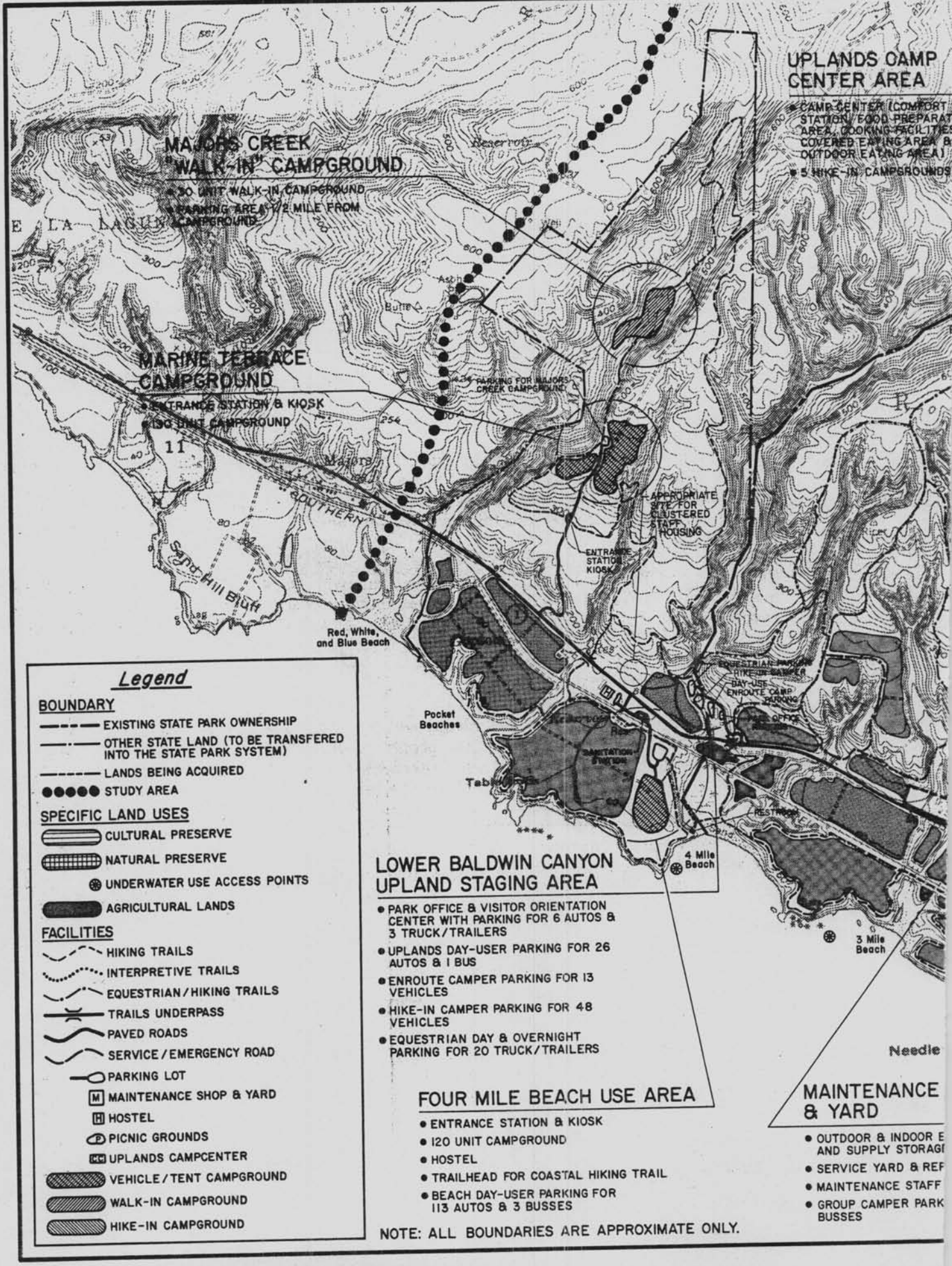
## MAINTENANCE & YARD

- OUTDOOR & INDOOR E AND SUPPLY STORAGE
- SERVICE YARD & REF
- MAINTENANCE STAFF
- GROUP CAMPER PARK BUSES

### Legend

- BOUNDARY**
- EXISTING STATE PARK OWNERSHIP
  - OTHER STATE LAND (TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE STATE PARK SYSTEM)
  - LANDS BEING ACQUIRED
  - STUDY AREA
- SPECIFIC LAND USES**
- ▨ CULTURAL PRESERVE
  - ▨ NATURAL PRESERVE
  - ⊙ UNDERWATER USE ACCESS POINTS
  - ▨ AGRICULTURAL LANDS
- FACILITIES**
- HIKING TRAILS
  - INTERPRETIVE TRAILS
  - EQUESTRIAN / HIKING TRAILS
  - TRAILS UNDERPASS
  - PAVED ROADS
  - SERVICE / EMERGENCY ROAD
  - PARKING LOT
  - ▨ MAINTENANCE SHOP & YARD
  - ▨ HOSTEL
  - PICNIC GROUNDS
  - ▨ UPLANDS CAMPCENTER
  - ▨ VEHICLE / TENT CAMPGROUND
  - ▨ WALK-IN CAMPGROUND
  - ▨ HIKE-IN CAMPGROUND

NOTE: ALL BOUNDARIES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY.









o Equestrian/Hiking Trails

For equestrian/hiking trails that are in open spaces and have good sight distance, minimum trail width will be 1.52 meters (5 feet). In closed-in areas that have poor sight distance or areas of high concentration of users, 2.44 meters (8 feet) will be more appropriate.

As with hiking trails, vegetation should be cleared to 0.3 meter (1 foot) on either side of the trail. Equestrian trails should have a minimum of vertical clearance of 3.1 meters (10 feet).

o Interpretive Trails

The coastal and uplands interpretive trails will be 1.52 meters (5 feet) wide.

To whatever extent possible, all of the interpretive trails should be accessible to the disabled. These trails should be surfaced with either compacted soil, soil cement, or earthtone paving materials.

The trailhead for the uplands interpretive trail starts at and leads through the historic Wilder Ranch complex. If, in the future, heavy trail traffic detracts from the historic scene, this trail can be realigned to the west of the ranch. If this happens, special care should be taken to mitigate any impacts on existing archeological sites in this area.

The trailhead for the coastal interpretive trail will be at the Wilder Ranch Use Area parking lot. The trail will provide access to the coastal bluffs and natural preserve overlooks. There will be an interpretive shelter with panels and other display materials at the trailhead.

Natural Preserve

Though some site improvements to change water flow and drainage may be made, the natural preserve will require little or no manmade facilities. Interpretation will be provided offsite at the interpretive shelter for the coastal interpretive trail. In accordance with resource management policies, the department will reestablish native plant material to provide appropriate wildlife habitat. If deemed necessary, planting buffers can also be used to visually and physically separate adjacent agricultural activities from the natural preserve.



Wilder Ranch Use Area

Interpretation

The primary interpretation effort of the park will be focused on the Wilder Ranch complex. Interpretive facilities will present the following themes:

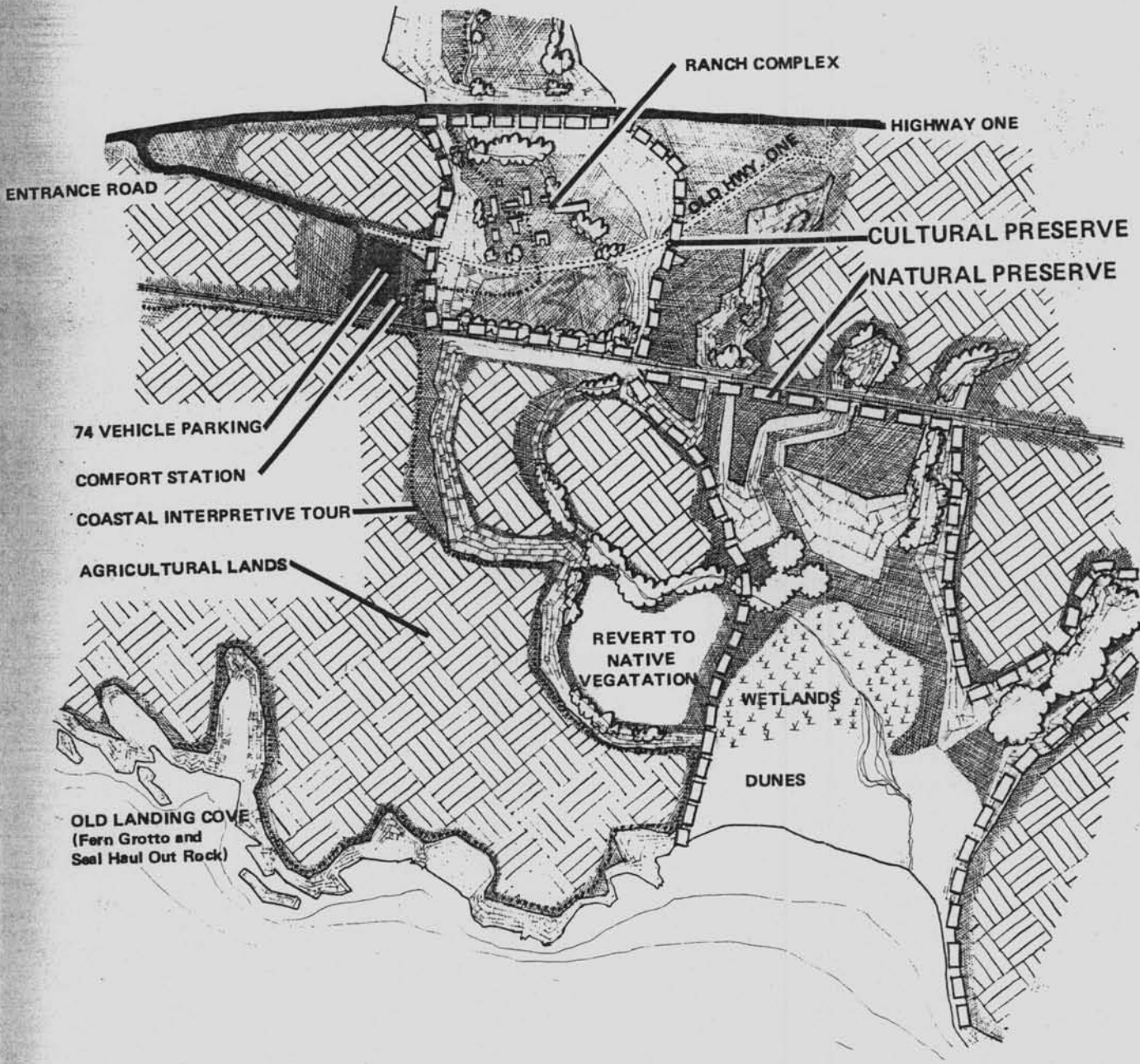
- Dairy industry in California
- History of the Wilder Ranch and surrounding area
- Natural resources of the area



**SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
OF WILDER RANCH USE AREA**

**NORTH ↑**

**NO SCALE**



To accommodate these interpretive themes, many of the ranch structures will have to be stabilized, renovated, or even reconstructed. The interpretive program is discussed in greater detail on page 66; the buildings and administrative facilities needed to implement the program are discussed here. Buildings are grouped by common interpretive themes.

o California Dairy Museum Group

California Dairy Museum Group represents major facility developments because existing structures will not meet display space requirements or provide adequate artifact security or protection. It is recommended that a reconstruction of the original nineteenth-century creamery be used as the new dairy museum. This reconstruction will be visually in character with the ranch complex and is ideally sited for this visitor activity. The new structure's interior will be designed to accommodate the specialized audiovisual and display requirements.

In conjunction with the reconstructed creamery, the dairy cow barn will be used to help interpret and present the entire dairy ranching story.

o Residential House Museums

Parts of both the 1896 Victorian residence and the Bolcoff Adobe will be used as house museums. The interiors of these structures will be furnished with period pieces and the gardens and grounds restored in order to accurately recreate the historic scene. To adequately present the adobe, major restoration will be required.

o Farm Animal Demonstration Group

The farm animal demonstration group of buildings includes the carriage/horse barn, granary, and adjacent corrals. These buildings will be used to house farm and ranch animals. Few facility improvements will be required to implement the animal demonstration program.

o Environmental Living/Demonstration Group

The ranch house, shop and bunkhouse, and equipment shed will be used for an environmental living program. Environmental living programs have been established in several State Park System units. Such a program allows school or other groups of young people to visit a unit (usually overnight) and learn about a particular historical era by participating in a wide range of activities designed to bring that era to life. At Wilder Ranch the students will live and work as ranch hands or other residents of the nineteenth century. Interpretive displays and demonstrations will offer visitors of all ages the experience of living history.

The ranch house's kitchen will be used for group meals and should be restored to its period. This will include old-fashioned cooking utensils and wood stoves. The upstairs rooms will be used as overnight accommodations for the participants in the environmental living program.

The upstairs of the machine shop/bunkhouse building will serve its original purposes. The upstairs will be available as sleeping quarters for the environmental living program. The downstairs blacksmith and mechanic's shop will be made operational with furnishings and equipment of the period. Many of the water-powered tools are still available and could be made functional.



The equipment shed will provide storage for buggies, buckwagons, hay balers, or even vintage automobiles. The ranch equipment will be used during the environmental living program, and the shed could also be used as a classroom during inclement weather.

### Administrative Offices

Maintaining the integrity of the historic scene is of prime importance at the cultural preserve. For this reason, the main administrative office for the park will be located at the Lower Baldwin Canyon area; however, a small office is needed at the Wilder Ranch complex. The southern portion of the ranch house could serve as an interim visitor orientation and park office. Environmental Living Program administrative duties and some dairy ranch interpretation could occur here. The contemporary bungalow, located on the entrance road, is also well suited for park offices, visitor orientation, storage of artifacts, interpretive programs, or certain administrative services.

### Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation

The existing entrance road leading into the Wilder Ranch complex was the old coast highway, and it will require some improvements to provide safe access. A point of entry from the new Highway 1 will require improved sight distance and some realignment to provide safer turning radiuses. The entrance road will be widened to accommodate the increased traffic.

A parking lot will be located outside the cultural preserve yet as close as possible to the main activity area (see Land Use and Facilities). This site is generally out of view from most of the cultural zone, but will require some screen planting to visually buffer it. The parking lot will accommodate 74 automobiles and 4 buses. A bus drop-off zone should also be constructed. The design capacity of this lot will provide parking for visitors to the Wilder Ranch complex, as well as users of the interpretive trails and tours.

Access from the parking lot to the historic ranch complex will be routed down the old railroad bed cut through the pasture south of the highway, then directly into the ranch driveway. This entry path will provide the park visitor with a picturesque view of the ranch complex. So as to make this complex more accessible to the disabled, the path will not exceed a 12:1 slope.

Access for the uplands interpretive trail will lead through the ranch to the existing underpass and beyond. Access for the coastal interpretive trail will lead directly from the parking lot, over the railroad tracks, and on to the coastal bluffs.

### Visitor Control and Orientation

An entrance station kiosk will be located at the proposed parking lot. This location will permit staff to monitor carrying capacities and provide visitor control and orientation. An interpretive shelter at the trailhead for the coastal interpretive tour will provide orientation and information concerning the natural features of this state park unit.

### Picnic Areas

Picnic areas will be designated in the Peasley Gulch and Wilder Creek areas. Both picnic areas will be a little more than one-half mile from the Wilder Ranch complex. Improvements will consist of picnic tables only, with no barbecues. Siting of these picnic tables should not be visually intrusive on the natural scene.



## Four Mile Beach Use Area

The highest intensity of beach use will occur at Four Mile Beach, which, over the years, has proven its popularity. The beach receives year-round use, and most of the same activities that make it so popular, such as surfing, sunbathing, and simple enjoyment of walking on the beach, will continue.

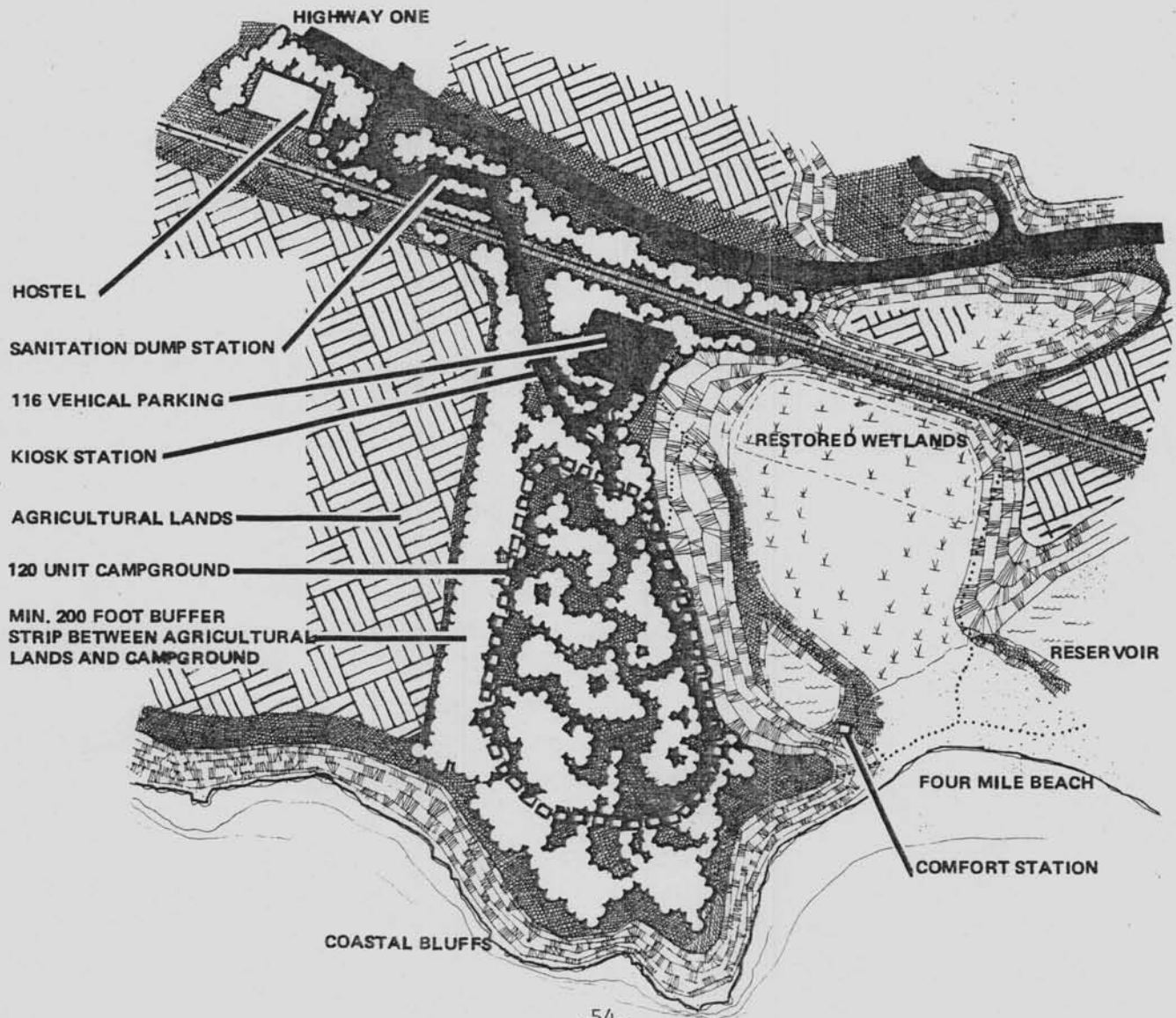
To complement these activities, the following additional facilities will be developed to improve the beach users' enjoyment, health, and safety.



### SCHEMATIC DESIGN OF FOUR MILE BEACH USE AREA

NORTH ↑

NO SCALE



## Buffer Zone

The Four Mile Beach use area facilities will be located on lands that are currently void of permanent vegetation. Therefore, this site is exposed to coastal winds and directly affected by adjacent agricultural activities. Planting and earth grading in a large buffer zone (200 feet minimum width) will be established to mitigate these problems. Adequate wind control can be attained through proper use of berms, mounds, and plant material. These windbreaks can effectively eliminate uncomfortable coastal breezes in the campground area.

Plants have the potential of helping to abate gaseous, particulate, and odoriferous air pollutants. The proposed buffer zone may provide natural atmospheric purification of agricultural chemicals.

Native plant material will be used in the buffer zone and use areas to create a natural appearance.

## Vehicular Circulation

An entrance road and formalized railroad crossing will be constructed to allow safe access to and from the use area. An entrance station kiosk with a turnaround and parking spaces for a few vehicles will be placed along this entrance road.

Currently beach users park their vehicles along Highway 1, a hazardous and unsightly situation. A day-use parking lot accommodating 113 vehicles and 3 buses will be located south of the railroad tracks and west of the Four Mile Beach wetlands. Not only will this off-street parking be safer, but with screen planting, it will not be visible from either the beach or Highway 1.

## Access for the Disabled

To make Four Mile Beach accessible to the disabled, a paved path will lead down the bluff to a comfort station. A portable path/ramp could lead from the termination of the paved path to the mean high tide level. All or just portions of this ramp may be installed during the main use season, then removed to prevent winter storm damage.

## Sanitation Facilities

Adequate numbers of trash receptacles will be supplied at the parking lot, restrooms, and on the beach. This will relieve the existing litter problem which has plagued Four Mile Beach for years. A comfort station/dressing room will be constructed for day users along the entrance path at the foot of the bluff. Outdoor showers would also be appropriate at this location.

A trailer dump station will be installed near the kiosk.

## Facilities for Scuba Divers

Divers' gear washing facilities should be provided at Four Mile Beach comfort station. To make access to the downcoast Three Mile Beach and the Strawberry Beach underwater areas more convenient, hand carts for carrying equipment will be allowed on the trails, or vehicle delivery to a dropoff area will be allowed on a special use permit basis only.

### Wetlands Protection

The portions of the Four Mile Beach wetlands now under cultivation will be restored to their natural condition.

Fencing, ditching, signing, and screen planting may all be used to prevent people from entering the wetlands. These wetlands have been abused in recent years. Although they are not as significant as the wetlands being set aside as a natural preserve at Wilder Beach, every effort will be made to manage and protect them in accordance with the policies of the 1976 Coastal Act and the Resource Element.

### Four Mile Beach Campground

A 120-unit campground will be located just west of Four Mile Beach and wetlands on the first marine terrace. This is the only location being considered feasible for coastal camping along the nearly five miles of ocean frontage. To help satisfy some of the demonstrated need for coastal camping, this campground will be intensely developed at a rate of 8 sites per acre. The campground will be supplied with a comfort station/combination building, and each campsite will include a picnic table, cook stove, food locker, and tent pad. No utility hookups will be provided, though a trailer dump station will be placed near the exit of the Four Mile Beach use area.

### Other Area Beaches

Though Four Mile Beach is the main beach use area, there are three other beaches being opened for public use. Upcoast there is a beach which consists of a series of three fingerlike coves (pocket beaches); downcoast from Four Mile Beach are Three Mile Beach and the smaller Strawberry Beach. The only access to these beaches is by foot trail. It is the department's intent that all three beaches be retained in their natural and primitive state.

### Uplands Staging Area at Lower Baldwin Canyon

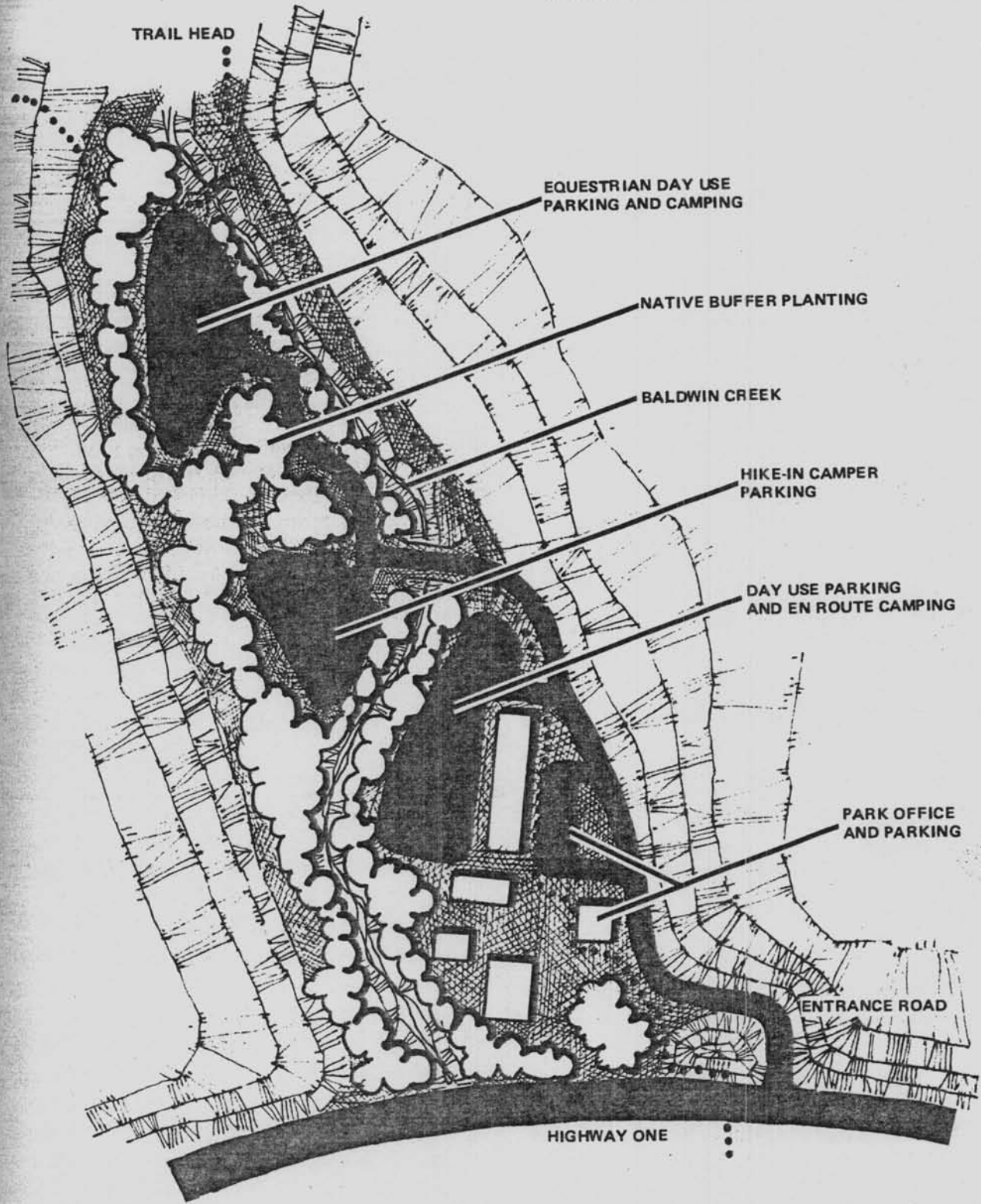
The Staging Area at Lower Baldwin Canyon will be the starting point for Wilder Ranch uplands users. Day-use hikers, hiking campers, and all equestrian users will enter the uplands use area at this point, leaving their vehicles here, and beginning their journey on foot or horseback. The following facilities and facilities design criteria are proposed for the uplands staging area.



### Vehicular Circulation

The existing entrance road into the site will be improved by developing better sight distance at the entrance, widening the lanes, and realigning the road to produce safer turning radiuses. Bus stops for uplands use will be sited on the highway adjacent to the Lower Baldwin Canyon Uplands staging area entrance road.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
OF  
LOWER BALDWIN CANYON  
UPLANDS STAGING AREA  
NORTH ↑ NO SCALE





### Visitor Control Point and Orientation

A visitor contact station will be located in the existing equipment barn adjacent to the entrance road. This barn will be renovated and will also house the park administration office and restrooms with showers. The facility will provide visitor orientation for the various forms of recreational activities to be administered from this point.

### Baldwin Dairy Ranch

The Baldwin Dairy Ranch complex dates back to the same era as the Wilder Ranch. Though the Wilder Ranch complex will receive the main interpretive emphasis at Wilder Ranch State Park, some interpretation of dairy ranching will take place here. To whatever extent possible, most of the existing structures will be saved because of their interesting visual character.

### Day-Use Parking for Hikers

A paved parking lot for the convenience of day-use hikers will be located between Baldwin Creek and the existing cow barn. There will be space in the lot for 26 vehicles and a bus. Hikers will follow a foot trail along the east side of the creek to the uplands.

### Enroute Camping at Day-Use Parking Lot

An enroute camping area is needed to help reduce the unauthorized vehicle camping along the highway that is prevalent in this part of the coast. It is possible to use the proposed day-use parking lot for enroute camping if campers are limited to a single night's stay, and come in after normal day-use hours and leave early in the morning, before day-use activities begin. It is suggested that each enroute camping vehicle be allowed to occupy two day-use parking spaces; this would give the camping area a capacity of 13 vehicles. Several picnic tables will be provided between the parking lot and the creek for these campers' convenience. Restrooms with showers will be available in the renovated equipment barn.

### Equestrian Staging Area

The proposed equestrian staging area is a very specialized facility which is best segregated from other general public use areas. For this reason, it will be sited at the northernmost end of the Lower Baldwin Canyon area. Vehicle traffic into the area will be limited to equestrian users. All day-use pedestrian traffic will be on the opposite side of Baldwin Creek, thereby eliminating foot traffic through the equestrian parking area. Specialized equipment such as hitching racks and watering troughs will be provided. Vehicle circulation and parking will be designed to accommodate truck and trailer rigs. Also, for the convenience of equestrian users, picnic tables will be placed around the perimeter of the staging area.

As with day-use parking, the equestrian staging area will be built for both day and overnight use. This gives the equestrian users the option of using the park for several days without having to shuttle their rigs back and forth each day.

The equestrian staging area parking lot will provide parking spaces for 20 vehicles with trailers.

### Hike-In Camper Parking

An area will be set aside for uplands campers' vehicles between the equestrian staging area and day-use parking lot, providing a large buffer between these two use areas. The campers can leave their vehicles here for the extent of their stay. The parking lot will have spaces for 48 vehicles as well as a bus drop-off zone. Certain security measures may need to be taken to protect these unattended vehicles from vandalism and theft.

At this embarkation point to the uplands area, an interpretive shelter will provide information on the marine terrace environment, with emphasis on vegetation and animal types, geology, and hazards.

### Administrative Facilities

This location is an important visitor control point for Lower Baldwin Canyon and the nearby Four Mile Beach use area; therefore, security staff housing will be required. Though the existing ranch house will be used for security staff housing, there may be a need for an additional residence. Any new structures must be architecturally in character with the Baldwin Ranch complex, or screen from visitor use areas.

### Majors Creek Use Area

Two campgrounds are proposed for development in this portion of the uplands. Each have a different environmental setting and each will offer a different type of camping experience. As with many other elements of this plan, the department is attempting to meet a wide range of user needs.



### Vehicular Circulation

An entrance road will need to be constructed. This will be the only vehicle access into the uplands (other than service roads). The road will be paved, but should be kept to a minimum size with limited site grading to maintain a low profile in the environmental setting. Earthtone paving material would be appropriate for all hard surfaces installed in the uplands.

An entrance station kiosk will be located at the 300-foot elevation level just below the Marine Terrace campground. Parking and a vehicle turnaround will also be provided at this location.

### Parking Lot

A 25-vehicle parking lot, including 2 bus spaces, will be located on the northern side of the Marine Terrace campground for users of the Majors Creek walk-in campground.

### Marine Terrace Campground

The Marine Terrace campground will be a 130-unit campground of the loop-and-spur design. Since this is a 30-acre parcel, the density will be 6.5 campsites per acre, which is considered average for this type of development.

Each camp spur will include a parking space, picnic table, cook stove, food locker, and tent pad. Comfort stations/combo buildings will also be provided.

This site is now grassland and open to the coastal winds; therefore, prior to development, extensive plantings must be established. Native plant materials will be used to provide a dense understory and comfortable tree canopy, as well as a natural appearance. It might be appropriate to first mass plant the area, then come back at the time of construction and simply clear out what is not desired.

#### Majors Creek Walk-In Campground

Access to the Majors Creek campground will be by foot trail only. The concept behind this design is to provide a natural resource-oriented camping experience for those people who cannot use hike-in campgrounds. These people may be physically unable to hike great distances or simply not equipped to do so. In either case, they are normally confined to a vehicle-oriented campground.

The distance between the parking lot, located adjacent to the Marine Terrace campground and to the walk-in campground, will be approximately 670 meters (less than 0.5 mile) with an elevation change of 24 meters (78.7 feet). The average slope will be 3.5 percent, making it a relatively comfortable walk. Moreover, through proper design and maintenance, the campground and trails leading to and from it will be accessible to orthopedically disabled persons.

An interpretive shelter with information on Majors Creek geology and ecosystems will be located at the beginning of the foot trail that leads from the parking areas to the campground.

Because parking will be located outside the canyon, the natural environment of Majors Creek will not be interrupted by the sights and sounds of the automobile or recreational vehicle.

Majors Creek covers 8 acres and only 30 campsites are being proposed. The result is a very low density of 3.8 sites per acre. The campground will be supplied with a comfort station/combo building, and each campsite will include a tent pad, cook stove, picnic table, and food lockers.

#### Uplands Camp Center Use Area

The Uplands Camp Center is a focal point for all uplands users. This facility should be considered the heart of the Wilder Ranch uplands property. The trails system supplies access from the parking lots to this camp center; then from the camp center the trails radiate out to the hike-in campgrounds.



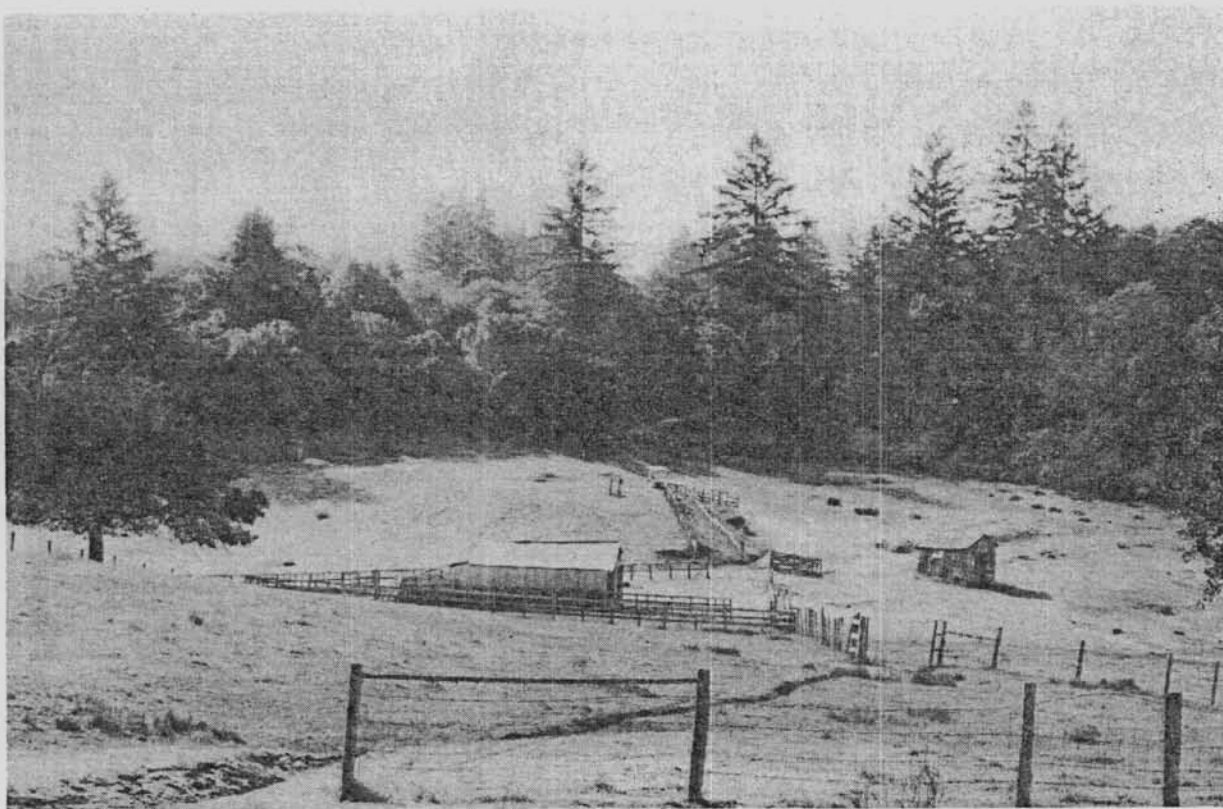
#### Camp Center

The Uplands Camp Center will consist of the following features and facilities:

- o Existing shed and barn with corral
- o A comfort station/combo building, which will be architecturally in character with the ranch theme

- o Connected to the combination building, a cook structure and covered eating area which will include:
  - Sinks with running water
  - Cookstoves or barbecues
  - Food preparation counters
  - Trash receptacles
  - Sit-down eating space for a minimum of 90 people
- o Six outdoor picnic tables with barbecues
- o An outdoor assembly area and level open space
- o An existing, one lane, all-weather road (to be used for service/emergency access)

The structures can be used for protection in inclement weather.



The camp center is meant to satisfy the needs of day and overnight users alike. The day user will find this facility conveniently located for day hikes. Having this rest stop on a day hike will encourage more families, school classes, and organized groups to walk in the uplands of Wilder Ranch State Park, seeing sights they might not otherwise have had the opportunity to enjoy.

Though the camp center will accommodate the needs of day hiker and individual/family camper, heavy emphasis will be placed on group camper use and its special needs because this park is located near a large urban area that has few group-oriented campgrounds.



The Wilder Ranch camp center and accompanying hike-in campgrounds are particularly suitable to group camping use for the following reasons:

- o The five surrounding campgrounds are in easy hiking distance.
- o Supplies can be delivered to the area, thereby accommodating longer stays. (One service vehicle per group will be allowed to bring in supplies.)
- o The all-weather service road provides emergency access to the camp center. (Each group will be allowed to retain one vehicle at the site for emergency use.)
- o Large cooking facilities and eating areas are ideally suited for group meals.
- o The camp center can also be used in between meals as an assembly area and outdoor classroom.
- o The open spaces surrounding the camp center structures can be used for organized activities.
- o Parking facilities for hike-in camper buses will be provided adjacent to the maintenance yard.

#### Five Hike-in Campgrounds

Each campground location has been chosen to take advantage of the variety of the natural and scenic qualities of Wilder Ranch's uplands property. These primitive camps will have a minimum of facilities and be designed to fit into the natural setting, with little or no site disturbance. Other than clearing vegetation to delineate campsites, the only proposed facilities will be portable comfort stations and fire pits or camping stoves. Water will be supplied where it is feasible.

The number of individual sites per camp and the design capacity are as follows:

(Upper Baldwin Creek) Camp - one family site, or 30 group users.

(Upper Corral) Camp - eight family sites, or 64 group users.

(Hidden Oaks) Camp - four family sites, or 80 group users.

(Horseshoe) Camp - 13 family sites, or 104 group users.

(Big Meadow) Camp - 10 family sites, or 80 group users.

Though each campground can accommodate any kind of overnight user, the first three camps listed are particularly well suited for group camping because they are closer to the camp center than the other sites.

These five campgrounds have been placed in what the staff considers the most appropriate locations. However, because there are so many good potential campground sites in the uplands, it may be desirable to relocate some of them, or even rotate their use. For example, a site 100 meters (328 feet) west of the camp center would be easily accessible to orthopedically disabled persons, if a demand for such a facility should be demonstrated. If there should be a need for accommodating very large groups of campers, one of the many meadows could be used for short periods of time. Any such change must be approved by the Development, Resource Preservation and Interpretation, and Operations divisions.

## Hostel

The California State Park System Coast Hostel Facilities Plan's objectives are to provide basic, safe, sanitary, and attractive overnight facilities that will accommodate recreation travelers for a limited time at reasonable costs.

The system of overnight accommodations will be designed with special emphasis placed on access by nonmotorized travelers, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians, but facilities will also be available to individuals who arrive in motorized vehicles. Special attention will be given to recreation corridors and sites possessing greatest scenic, historic, cultural, and recreational potentials.



At Wilder Ranch the hostel will be constructed at the Four Mile Beach use area, on the entrance road between Highway 1 and the railroad. This site offers hostelers good access to both the wooded uplands and the sandy beach, and is adjacent to a recommended bus stop. Locating the hostel here will not have an adverse impact on any natural or cultural resources of the park. The site has good scenic qualities, but some planting will be needed to screen the facility from the nearby highway. Fortunately, the proposed landscaping of the campground and day-use area will enhance the esthetics of the hostel area and buffer it from agricultural activities.

The hostel could be constructed prior to other facilities at Four Mile Beach use area. Utilities are close at hand and only minimal improvements to the entry road would be required. Plans now call for an 80-bed structure, but development will probably be phased with early stages accommodating smaller numbers.

Some aspects of such development that should be considered are:

1. A van-type vehicle would be useful to shuttle hostelers to and from Santa Cruz when bus service is not available. (Such a service is provided at many other hostels.)
2. The hostel will need some buffering from the adjacent agricultural fields.
3. Landscaping for wind protection as well as screening from the highway for visual and noise reasons will be required.
4. Adequate vehicular parking for visitors as well as hostel employees should be provided.
5. Space for interpretive displays should be provided in a central location.

## OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES

A number of support facilities are required to operate and administer any State Park System unit. But because of Wilder Ranch State Park's many and varied land uses and visitors' activities, the required support facilities here are particularly numerous and specialized. For example, there are at least four different kinds of trails to be maintained and ten different campground locations to be administered.

The department's operational and administrative facilities at Wilder Ranch will consist of maintenance shops and yards, staff housing, and park operation offices.

### Maintenance Shops and Yards

The maintenance yard will be located just off Dimeo Lane, sandwiched between the City of Santa Cruz's sanitation landfill and the sand quarry operation. There are a number of reasons this site is well suited for a maintenance facility:



- o This area is unsuited for visitor-oriented activities because of its location between two undesirable land uses, the landfill and sand quarry. Since the public will not visit this area, the maintenance facility will not have an adverse visual impact.
- o This site is centrally located in the state park unit and is easily accessible from Highway 1.
- o A one-lane road leads from Dimeo Lane into the uplands of Wilder Ranch State Park. This is the only all-weather access into the upper reaches of the ranch, providing maintenance personnel quick and easy access.

There exist private lands and structures adjacent to the proposed maintenance yard location which could be used as a maintenance center. This group of structures, if acquired, could be put into operation with only minimum improvements. These private lands and structures should be considered as a viable alternative to the proposed maintenance center location.

The facility itself would consist of storage of outdoor equipment and supplies, service yards, repair shops, covered storage areas, and maintenance staff offices. Almost all unit maintenance will either occur at this point or be administered from here.

Because it might be visible from vantage points at higher elevations, this facility should be appropriately mass planted to screen it from other use areas in the park.

Secondary or specialized maintenance shops and storage could be developed in other locations in the unit. These satellite shops could supply day-to-day maintenance needs more conveniently when located adjacent to the facility or activity requiring maintenance support. The satellite shops should be kept to a minimum and not be intrusive on the visitor use areas or cultural zones.

A ten-bus parking lot will be located adjacent to the maintenance yard. The main purpose of this lot will be to provide spaces for group campers' buses, but the area could also serve as an overflow lot for general day-use visitors' buses.

#### Staff Housing

Most staff will be housed on site, generally in existing residences located at various points in the unit.

For security reasons, staff housing should be included at the following locations: Lower Baldwin Creek and Four Mile Beach areas, the Wilder Ranch area, and the maintenance and shop yard.

Adequate consideration must be given to the selection of any staff housing. The department must be responsible to the park visitors and their perceptions and enjoyment of the state park unit. A staff residence should not be intrusive on or detract from the natural and cultural resources being presented.

Most farm lessees have already relocated off the state park property. Those farm lessees still remaining will be encouraged to relocate. The houses thus vacated could then serve as residences for department staff.

The Department of Parks and Recreation will also work with the Santa Cruz Housing Authority to develop new farm labor housing in order to eliminate the existing substandard labor housing at various locations in the state park.

If any new houses are required, they will be constructed so as to be architecturally in character with existing ranch/farm housing, or will be completely screened from all public use areas including trails, parking lots, and Highway 1.

One location considered appropriate for clustered staff housing is located between the Wilder Ranch complex parking lot and sand quarry inholdings. This area is presently used for housing and would require a minimum reduction in the row crop fields. It is also removed from public use areas and visually buffered.

#### Park Offices

A total of six park offices are proposed. They are:

- Entrance kiosk for Wilder Ranch Complex and trails in that area
- Entrance kiosk for Four Mile Beach area
- Entrance kiosk for Marine Terrace Campground and Majors Creek Campground
- Visitor orientation/park administration office at Lower Baldwin Canyon
- Visitor orientation/park administration office at Wilder Ranch complex
- Maintenance staff office at maintenance shop/yards off Dimeo Road

The entrance kiosks and maintenance office have been described on pages 53, 55, 58, and 59 respectively.



The visitor orientation/park administration office at Lower Baldwin Canyon will be located in the Baldwin Ranch complex. This complex consists of several old buildings -- a house, a creamery, a shed, and two barns. The park office will be placed in an equipment barn that is adjacent to the proposed entrance road. This structure will have to be renovated, but the character of the building will be retained inside and out to keep the general old ranch atmosphere. The outside dimensions and architecture will remain the same and high, exposed beam ceilings in the interior will retain the "barn" feeling.

The lower Baldwin Canyon office will be the chief office of the park and will include:

- o Administrative office space for Wilder Ranch State Park
- o Lobby and information counter for visitor services
- o Restroom facilities (with showers for overnight users)
- o Entrance station contact point on east side of the structure, facing the entrance road

A secondary visitor service office will be located in the Wilder Ranch complex. This office will provide the administrative and visitor orientation needs for the historic ranch, interpretive programs, and dairy museum (see page 67).

#### INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

A brief summary of the proposed interpretive program at this state park is given here. For more detailed information and descriptions of the proposed interpretive development, see the Wilder Ranch State Park Interpretive Prospectus, dated October 1979, located in the department's Central Files.

#### Interpretive Themes

Interpretive efforts will focus on the cultural resources relating to the history of the region, the Wilder Ranch, and the dairy industry in California. The department intends to interpret the flow of history at Wilder Ranch State Park. The primary theme of interpretation will be the history of dairying in California. Because Wilder Ranch is one of many family dairies on the California coast, it is an appropriate place for the interpretation of the California dairy industry.

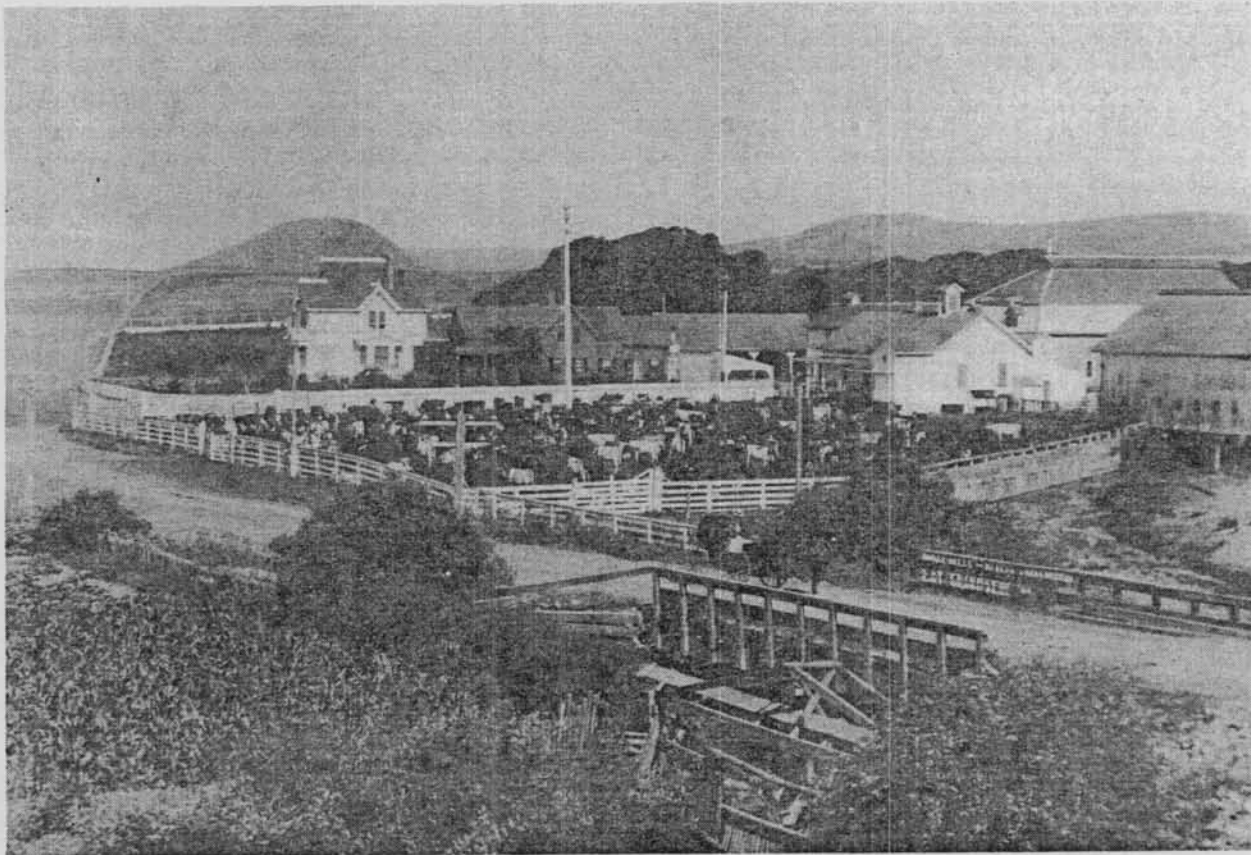
One secondary theme will be interpretation of the history of the Wilder Ranch and surrounding region. Most of the ranch complex is still intact, providing the department with a unique opportunity to present an accurate picture of what it was like on a ranch of this era. In addition to this, the existing Bolcoff Adobe and the Native American archeological sites can be used to interpret the flow of history of this area.

Another secondary theme will be interpretation of the various natural resources of the state park. Many of the unusual natural features at the park could be interpreted along foot trails leading from the Wilder Ranch area parking lot, including the cliff retreat due to coastline erosion, the fern grotto, the seal haul-out rock, and the often spectacular spring wildflower show.

## Methods and Media

Broad, diverse interpretive methods and media will be employed at the historic ranch complex and elsewhere in the state park. At the Wilder Ranch Complex, interpretive displays and panels, brochures, and books should be made available to the park visitor, as well as guided tours, house museums, demonstrations and hands-on experience, environmental living programs, and appropriate concessions developments. This would all be done in an effort to enrich the visitor's enjoyment and understanding of the chosen interpretive themes.

The rest of the park will be much less intensively interpreted. Self-guided trails will be the main method of interpretation. Panels and interpretive shelters will be used as low profile orientation devices at trailheads and points of entry into the park. There may be a nature interpretive center developed at the trailhead for the nature interpretive trails if future visitor demand justifies it. At places where facilities permit, there will be campfire programs and guided nighttime interpretive walks.



## Interpretation Programs at Specific Sites

### The Wilder Ranch Complex

The Wilder Ranch Complex buildings are divided into groups that will provide interpretive services centered around particular themes: the California Dairy Museum group, the Residential House Museum group, the Farm/Ranch Animal Demonstration group, and the Environmental Living/Demonstration group.

- o California Dairy Museum Group

In the reconstructed 1880 creamery building, audio-visual presentations and artifact displays will create a clear picture of the history of the California dairy industry. The interior of the cow barn will be renovated to enable the park visitor to see how cows were handled and milked. This barn will also house some of the larger dairy artifacts and displays. Guided tours and demonstrations will be particularly interesting to school age children by providing them with "hands on" learning experiences, with both animals and the tools used to produce dairy products.

- o Residential House Museum Group

The 1896 Victorian residence will be presented as a house museum. The Victorian, in contrast to the rough and utilitarian nature of the 1870 ranch house, will be presented in a manner that depicts its refined and stylish character. Since there are virtually no original furnishings available, the department will acquire appropriate pieces of the period, as funding permits, to recreate the interior scenes. Guided tours through the house will enable the department to present the subtleties of life on the ranch during the turn of the century.

The Bolcoff Adobe will be restored, though not to its original dimensions since it may have occupied the same space as the Victorian home. This is the oldest structure on the property, and as such can serve a dual function: first as a house museum with furnishings of its period and, secondly, as a point of interpretation for the pre-1848 history of this area.

- o Farm/Ranch Animal Demonstration Group

The carriage/horse barn, built in 1891 and now the most prominent building at the ranch, together with the granary and adjacent corrals, provides still another focus of attention. Typical ranch animals such as cows, horses, chickens and other fowl, sheep, goats, and possibly hogs should be on display in this area. One demonstration considered particularly important to the Wilder Ranch would be milking cows. A few cows of various dairy breeds could be kept, and milked, at the ranch.

- o Environmental Living/Demonstration Group

The spatial and functional relationships of the 1870 ranch house, machine and blacksmith shops, upstairs bunkhouse, and the equipment shed are ideally suited for housing an environmental living program. The buildings could be used for eating and sleeping functions, as well as activities including cooking, creating period crafts, and working in the shops.

An environmental living program should be developed to allow children the opportunity to live in the ranch buildings for a short time to experience what life was like on a typical ranch/dairy farm at the end of the nineteenth century. The machine and blacksmith shops could be restored, using water power and Pelton wheels now existing on the ranch. Water was used to provide power in these buildings before the 1880s. Demonstrations in these work areas could illustrate not only how the ranch was once powered by water, but also how the tools were made at the time. A restored farm kitchen in the 1870 residence could use the wood-burning stove and old methods of food preparation for the environmental living program and other ranch lifestyle demonstrations.



As staffing permits, a kitchen garden could be planted and maintained adjacent to the 1870 ranch house, and used for interpretive and demonstration purposes both in the environmental living and other programs. This garden should strive to re-create with as much authenticity as possible the ambience of the kind of garden which could have existed between 1880 and 1895 in this location. It should be no larger in size than any garden planted within the ranch complex during this period which provided food for the ranch people. It should contain only those species of plants that were commonly planted during that period in this region. The methods of gardening and the tools that were used in the late nineteenth century should be faithfully reproduced, as well as the dress of the people tending the garden. Furthermore, only as many people should be involved in caring for the garden as would have been typical during the period in question. The food produced by the garden should be used only for demonstrations for interpreting the ranch to the public.

- o Other interpretive services provided in the Wilder Ranch area will include walking tours, one interpreting the coastal natural resources and the other the uplands resources. The natural preserve will be presented from an overlook on the adjacent coastal bluffs. Brochures will aid the visitor in the understanding and appreciation of this sensitive area. Further along this trail, the fern grotto and seal haul-out rock will be interpreted. Because of the sensitive nature of the coastal interpretive trail, it will be either a ranger-guided tour or ranger-patrolled trail to provide necessary visitor control.

The uplands interpretive trail will be a self-guided tour of many of Wilder Ranch State Park's scenic and visual qualities. In addition, the historic water system, which supplied water to the Pelton wheels on the ranch, can be interpreted.

#### Natural Preserve

Interpretation of the natural preserve will be provided mainly by the interpretive shelter at the parking area (or a possible future nature interpretive center, if demand warrants it), though it may be supplemented by brochures and other printed material or guided tours, as staffing permits. Emphasis should be put on the fragility of the area, its changes over time, how its different ecosystems relate to one another, and particularly interesting species to be found there, such as the snowy plovers and the harbor seals. As funding permits, small shelters or blinds for wildlife observation should be constructed on the bluffs overlooking the preserve and the seal haul-out rock.

#### Lower Baldwin Canyon

Interpretation of cultural resources at Lower Baldwin Canyon will be secondary to the area's natural and recreational resources, though park visitors should be given the opportunity to view and read about the old cow barn and creamery. Interpretive panels located near these structures could fulfill this function. The interpretive shelter at the trailhead to the uplands will stress the natural environment with particular attention to the marine terrace formations, the naturally-occurring macadam on the terraces, the vegetation mosaic, the role of fire in maintaining vegetation patterns, and common animal species found in this area. One display should deal exclusively with the hazards of poison oak. Literature supplementing all of these subjects should be available in the visitor contact station at Lower Baldwin Canyon.



### Four Mile Beach Use Area

The Four Mile Beach use area has many features that require some interpretation, including the beach and coves, the coastal bluffs and headlands, nearby wetlands, the underwater resources, the agricultural activities on the coastal terrace, coastal erosion, and beach formation. Tidal and current movements should be especially stressed for recreational safety. All of these subjects could be touched upon in panels and other displays in the interpretive shelters. The campfire programs could provide more detailed treatment of specific topics for those wishing more information.

### Majors Creek Use Area

Interpretive services in this area should be oriented to the overnight user. The interpretive shelter should include exhibits treating the geology of the canyon and the plant and animal associations found within it. The hazards of poison oak should also be included. Campfire programs and nighttime interpretive walks could supplement the graphic treatment of these subjects and provide more detail, thereby enhancing the camper's appreciation of the state park.

### Hostel

Interpretive exhibits at the hostel at Wilder Ranch State Park should provide thorough overview of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the state park. The contrast and relation of coastal and upland ecosystems should be explained, as well as some of the unusual natural features found in the state park. Some interpretive panels should be devoted to the Wilder Ranch complex, showing what educational and recreational opportunities are available to park visitors there. Brochures for the interpretive trails should be available. The various recreation areas within the unit should be indicated on a map and natural or historic features found there explained to hostel users. The importance of the agricultural activities on the coastal terraces and the methods used should also be included in the hostel interpretive exhibits.

## CARRYING CAPACITY

The allowable use intensity analysis provided in the Resource Element (see page 36) guided the planners in determining the type, location, and intensity of developments. When deciding on the types of facilities to be proposed, considerations such as the classification limitations, user needs and recreational deficiencies, and operational requirements had to be considered in light of the allowable use and intensity specified for each area before final site selection could be determined.

During the process of site selection, field investigations were carried out by a team of development and resource management staff, in accordance with the procedure indicated in the Resource Element, page 13. Sensitive areas were avoided as much as possible, but sometimes design factors indicated an overall suitability of a site despite some problems that would have to be dealt with. For example, the old coast highway lies in an area designated for low use, but it offers the best and most appropriate access to the proposed Wilder Ranch complex. In any area where the design capacity level of use exceeded the allowable use intensity, it was determined what mitigations would be required to permit the higher use intensity. In every case standard measures can be taken to provide appropriate mitigation. These specific measures will be an integral part of development implementation.

The preferred design capacity (actual carrying capacity to be permitted) identifies a particular level or intensity of use that will satisfy the department's resource management requirements as well as park users' needs and desires. Typically, the design capacity is well below the allowable use intensity level defined in the Resource Element in order to offer visitors a recreational experience of the highest quality.

Table 5 shows the preferred design capacities for the chief uses and areas in the park.

Table 5

PREFERRED INSTANTANEOUS DESIGN CAPACITY  
(Total Number of Park Users at Any Given Time by Use and Site)

USE	AREA	PREFERRED INTENSITY	* INSTANTANEOUS DESIGN CAPACITY	
Historical Interpretation	Wilder Ranch Complex	N/A	100	
	California Dairy Museum	N/A	85	
Beach Related Activities	Pocket Beaches	1 user/4.5 linear meters	46	
	Four Mile Beach	1 user/2.9 linear meters	384	
	Three Mile Beach	1 user/3 linear meters	46	
	Strawberry Beach	1 user/4.5 linear meters	20	
Trails	Coastal Hiking Trails	Group of 3 users/270 meters	135	
	Uplands Hiking Trails	Group of 3 users/1350 meters	105	
	Equestrian/Hiking Trails	Group of 2 users/740	40	
	Coastal Interpretive Trails	Group of 3.8 users/90 meters	92	
	Uplands Interpretive Trails	Group of 3 users/180	51	
Overnight Activities	Four Mile Beach Campground	4.1 users/site	492	
	Majors Creek "Walk-in" Campground	3.8 users/site	114	
	Marine Terrace Campground	4.1 users/site	533	
	Equestrian Overnight Parking	2 users/site	40	
	En-Route Overnight Parking	3 users/site	39	
	Camp Center with Hike-in Campgrounds	Upper Baldwin Creek Camp	3.3 users/site or Max. of 30 Group users	30
		Upper Corral Camp	3.3 users/site or Max. of 64 Group users	64
		Hidden Oaks Camp	3.3 users/site or Max. of 80 Group users	80
		Horseshoe Camp	3.3 users/site or Max. of 104 Group users	104
		Big Meadow Camp	3.3 users/site or Max. of 80 Group users	80
	Hostel	80 Beds (fewer beds in early phase of development)	80	

\* Note: Because a single park user will most likely participate in more than one activity during each visit, the sum total of the design capacity figures will be artificially inflated; therefore, these figures cannot be added to obtain the total number of park users.

To determine the size of each parking lot, the following information was used:

Design capacity (total number of users).

Group size (average number of persons per car).

By dividing the design capacity by the average group size, the total number of parking spaces was obtained.

In an effort to encourage alternative modes of transportation, the total number required parking spaces were reduced by 25 percent and replaced with bus parking and/or bus stops. We realize that certain park visitors are not likely to use mass transit, such as equestrian users and some campers, but we hope day users and hike-in campers will consider alternative means of transportation. See Transportation Section (page 74) for more details.

#### Preferred Design Capacity for Parking Facilities

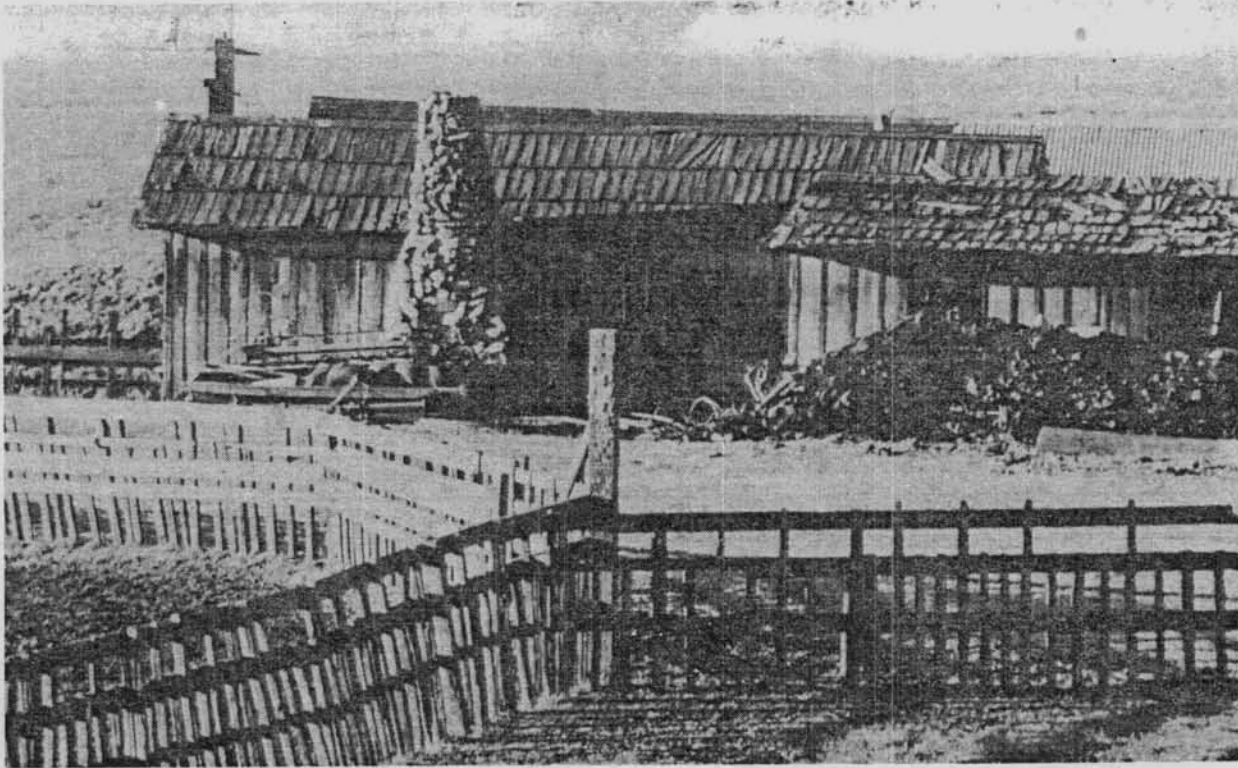
<u>Design capacity of parking lots</u>	<u>Standard Vehicles</u>	<u>Buses</u>
Wilder Ranch Use area	74	4
Four Mile Beach use area	113	3
Lower Baldwin Canyon/uplands staging area	94	1
Group camper bus parking		10
Majors Creek walk-in camp- ground parking	23	2
<u>Hostel parking</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>22</u>

It is imperative that these recommended design capacities be carefully monitored, studied, and adjusted whenever necessary to maintain the integrity of the resources and a quality experience for the park users.

#### APPROPRIATE FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION

All discussions regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only and are not a commitment for acquisition.

Priorities should be given to developing a park with manageable property boundaries. Typical park ownership patterns should include watershed boundaries. Private ownership often uses stream center lines for boundary purposes; however, experience has shown watershed boundaries are more suitable for park purposes. Watershed boundaries would include the stream, as well as the steep canyon walls, as part of the watershed. Additionally, typical park ownership should include key vantage points overlooking prime resource areas. A good example of the lack of this ownership pattern now exists at Natural Bridges State Beach where the adjacent mobile homes overlook the small Natural Bridges Beach area. Valuable additions to a state park could include important natural or cultural resources adjacent to a unit as well as trail connections to other public properties.



Upon cessation of the sand quarry and sanitary landfill operations, it would be in the department's best interest to acquire these inholdings. In the case of the landfill, however, the present operator has primary responsibility for maintaining and monitoring necessary environmental quality standards.

If and when a decision is made to acquire lands to add to Wilder Ranch State Park, the following priorities should be followed.

- 1) First Priority:
  - a) Lands possessing cultural or natural resources that are threatened with destruction
  - b) Transfer of State School Lands to Department of Parks and Recreation ownership
  - c) Lands required to implement early phase developments (see Sequence of Plan Implementation, page 75).
- 2) Second Priority
  - a) Private lands subject to trespass by park users
  - b) Lands that would provide needed trail connection and key vantage points
- 3) Third Priority
  - a) Inholdings
  - b) Lands with scenic, natural, or cultural values that would be good additions to the park



## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation was a prime factor in developing this General Plan. Both the type and mix of transportation on-site, as well as the traffic generated off-site, were considered in the planning of the park unit.

Vehicle use in the park has been restricted; walking and hiking will be the mode of travel used by most park visitors. However, vehicles will be allowed to reach the parking staging areas clustered near Highway 1 at Wilder Ranch, Four Mile Beach, and Lower Baldwin Canyon use areas and at the Marine Terrace campground.

Visitors are expected to use a mix of transportation systems to reach the park. Hikers and equestrians may use the extensive Santa Cruz Mountains trail system that is being developed by the department. The proposed equestrian trailhead at Lower Baldwin Canyon will serve these equestrian visitors. Bicyclists will use the Bicentennial Bike Route along Highway 1. It is planned that at least 25 percent of the park visitors will arrive at the site via bus. To encourage this transportation mode, two main bus stops are designed -- one at the Wilder Ranch use area and one at the Four Mile Beach/Baldwin Canyon use area. Hostel users will have a van-type vehicle for transportation as well as bus service. (The proposed hostel is located adjacent to a recommended bus stop.) The rest of the park visitors will use private vehicles or chartered buses to reach the park. Bus parking or bus drop-off zones are provided at each use area.

Of particular concern to the local residents in the planning of Wilder Ranch is traffic on Mission Street (State Highway 1). This frequently congested artery provides the only link between the City of Santa Cruz and Wilder Ranch. The California Department of Transportation has been studying traffic on State Highway 1 and has offered a number of possible solutions to the City of Santa Cruz for consideration.

## UTILITIES

### Water

A variety of water sources exist at Wilder Ranch State Park. There are numerous springs that could be tapped for campground use on the upper reaches of the park. Three year-round streams flow through the property -- Wilder, Baldwin, and Majors creeks. Wilder Creek supplied water for the Wilder Dairy's hydraulic power system as well as water for irrigation. Baldwin Creek is used for irrigation and Majors Creek supplies some drinking water for the City of Santa Cruz and irrigation water for the agricultural lands. A small dam is located on the upper reaches of Majors Creek, in the park boundary. Water from this dam flows to the City of Santa Cruz via a pipeline located in Majors Canyon and paralleling Highway 1. This pipeline also supplies drinking water to the farm complexes adjacent to the pipeline. The streams as well as the pipeline should be considered for park use when specific projects are planned for the development.

A number of wells are located in the park. The most productive wells, downcoast from the Wilder Ranch complex, supply water for the hydraulic operations at the sand quarry and also for irrigation.

Numerous reservoirs have been constructed on park lands. The reservoirs near the row crop fields are integral links in irrigation systems. Reservoirs on the upper reaches of the park were constructed for livestock with the exception of the two ponds above the Wilder Ranch complex which are part of the historic hydraulic power system.

## Sewage

The park is not serviced by a central sewage system. Currently the various farming complexes use septic leach systems.

Alternative for sewage disposal will be studied at the time of facilities implementations. Most soils in the unit have poor leaching capabilities; a few have moderate leaching capabilities. Options other than leaching will be considered, such as tying into the sewage system of the City of Santa Cruz or using a low water system or vaulting.

## Power

The park has existing electric power sources as well as potential for wind, water, and solar power development. Overhead electric powerlines now service the park property. Where feasible, these lines will be placed underground except where needed for historical interpretation or where such action would adversely affect agricultural operations.

The coastal benchlands are good locations for wind-powered generators. There are frequently strong breezes along this jutting coastal area.

As previously noted, hydraulic power, including electricity generation, has been used in the past and the potential for restoring the system is good.

The potential for developing solar power units is good.

## SEQUENCE OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This general plan provides development guidelines and resource management policies for the following twenty-year period. Because of this long-range scope, it is unlikely that the entire plan will be implemented in one step. It is more likely that the proposals of this plan will be implemented in a series of steps or phases. These phases are usually defined by financial constraints, user health and safety, resource protection, or activity and facility deficiencies.

One way to define the sequence of plan implementation is to assign priorities to each element of the plan, but it is sometimes difficult to place constantly changing priorities together in a single phase. For this reason, the phases suggested here should be considered only as general guidelines; they must be reanalyzed as funding becomes available. Such a procedure will guarantee that each phase will satisfy the highest set of priorities at the time of its implementation.

## Resource Management Priorities

The implementation of resource management programs tend to require a constant and continuing effort on the part of the department. It is extremely difficult to place general resource management policies in order of priority. More appropriately, each case and situation should be individually investigated by qualified department staff to determine its priority.

## Facilities Development Priorities

Proposed activities and facilities have been grouped by priority into phases. The recommended sequence of plan implementation shown in table 6 takes into account existing and future user needs and recreational deficiencies.

## Interpretive Program Priorities

The priorities for development of an interpretive program for the Wilder Ranch complex have been set aside from the rest of the general plan phasing to allow them to be handled separately and independently. The priority phasing is shown in table 7.

Table 6

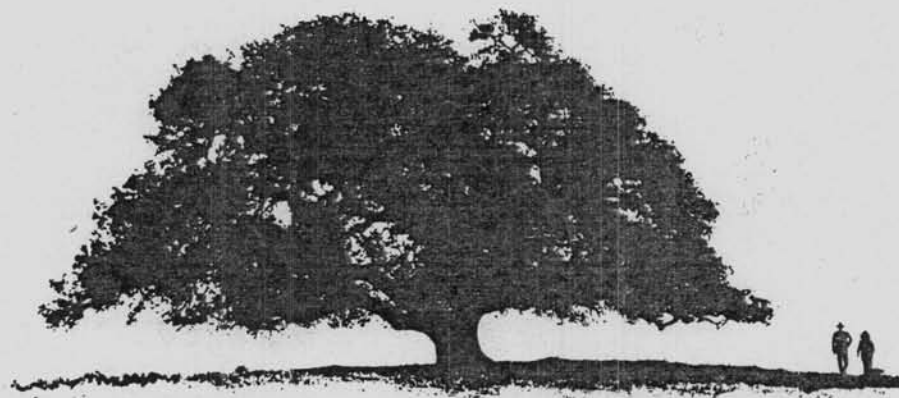
RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF FACILITY IMPLEMENTATION  
(Time Elements of Phases for Facility Development do not  
Necessarily Correspond to Time Elements for Interpretive Program  
Implementation)

Facilities	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Trails		Develop coastal and uplands hiking and interpretive tours and trails	Develop equestrian trail system with connections to Santa Cruz Mtns. Trails System	
Natural Preserve	Establish and manage Natural Preserve			
Wilder Ranch Use Area	Construct parking lot and comfort station  Begin restoration of cow barn, Victorian residence, Bolcoff adobe, carriage/horse barn, granary, ranch house, machine and blacksmith shop, bunkhouse and equipment shed	Complete parking lot and use area facilities (e.g., screen planting, interpretive shelter, kiosk, and entrance road improvements)  Begin reconstruction 1880 creamery		
Four Mile Beach Use Area	Construct entrance road, kiosk, railroad crossing, day-use parking lot, and comfort station  Establish buffer zone planting	Complete day-use facility (parking lot, improved access for disabled, and scuba diver use facilities)	Develop campground	
Lower Baldwin Canyon Uplands Staging Area		Construct entrance road, park office and contact station, parking lot for day-use hikers, hike-in campers, and enroute campers	Construct equestrian staging area, including parking lot and comfort station	
Majors Creek Use Area	Establish mass planting for Marine Terrace campground			Construct entrance road, kiosk, Marine Terrace campground, and Majors Creek parking lot and walk-in campground
Upland Camp Center Use Area		Construct uplands Camp Center and hike-in campgrounds  Construct group camper parking (vans or buses) at maintenance yard; improve service road to Camp Center		
Hostel	Construct hostel			
Operational and Administrative Facilities	Establish appropriate operational facilities and staff proportional to level of park activities and facilities being provided	Continue operational facility and staff improvements	Continue operational facility and staff improvements	Continue operational facility and staff improvements

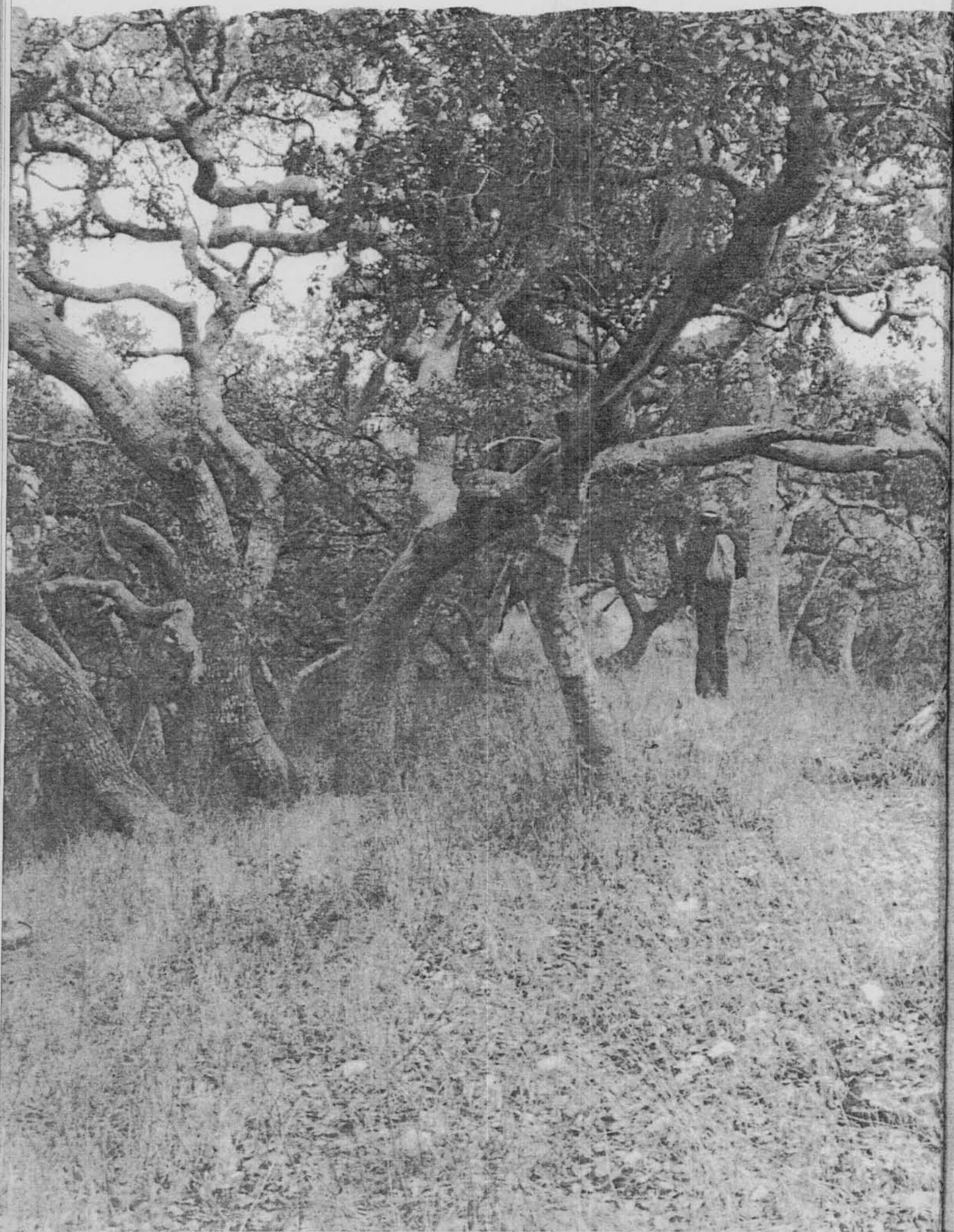
Table 7  
**RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**  
 (Time Elements of Phases for Interpretive Implementation do not  
 Necessarily Correspond to Time Elements of Phases for Facility Development)

Interpretive Facility	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
California Dairy Museum Group	Begin plans for Dairy Museum and 1880 creamery reconstruction	Move dairy artifacts to creamery and dairy barn  Create museum exhibits	
Residential House Museum Group	Begin planning house museum exhibits	Provide minimum public access and interpretation at 1896 House and Bolcoff Adobe	Enlarge house museum displays on a continuing basis
Farm/Ranch Animal Demonstration Group	Care for minimum number of animals  Provide minimum horse barn interpretive displays  Begin planning animal demonstration program	Provide comprehensive animal demonstration program  Use horse barn and granary for original purposes  Begin planning horse barn house museum	Complete horse barn house museum
Environmental Living Program Group	Begin planning interpretive demonstrations  Provide temporary dairy interpretation and visitor orientation in south portion of 1870 ranch house  Provide minimum shop exhibits	Provide demonstrations in shops and farm kitchen  Implement Environmental Living Program	
Other Facilities	Implement campfire interpretive programs  Implement self-guided tours  Implement basic nature interpretive programs	Provide interpretive brochures for all interpretive trails  Provide displays for the interpretive shelters at all major trailheads and park access points	





# OPERATIONS ELEMENT



## OPERATIONS ELEMENT

To ensure the protection of the many natural and cultural resources of the park and to implement the numerous and diverse programs that are proposed, it is essential that adequate operational staff be provided. The excellent technical assistance already carried out will no doubt be continued in the future. Such professional input will be wasted unless field staff is available to carry out the work.

### Visitor Services

Besides the typical visitor services provided at units having hiking, picnicking, beach use, and family style camping, many specialized services will be required at Wilder Ranch State Park.

Heavy emphasis on interpretation at Wilder Ranch will require specialized staffing to implement the proposed interpretive programs there. Guided tours, and talks will be required to operate the house museums, shop displays, and dairy museum; proposed demonstrations, including ranch equipment operation, hydropower system, blacksmithing, and the care and handling of ranch/farm animals, will require trained personnel.

Administering the environmental living program and possible concessions developments in the ranch complex will be an ongoing effort by department staff. The environmental living program will be particularly time-consuming to develop and sustain.

To accommodate these interpretive services the department should encourage development of internships, volunteerism, and docent programs. Interpretive tours, talks, displays, and museums can greatly benefit from volunteer efforts, but the environmental living program and demonstrations must be supported by active docent-type programs to ensure success. Trained staff will be needed to accomplish this.

A second visitor service to be provided at Wilder Ranch State Park that is particularly noteworthy is the administration and operation of the camp center and group camper activities. The uplands hike-in camp facilities have been designed to accommodate organized groups that would not normally be able to enjoy "backpacking" type camping. For this reason the department's field staff will need to provide an extra helping hand for these inexperienced hike-in campers.

### Visitor Control

The department's field staff is indeed responsible for the protection of all of its state parks resources. Of special note at Wilder Ranch State Park are certain natural and cultural resources. These sensitive features are generally in the downcoast portions of the park and include the historic Wilder Ranch buildings and grounds, the natural preserve at Wilder Beach and wetlands, the fern grotto at the old landing cove, the seal haul-out rock, and sand dunes areas. Visitor movement and activities in all of these areas will be controlled to protect these sensitive resources from indiscriminate use.

The department's staff must also protect the park visitor from hazardous areas. Dangerous cliffs are located up and down the coastline as well as along the many drainages in Wilder Ranch State Park. Staff should be trained in cliff rescue and they should continuously survey the cliffs and bluffs to detect any hazardous conditions.



Adequate staff must also be available to patrol the uplands to detect fire hazards and prevent illegal camping or poaching.

Patrolling the many miles of trails proposed at Wilder Ranch State Park will not be a simple task. It is recommended that horse patrols be used wherever feasible. Not only is this mode of transportation an efficient means by which to cover the required distance, it is also less intrusive than motorized vehicles. This program should be implemented as soon as the property is transferred to the department. The feasibility of using dog patrols (K-9 units) for crowd control at beaches, on search and rescue missions, and for patrolling remote uplands areas should be seriously considered.

#### Property Management and Maintenance

Any state park unit that includes historic structures requires sensitive approaches to maintenance and operation. Maintaining historic integrity will be the underlying objective when defining maintenance and operational programs. Maintenance and operational practices should not be intrusive on the cultural zone during heavy-use periods.

The department shall encourage the operator of the City of Santa Cruz's sanitary landfill in the unit to comply consistently with existing regulations set to minimize potential offsite adverse impacts. Of particular concern is the potential for emission of offensive odors, blowing litter, and spread of wildfire onto public lands.

#### Resource Management

The following programs are needed to protect and perpetuate natural resource values.

1. Erosion Monitoring. This program shall be directed at monitoring the migration of gully erosion now aggravated by cattle grazing. If cattle are removed, many areas may begin to correct themselves. If further migration still continues, corrective measures may be required. If grazing is continued, the impact of this grazing on erosion shall be closely monitored.
2. Geologic Hazards Monitoring. Coastal erosion is highly active at Wilder Ranch State Park. Sea caves, natural bridges, and undercut cliffs shall be inspected at least once every two years and after major storms and strong earthquakes. This program shall begin when management of the unit is transferred from the Department of General Services to the Department of Parks and Recreation.
3. Identification of Fossil Localities. The sandstone units in the park have been described as having diverse faunal assemblages and may eventually provide valuable educational/interpretive features. A more detailed paleontological survey should be made, perhaps in cooperation with a college or university.
4. Vegetation Management. The uplands region of the park are to be managed with the objectives of restoring and maintaining, to the greatest extent possible, vegetation and wildlife values that would be present without the past modification by man in the last 200 years. A program shall be developed to identify the composition and distribution of earlier plant communities. This program shall also set forth feasible management methods needed to restore and maintain, as best as possible, a native flora. Information from this program is needed to resolve grazing issues and establish prescribed burning objectives. The program shall be initiated upon transfer of administrative responsibilities to Department of Parks and Recreation.



5. Exotic Plant Control. To protect native plant communities and wildlife habitat a program is needed to control/eradicate aggressively invading exotic vegetation. Top priorities in these efforts shall be a control and removal of species which have been identified by the department and the County of Santa Cruz as being especially undesirable, including blue gum, eucalyptus, pampas grass, and french broom. This program shall be started upon approval of the General Plan by the Commission. Most of the eucalyptus and all of the pampas grass in the uplands shall be removed in two years of program initiation.
6. Prescribed Burning. Fire has been identified as an integral ecological factor which contributes to the perpetuation of many plant and animal communities. A program is needed to: a) identify what role natural fire played in the past in the maintenance of communities in the unit; and b) establish controlled or prescribed fire were necessary to restore natural communities. This program will also reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires. The research portion of this program shall start upon approval of this General Plan.
7. Water Quality Monitoring. Several land uses within or adjacent to the unit pose potential hazards to the quality of natural ecosystems in the park. The potential exists for degradation of the lower creek reaches, estuaries, and shoreline through the use of pesticides associated with row crop agricultural activities and the leaching of toxic substances from the sanitary landfill. Many of the pesticides commonly used in agriculture in the area are known to be extremely toxic to fish. Whether or not pesticide residues are reaching the creeks or associated wetlands in deleterious amounts is not now known.

A water quality monitoring program is needed to obtain sufficient information to evaluate the impact, if any, of various land uses on the aquatic ecosystems in the park. Of particular importance is the impact of pesticide use on aquatic life associated with lower Wilder and Baldwin creeks and the nearshore marine environment.

#### Management of Agricultural Properties

Wilder Ranch State Park will require the management of agricultural lands on an unprecedented scale.

It is recommended that the state lease for farming purposes all row crop lands not required for recreation. On-site monitoring of lease conditions as well as frequent lease negotiations will be required on these agricultural lands. The management must be capable of responding to the ever-changing, agricultural needs as well as the public's needs of access, open space preservation, and environmental protection.

It is recommended that identified agricultural lands at Wilder Ranch State Park remain under the jurisdiction of General Services until required by the Department of Parks and Recreation for recreation purposes. To assist in the on-site supervision of these properties, it is recommended that General Services fund one full-time Department of Parks and Recreation position at Wilder Ranch for base management purposes.