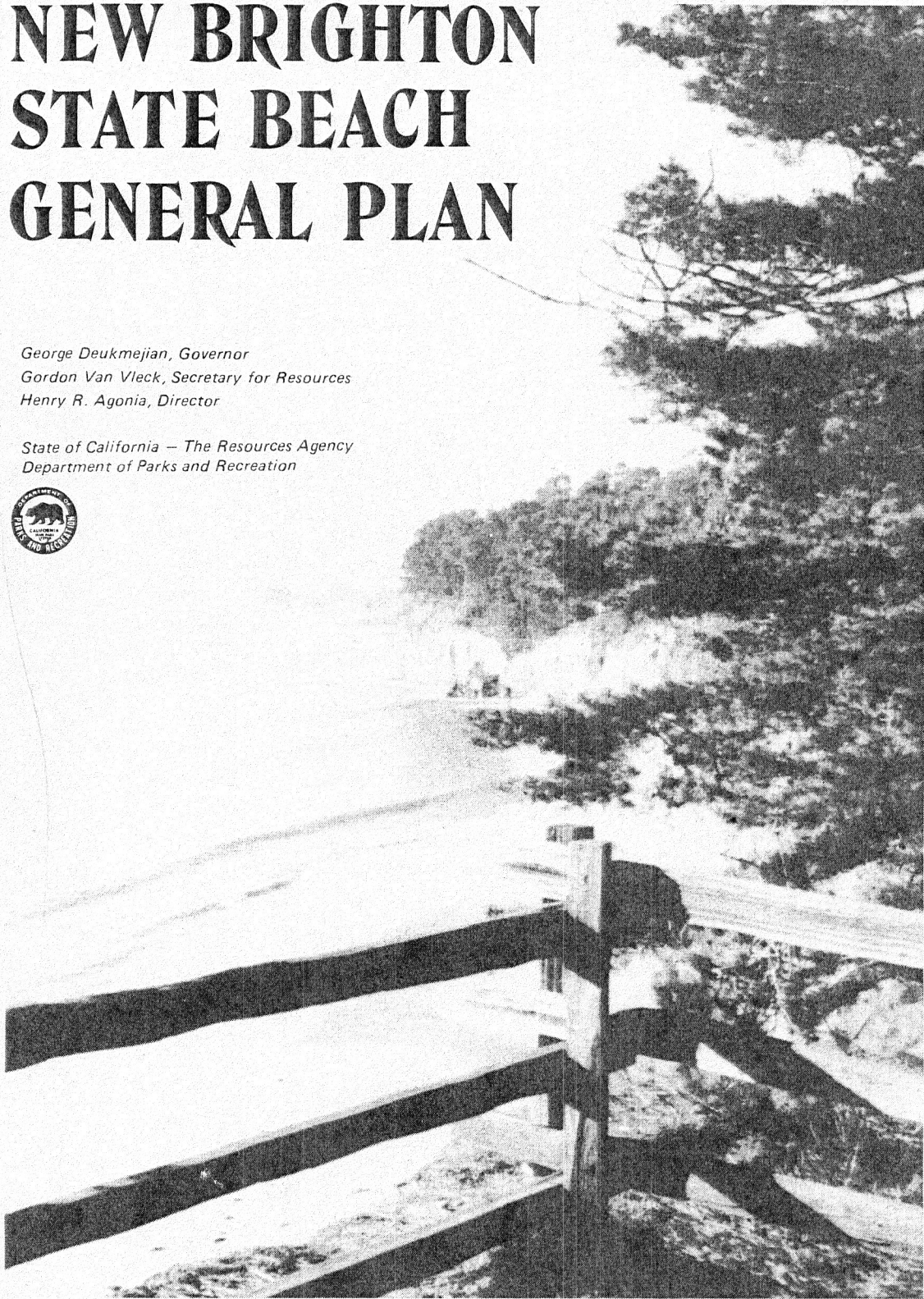


NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

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With special thanks to:

The many people who helped shape this plan through participation at the public meetings and during field reviews. Special thanks to the park staff and active members of the Monterey Bay Natural-Historical Association for their assistance and daily efforts in the management of the Pajaro Coast State Beaches.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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



Resolution 26-90
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Santa Cruz on
May 11, 1990

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NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH
GENERAL PLAN

April 1992

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Governor of California

Douglas P. Wheeler
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State of California - The Resources Agency
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NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This summary provides a quick reference to General Plan proposals for New Brighton State Beach. The reader should refer to the separate sections of this plan and reference documents for complete details and specific policy statements.

Resource Management Summary

Actual policy statements may be found in the Resource Element of this document.

1. To better understand beach erosion and seacliff retreat at this unit, a monitoring program shall be established and coordinated with other agencies.
2. A "zone of exclusion" and "zone of demonstration" is established for cliffs and bluffs to regulate design and placement of new facilities.
3. The department shall coordinate beach erosion studies with the various agencies and develop solutions to erosion and beach replenishment at New Brighton State Beach.
4. The integrity of the riparian and coast live oak woodland ecosystems shall be maintained through a vegetation management program.
5. The department shall perpetuate native wildlife populations and develop a plan to manage monarch butterfly colonies.
6. The exterior of Residence #1 shall be protected and maintained for its historic value.
7. The CCC-built ramada shall be preserved as a historic and esthetic recreation resource.

Land Use and Facility Proposals

Proposed Entrance

- Construct a new entrance road and bridge for improved year-round access. Develop a new contact station, office, restrooms, with entry parking and turnaround.

Existing Entrance

- Implement an interim development plan for existing entrance road, to improve drainage and traffic circulation.
- When the new entrance is developed, convert existing entrance to accommodate a new sanitary dump station and small maintenance facility.
- Improve trail connections, signing, fencing, and walkways for continued bicycle and pedestrian beach access.

Day-Use Parking and Beach Access

- Maintain existing parking lot (235 cars) and improve parking for recreation vehicles and overflow camping during the "off-season".
- Maintain emergency vehicle beach access ramp and stairway.

Existing Office and Residences

- Remove existing park office and Residences No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4, and develop sites for additional camping.
- Preserve Residence No. 1 for historical value, with adaptive use for office, restrooms, storage, camp host, or interpretive purposes.

Campground

- Rehabilitate existing campground with 25 additional family campsites and one combination building. Redesign camp loops, trails, and roadways for improved circulation and overnight use.
- Establish a uniform design standard for park furniture, fencing, vehicle barriers, and new buildings. Landscape with native plants for screening between campsites.
- Replace existing restroom in Loop C with new combination building located away from the edge of the bluff.

Campfire Center

- Develop a new campfire center, once the mobile home is removed, to include parking and access for disabled persons.

Proposed Group Camp

- Remove existing campfire center and discontinue existing day-use activity.
- Preserve the CCC-built ramada and develop a 50-person group camp.
- Remove the existing restroom and construct a new combination building and parking.

Beach Access Stairs

- Construct new bluff fencing and stairway for beach access from the campground. Close existing bluff trail, improve drainage, and revegetate with native vegetation.

Existing Maintenance Area

- Phase out existing maintenance facilities and construct or lease new facilities outside this unit.

- Remove sanitary dump station and existing mobile home sites.
- Develop a new 30-person group camp, once maintenance facilities are removed. Provide parking, restrooms, and landscaping as part of campground redesign.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This General Plan provides guidelines for the long-term management and development of New Brighton State Beach. Prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to satisfy requirements of the Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, its approval by the California State Park and Recreation Commission is required prior to any development that would constitute a permanent commitment of natural or cultural resources.

The plan summarizes the available information about the unit, documenting the planning process and the relevant data used in making land use decisions and specific management and development proposals. As conditions change, the plan may be reviewed and amended as necessary to responsibly guide departmental actions at this unit. This General Plan, however, is not intended to provide detailed plans for site development, resource management, or unit operations. Facility capacities indicated by this plan are approximate only, indicating maximum capacity, and may be less when specific site plans are prepared for funding and implementation. Details of resource management are left for inclusion in future specific resource management programs.

Discussions about land not owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation are included. These lands represent potential acquisition opportunities, based on available data. However, the discussions are intended for planning purposes only and do not represent an intention or commitment for acquisition.

General Plan Outline

This plan is made up of the following elements which reflect the Department's responsibility to fulfill certain goals:

The RESOURCE ELEMENT evaluates the natural and cultural resources of the unit, and sets management policies for protection, restoration, and use of these resources.

The LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT describes current and proposed land uses consistent with the resources, and outlines the proposed facility development.

The INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT proposes programs and facilities for public information and interpretation of the unit's natural and cultural values.

The CONCESSIONS ELEMENT summarizes opportunities to provide appropriate goods or services to the public through concessions in existing or proposed facilities.

The OPERATIONS ELEMENT describes specific operational and maintenance requirements and guidelines for continued unit operations.

The ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT assesses the environmental effects, and proposes mitigation measures and alternatives. The General Plan as a whole serves as the Environmental Impact Report required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

Planning Process

The process used in developing this General Plan included a comprehensive resource inventory and evaluation of the opportunities and physical constraints of this unit. This resource information was used in determining management policies needed to protect, enhance, and preserve sensitive and important natural and cultural resources.

Existing land uses and facilities also were evaluated to determine their effectiveness in serving the recreational and operational needs of the unit. Current recreational patterns of the varied segments of the state's population were also examined to identify specific needs to be met by this state beach. In addition, the City of Capitola and the County of Santa Cruz's various coastal land use, recreation, and transportation plans were reviewed to identify relevant goals, policies, and land use designations applicable to New Brighton State Beach.

This information, coupled with the public comments and other governmental agency concerns, provided the foundation for the various development and management proposals contained in this document.

Public Involvement

The public played an active role in creating this plan. From the outset, the planning team attempted to identify all parties interested in, or affected by the plan, and to encourage their participation in the decision-making process. A mailing list of over 400 persons was compiled, including residences from adjacent private beach developments, and interested persons and organizations from surrounding communities, such as Santa Cruz, Capitola, Aptos, San Jose, and Monterey.

Our planning effort began in 1984 with a resource study and preparation of draft management policies for the Monterey Bay state beaches, five of which are located on the Pajaro Coast in Santa Cruz County. Public meetings were held during October 1987 in Santa Cruz, Aptos, and Watsonville, to identify major issues and concerns for the future of these beaches, one of which was New Brighton State Beach. Between October 1987 and October 1988, two general plans were completed for Natural Bridges and Twin Lakes State Beaches and adopted by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Since that time, the department's planning team and technical staff have met with local planners, homeowners, park visitors, and others to better understand existing conditions and future needs for Seacliff, New Brighton, and Sunset State Beaches. A user survey was conducted to obtain further information from visitors about their likes and dislikes of these parks. A second public meeting was held on October 12, 1989 in Santa Cruz to present specific proposals for these three state beaches and receive public comments. Participation at these public meetings was enthusiastic and helpful.

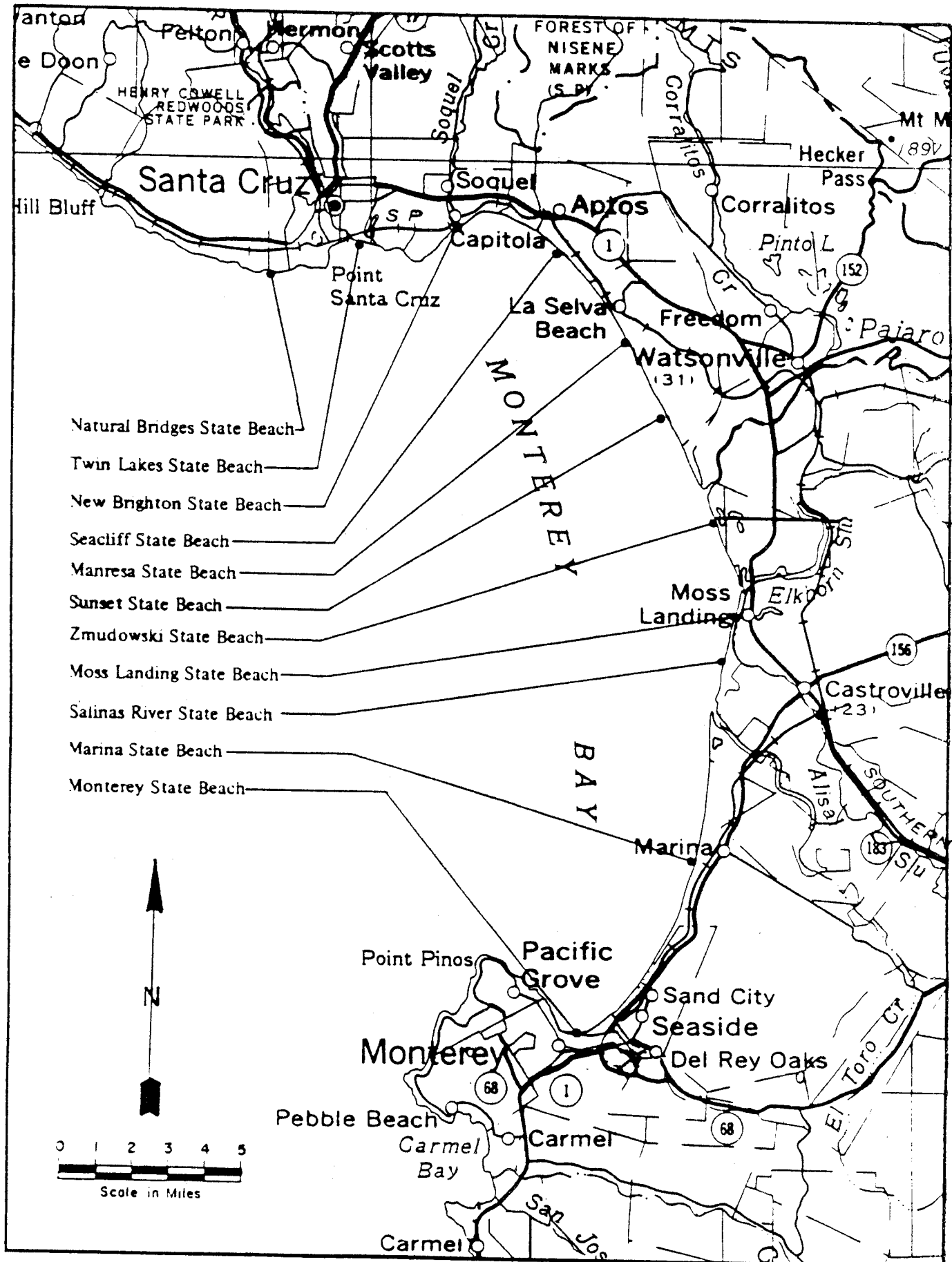
Conformance With Local Plans

The department shares the responsibility with the City of Capitola, the County of Santa Cruz, and other governmental agencies to protect the natural and cultural resources at New Brighton State Beach, while providing for the recreational needs of the citizens of California.

New Brighton State Beach is located in the Aptos-Mid County Area of Santa Cruz County and is partially within the City of Capitola. In response to the provisions of the Coastal Act of 1976, the city and county developed a Local Coastal Program (LCP) that includes policies and programs for coastal protection. The County of Santa Cruz LCP Land Use Plan was certified by the California Coastal Commission on February 3, 1982. The City of Capitola LCP Land Use Plan was certified June 1981. These certified Local Coastal Plans become binding not only on local public and private development, but also on special districts and state agencies.

The county and city LCPs designate New Brighton State Beach as park and recreation and urban open space land use. General and specific policies and programs are included in these land use plans for resource protection, management, development, and use at this state beach and its surrounding lands.

The New Brighton State Beach General Plan was prepared in consultation with the city and county planning and public works departments, and the proposals contained herein are intended to assure conformance with all applicable plans. Specific LCP policies relevant to New Brighton State Beach are included in the appendix of this document.



- Natural Bridges State Beach
- Twin Lakes State Beach
- New Brighton State Beach
- Seacliff State Beach
- Manresa State Beach
- Sunset State Beach
- Zmudowski State Beach
- Moss Landing State Beach
- Salinas River State Beach
- Marina State Beach
- Monterey State Beach

VICINITY MAP

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RESOURCE ELEMENT

Purpose

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

Discussions about lands not now owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation have been included. These lands may represent potential acquisition opportunities, based on available data. However, the discussions are intended for planning purposes and do not represent an intention or commitment for acquisition.

Unit Description

New Brighton State Beach (93.67 acres) is in Santa Cruz County and within the Capitola city limits. The nearest State Park System units are: Twin Lakes State Beach, three miles west; Seacliff State Beach, one mile east; and The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, two miles northeast. Southern Pacific Railroad tracks run through the unit.

The unit is adjacent to State Highway 1 and Park Avenue. Cabrillo College is less than a mile from the unit to the northeast. The unit entrance is off McGregor Drive, which forms the frontage road of Highway 1.

Resource Summary

This summary is based on resource inventory data on file with the Resource Protection Division. The inventory is a result of research and field investigations for this General Plan.

Natural Resources

Topography

New Brighton State Beach has a distinctive, varied topography; elevations range from sea level to 100 feet. Slopes vary from nearly level at the beach to nearly vertical along the bluffs adjacent to the beach. The prominent physiographic feature of this unit is the near vertical cliff which backs the beach. The seacliff is 60 to 80 feet in height and has formed through wind and water erosion of the coastal terrace. Tannery Gulch, a seasonal stream which drains from the northeast, has cut through the coastal terrace and drains to the ocean. The day-use parking lot and stairway to the beach have been constructed in the Tannery Gulch drainage. Tannery Gulch flows through a culvert under the parking lot and drains to the beach. In aspect, New Brighton State Beach is south-facing. The length of the ocean frontage is 3,200 linear feet.

Meteorology

Northern California experiences a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The waters of the Pacific Ocean have a profound moderating effect on temperatures along the coast, producing a maritime temperature regime with mild temperatures year-round. Mean daily maximum temperatures for the months of May through November at New Brighton State Beach are in the low to mid 60s and mean daily minimums are in the high 40s. For December through April, mean daily maximums are in the high 50s and mean daily minimums are in the middle 40s. Mean annual precipitation is estimated at 20 inches. Most of this precipitation (83 percent) occurs from November through March.

Windy conditions are the norm around Monterey Bay; the weather station in the City of Monterey reports wind speeds of four to 15 miles per hour about 75 percent of the time, and strong winds, 16 to 31 miles per hour, are recorded five percent of the time. Calm, winds less than four miles per hour, is recorded about 20 percent of the time.

Fog, or fog-generated low clouds, occurs during all seasons, but is most common on summer mornings and evenings; the Monterey Bay area has fog 12 percent of the time from July through September. As a consequence of the foggy summers and frequent winter storms, this area only receives about 3,000 hours of sunshine or about 70 percent of possible.

Microclimatic zones, areas which depart from the general climatic factors (e.g., insolation, temperature, or soil moisture), are generated at New Brighton by the ocean, the prevailing breeze, the coastal fog, the sandy beach, the steep cliffs facing the beach, and the forest canopy.

Water reflects only half as much solar insolation as land; hence, the ocean stores more energy during the day and releases more energy at night. However, because of its lower specific heat, the land warms up and cools down two to three times as fast as the ocean. These energy storage and temperature differences, together with the prevailing onshore breeze, moderate high and low temperatures near the coast. When the coastal fog moves inland, it enhances this moderating effect. At first, it produces a sudden chill that chases visitors from the beach; thereafter, it acts as a thermal blanket, keeping air and soil temperatures almost constant.

White beach sand, and surf, reflect about half the solar radiation. This extra half-dose of sunshine accounts for the unexpected sunburns of many inexperienced beach users.

The steep cliffs facing the beach act as a heat shield, reflecting back the energy being radiated by the beach. At the toe of the cliffs, the energy loss is only 50 percent of that lost by a flat unshielded area. This effect is more pronounced on still nights, with the strip of beach along the toe of the cliff being noticeably warmer than that by the water's edge.

The forest cover in the camping area provides a cooler moister habitat than non-forested areas. Temperatures under a forest canopy may be reduced by as much as 9°F and relative humidity may be as much as 15 percent higher.

Hydrology

New Brighton State Beach is within the Aptos-Soquel Hydrologic Sub-Area of the Central Coastal Hydrologic Basin. New Brighton is situated almost entirely in the Tannery Gulch drainage areas. Escalona Gulch is near the upcoast unit boundary and crosses the narrow western extension of New Brighton State Beach along Soquel Cove, Monterey Bay. Only 1.4 acres of the 57-acre Escalona Gulch watershed are within this unit. Fifty-five acres of the 821-acre Tannery Gulch drainage are also in the unit. Land uses on watershed areas upstream from New Brighton State Beach include residential and educational (Cabrillo College, Salesian College). Escalona Gulch and Tannery Gulch are intermittent streams. Water quality in Tannery Gulch is poor: high coliform levels are reported for the stream. Groundwater quality data is not available for the unit, but no seawater intrusion is reported. Seasonal flooding could occur along Tannery Gulch, as well as beach inundation during high tides, storm surges, and tsunamis. High water tables are reported along Tannery Gulch.

Geology

New Brighton State Beach is within the Salinian Block of the southern Coast Ranges geomorphic province. The Salinian block is a wedge of continental material bounded on the northeast by the San Andreas fault zone and on the southwest by the Sur-Nacimiento fault zone. The unit is in an area with a reported high seismic shaking hazard.

The coastal bluffs above the beach are made up of Pliocene-aged Purisima Formation, overlain by a mantle of unconsolidated terrace deposits. The Purisima Formation is thick to very thick-bedded yellowish gray to olive gray sandstone and siltstone, with occasional interbeds or lenses of mollusk shells. The formation is extensively jointed, warped, and faulted, and fails in large block falls which tumble to the beach when undermined by ocean waves or subjected to the seismic shaking associated with earthquakes.

The steep cliffs upcoast from the day-use parking lot are approximately 100 feet above sea level. Major block falls have been noted tumbling to the narrow beach or into the surf below. These blocks last little more than a couple of years as they are subjected to severe erosion and breakdown by the action of the waves. These cliffs are actively retreating and could threaten the railroad above, if the rate continues.

The emergency vehicle access road to the beach level has been undermined by ocean waves, and the restroom/sewage lift station on the beach has been undermined during high tides and storm waves. The beach trail from the campground has been damaged by erosion as loose sediments capping the steep cliff yield to storm waves, surface runoff and groundwater, and trampling from foot traffic.

The sandy, but narrowing beach, beginning at Tannery Gulch at New Brighton, extends uninterrupted except for sloughs and river mouths all the way to Monterey.

Soils

New Brighton soils are loamy and characterized by four soil series and land types: coastal beaches, Danville loam, the Tierra-Watsonville complex, and two Watsonville loams.

Coastal beaches occur at the cliff bases and are characteristically narrow, consisting of sand, gravel, cobbles, or a mixture of these. Portions of the coastal beaches are exposed during low tides and inundated at high tide. Permeability and erodibility are high.

Danville loam, on slopes of zero to nine percent, is found within New Brighton State Beach. This soil is very deep, well drained, and derived from alluvium. Danville loam is the principal soil on the west half of the campground area. Typically, the surface layer is a very dark gray, slightly acid clay loam, and loam about 17 inches deep. The subsoil is about 25 inches thick, dark grayish brown, slightly acid to neutral clay and clay loam. Erosion hazard is slight to moderate. Permeability is slow; shrink-swell potential is moderate to high.

The Tierra-Watsonville complex is found at New Brighton State Beach on 15 to 30 percent slopes. These soils have formed on alluvial and marine terraces. Major components of this complex are Watsonville loam and Tierra sandy loam. Erosion hazard is high due to rapid runoff and slow permeability. Shrink-swell potential is low to moderate. The Tierra-Watsonville complex is associated with the Tannery Gulch drainage.

Watsonville loam is formed in alluvium on coastal terraces. It occurs within New Brighton State Beach on slopes of 2 to 15 percent. The surface layer is very dark grayish brown and slightly acid in reaction. It is about 12 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light gray, slightly acid, and about 6 inches thick. Thick-surface Watsonville loam has a surface layer of about 20 inches. These loams are deep and poorly drained; permeability and runoff are slow to very slow. Shrink-swell potential is low. Erosion can be hazardous on steep slopes. Watsonville loam is the primary soil on the eastern half of the terrace upon which the campground is situated.

Plant Life

There are four major plant communities at New Brighton State Beach: Northern Coastal Scrub, Central Coast Riparian Forest, Coast Live Oak Woodland, and Mixed Conifer Forest. Of the four communities, the Mixed Conifer Forest is the most extensive; it is not a native plant community.

Approximately 4,000 Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) were planted in the campground at New Brighton in the 1950s and 1960s. These trees have formed a dense canopy which shades the campground. The understory is sparse to dense and primarily composed of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), fiddle dock (*Rumex pulcher*), thistle, and annual grasses. California coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) is occasional. A landscape restoration program is presently underway; its goal is to replace the introduced pine and cypress with native vegetation (coast live oak, ceanothus, etc.).

Northern Coastal Scrub occurs along the west side of the entrance road, along the east branch of the Oak Trail, on the perimeter of the beach parking lot, and on the bluffs along the beach. Coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis var. consanguinea), California coffeeberry, poison oak, and figwort (Scrophularia californica) are the principal species. Species composition and cover for the Northern Coastal Scrub plant community within this unit are more diverse than in Natural Bridges, Twin Lakes, or Seacliff State Beaches.

Bluffs along the beach are primarily vegetated by Northern Coastal Scrub, which is interspersed with riparian in seepage areas. Cover and species composition varies. Principal species are coyote brush, poison oak, sticky bush monkey-flower (Mimulus aurantiacus), Douglas' sagebrush (Artemisia douglasiana), seaside wooly sunflower (Eriophyllum staechadifolium var. artemisiaefolium), and coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium). In some areas, however, pampas grass (Cortaderia selloana) has become established along the bluffs.

A very dense, stratified riparian forest is established along the seasonal stream which drains through Tannery Gulch. It is the largest and most diverse riparian area within Natural Bridges, Twin Lakes, New Brighton, and Seacliff State Beaches. In general, the canopy, which is composed of red willow (Salix lasiandra) and arroyo willow (Salix lasiolepis), is 20-30 feet high. Blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana), big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), and California buckeye (Aesculus californica) are associated species. The mid-canopy is formed by arroyo willow and western dogwood (Cornus occidentalis). Ground-level vegetation is dense and is predominantly composed of blackberry, Douglas' sagebrush, poison oak, gold-back fern (Pityrogramma triangularis), yerba buena (Satureja douglasii), and false strawberry (Duchesnea indica). Hairy honeysuckle (Lonicera hispidula), twinberry (Lonicera involucrata), and California man-root (Marah fabaceus) twine through the mid and upper canopies. In several areas, eucalyptus is becoming established in the riparian zone.

Coast live oak occurs on north-facing slopes above Tannery Gulch. The woods are open-spaced, with a lush understory of California coffeeberry and poison oak. The understory is shaded, with only filtered light extending below the closed canopy. The Coast Live Oak forest in this unit was probably more extensive at one time. Nevertheless, these remaining woods are representative of a type of plant community that has been greatly reduced along coastal California. Coast live oak trees along the Oak Trail are being shaded by the exotic Monterey pine and Monterey cypress.

No rare or endangered species are known to occur in this unit.

Animal Life

Wildlife habitat in New Brighton State Beach is varied, and corresponds to the wide diversity of the marine and terrestrial floras. Principal biotic communities in this unit include ocean, coastal strand, coastal scrub, riparian forest, oak woodland, and mixed conifer forest.

The coastal strand includes beach and littoral zones. Shorebirds and gulls often rest upon the beach between periods of foraging in the intertidal zone. Shorebirds feed upon insects and other invertebrates in the tidal zone and on the beach. These birds include sanderlings, dunlin, California and Heermann's gulls, and willets.

The diversity and density of the vegetation on the bluffs above the beach supports diverse bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. Mammals in this community include the California vole, dusky-footed wood rat, and long-tailed weasel.

Typical birds include Bewick's wren, the rufous-sided towhee, and the song sparrow. Reptiles include the Pacific gopher snake and common garter snake. Relatively moist ground-level conditions provide habitat for amphibians, such as the tiger salamander and western toad.

A very dense, stratified riparian forest is established along the seasonal stream which drains through Tannery Gulch. The canopy is composed of 20-30 foot high red and arroyo willow. Mid-canopy and ground-level vegetation is well developed. The seasonally-abundant seeds and berries, including elderberry, blackberry, and false strawberry, are important food sources for birds and mammals.

Mammals associated with the riparian forest include the ornate shrew, Audubon cottontail, and deer mouse. Birds include Swainson's thrush, common yellowthroat, and Wilson's warbler. Amphibians and reptiles that occur in this biotic community include the California newt, Pacific tree frog, and rubber boa.

Coast live oak woodland occurs on north-facing slopes above Tannery Gulch. The trees are open-spaced and have a lush understory of California coffeeberry and poison oak. The stratification of vegetation into different canopy layers provides habitat for animals, especially birds. Birds which utilize the lowermost layers include the rufous-sided towhee and California quail; those of the overstory are represented by the band-tailed pigeon, acorn woodpecker, western flycatcher, and western tanager. Mammals include the Virginia opossum, western pipistrelle (an evening bat), brush rabbit, and California ground squirrel. Amphibians and reptiles in this biotic community include the ensatina, arboreal salamander, western skink, and common garter snake.

The extensive stand of Monterey pine and Monterey cypress planted in the campgrounds at New Brighton State Beach comprises the most extensive biotic community in the unit. The dense canopy of conifers provides foraging and nesting sites for many species of birds, including the band-tailed pigeon, Steller's jay, and chestnut-backed chickadee. The pines and cypresses are also used as minor overwintering sites for the Monarch butterfly. Monarch butterfly are a sensitive species for which additional site-specific information is needed.

Because campsites occur throughout this community, the understory has little value for wildlife. However, seeps and moist depressions may provide habitat for amphibians and reptiles.

Tannery Gulch within the unit provides some habitat for fish, but none were observed during field surveys.

Marine Life

Located within Monterey Bay, the marine environment off New Brighton State Beach is within the Central California Seascape Province, a region of characteristic geological and biological features extending south from San Francisco Bay to Point Conception.

The marine ecosystem consists of two principal environments, benthic and pelagic. The pelagic habitat is the open water from the surface to the sea floor. Benthic habitats are on the ocean floor and are defined on the basis of depth, substrate, and tidal influences. There are two significant benthic habitats at New Brighton, intertidal and subtidal.

Intertidal benthic habitat is the sandy beach area between high and low tides. This zone is limited in biological productivity due to the daily exposure to the atmosphere and the constantly shifting sand. Nevertheless, some species, primarily burrowing animals, occur here. The most common burrowing animals are blood worms and the mole crab. Scavengers are also present, primarily beach hoppers. When the tide is in, several fish, including surf perch, diamond turbot, and round stingray, utilize this habitat. When the tide is out, the major vertebrates are foraging shorebirds such as willets and sanderlings.

Subtidal benthic habitat extends from the lowest tide line to a depth of 30 feet and is primarily composed of unconsolidated sand. The dominant species which dwells within the substrate is the polychaete tube worm. Species which dwell on the substrate include dungeness crab and short-spined sea star. Fish that commonly occur in this zone are sanddabs, California halibut, and starry flounder.

The pelagic community is composed of floating and swimming organisms. Floating organisms include the phytoplankton, zooplankton, crustaceans, jellyfish, and copepods. Fish in this zone include surf perch, rockfish, and night smelt. Marine mammals occurring occasionally in this zone include harbor seals and California sea lions. A number of inshore seabirds such as western grebe, surf scoter, Caspian tern, and gulls also utilize this habitat.

The State-listed, Threatened, Guadalupe fur seal may occasionally forage near New Brighton State Beach (a small male was found beached in Monterey Bay in 1977). The federally-listed, Threatened, southern sea otter occurs in Monterey Bay and may occasionally be seen migrating between kelp beds, its preferred habitat. Many of the fish and birds which inhabit the marine environment off New Brighton State Beach are of ecological, recreational, and commercial importance.

Ecology

Many small ecosystems occur in the coastal and marine environments of Monterey Bay. These small systems are interrelated by physical and biological elements.

Streams, bluffs, and cliffs contribute sediments to marine ecosystems, which are then redistributed by ocean currents. As a result of the current pattern in Monterey Bay, the benthic marine environment at New Brighton is sandy.

Nutrients associated with these sediments are important to marine life in the nearshore zone, although upwelling of cold bottom waters provides the greatest source of nutrients. These nutrients enhance the biological productivity in nearshore marine ecosystems. Because of the upwelling, Monterey Bay is one of the richest marine basins in California.

The natural ecosystems in the New Brighton area have been reduced in size by urban and commercial developments. Ecosystem losses are also evident within the unit, as most of the unit has been developed and planted with non-native vegetation (Monterey pine and Monterey cypress). The riparian corridor, however, maintains important wildlife values. Despite the encroachments, the remaining natural areas at New Brighton have become more important as vestiges of the natural condition, or as significant habitat for specific plants and animals.

Cultural Resources

Archeology

No prehistoric or historic archeological sites have been found in this unit. Historic records were checked and a complete field survey was conducted.

Ethnography

The Indians who lived along the coast from San Francisco Bay to Monterey Bay are generally referred to as Costanoan, though the name Ohlone has become more popular in recent years among native descendents. The names are an abstraction for a linguistic family of eight distinct languages. Three different languages were spoken on Monterey Bay: Awaswas from Aptos upcoast to Davenport, Mutsun in the Pajaro and lower Salinas River valleys, and Rumsen from Marina south to Point Sur.

Marine resources provided items for trade to inland neighbors, primarily mussels, abalone shells, salt, and dried abalone. Pinon pine nuts and obsidian were obtained as imports. Beached whales, sea otters, and sea lions were roasted and eaten. Mussels and abalone were gathered, though this resource was probably never abundant along the sandy bay from Aptos to Monterey.

The seven missions in Ohlone territory had cataclysmic and devastating effects on the native population and their traditional culture. The Indians living around Monterey Bay were drawn into missions at Santa Cruz, San Juan Bautista, and San Carlos.

History

Gaspar de Portola's 1769 expedition, and the Rivera-Palou and Hezeta and Palou expeditions of 1774 and 1775, initiated Spanish occupation and missionization of the Monterey Bay area. Simultaneously with orders for mission secularization in 1834 came requests for Mexican land grants. Within a few years, the present-day beach units in Santa Cruz County were almost entirely taken up in a series of these grants.

The land encompassing New Brighton State Beach was originally granted to Martina Castro in 1833 as Rancho Shoquel, a 1,668-acre tract of land "situated on the Sea Coast between the Shoquel River and the Sanjon de las Borregas". In 1844, Martina petitioned for and received Shoquel Augmentation, an additional 32,702-acre grant.

Following statehood, Martina -- who had lost her first husband, Simon Cota, at 17, and subsequently married Michael Lodge, a Dublin sailor -- divided these vast holdings among her eight children, reserving one-ninth for herself. Although these holdings were confirmed to Martina in 1857, by 1865 most of the property had been sold or lost through mortgages. In 1869, Frederick A. Hihn, Santa Cruz County's first millionaire, acquired a 382-acre parcel, which encompassed New Brighton State Beach, from Martina Castro's daughters. Hihn purchased Soquel Landing and the surrounding land with plans to develop Soquel Landing as an expensive summer resort. Renaming the land "Camp Capitola" in 1869, Hihn commenced work on a large hotel, cottages, bathhouses, and a livery stable. The grand opening was held on July 4, 1874, with tourists arriving by horse and buggy. In 1876, Hihn ran a 21-mile narrow gauge line from Santa Cruz to Watsonville, where it connected with the already-established Southern Pacific line at Pajaro. Hihn's line, purchased and broadened in 1881 by Southern Pacific, followed a course which today runs above the New Brighton State Beach entrance road. Although the 19th-century railway bridge trestle has been replaced, the line remains intact.

In the 1850s, Thomas Fallon, an Irish veteran of the Texas War of Independence, through marriage to Martina Castro Lodge's daughter, Carmel, acquired the land just east of present-day New Brighton State Beach. Fallon had originally developed his beachside parcel, known today as Potbelly Beach, as a resort. He named his venture "New Brighton" in honor of his favorite English resort. Present-day New Brighton State Beach takes its name from Fallon's venture. Fallon was responsible for planting many of the eucalyptus and cypress along the upper approaches to the beach unit.

New Brighton State Beach, which lies between Capitola and present-day Potbelly Beach to the east, was the site of a small Chinese fishing village that flourished during the 1870s and 1880s. By 1878, a group of Chinese fishermen had built a small village of scrap lumber and driftwood at the base of the cliff, above the high tide line, in the present-day state beach's sheltered cove below the day-use parking lot. The fishermen spread their nets by boat and dragged their catch up on the beach, drying part of it and shipping the remainder fresh to Santa Cruz or San Francisco. The area became known as "China Beach" or "China Cove", and though the village did not survive the 1890s, old-time local residents still refer to the area as China Beach.

The 1880 federal census records a population of 29 men for China Beach, all born in China, ranging in age from 16 to 43. But as resort activity moved east from Camp Capitola, the fishing village was forced to move eastward along the beach, establishing itself next at the mouth of Aptos Creek and later at Camp Goodall, in present-day Sunset State Beach. The Chinese were eventually forced out by incoming Italian and Portuguese fishermen, increasing harassment, and restrictive local ordinances. The 1900 federal census records no Chinese fishermen in Santa Cruz County. New Brighton State Beach personnel removed the last of the fishing village structures in 1947. No physical traces of the village remains.

Although New Brighton State Beach was a popular commercial fishing ground early in the 20th century, commercial fishing off the beach disappeared after drag net fishing was outlawed in 1915. The present-day state beach remained otherwise undeveloped into the 1930s.

On September 14, 1933, Frederick D. Hihn, et al., sold a 65.33-acre parcel to the State of California for development as a unit of the State Park System. In 1958, John W. Sinclair, Thomas Fallon's great-grandson, sold the state an additional 12.5-acre parcel.

Civilian Conservation Corps construction activity occurred in New Brighton State Beach between April 1935 and June 1941. On September 30, 1934, "New Brighton Beach State Park" was designated CCC camp headquarters for "development and improvement at New Brighton Beach, Natural Bridges Beach, Sea Cliff Beach, Rio Del Mar Beach and Sunset Beach." Residence #1, which served as the original unit gate house, office, and residence, was constructed by the CCC during the late 1930s, as was the cliff-top ramada.

In 1942, District Headquarters were established at New Brighton, and in 1947 a permanent ranger staff was assigned to the unit. The tile-roofed buildings (two houses, one office, and two restrooms) date from this period.

Historic Structures and Sites

Residence #1 was constructed by the CCC in the late 1930s. It is a simple utilitarian wood-frame stucco, tile-roof structure. It served as a combination gatehouse, office, and residence for original unit personnel.

The picnic ramada, constructed by the CCC in the late 1930s, is typical of CCC ramada construction. The hipped shingle roof is supported by three-post corner and cross beam and angle supports. Iron straps tie the posts to a concrete support pad. The 12 tables beneath the ramada are seven feet long and consist of peeled pine supports and hewn lumber.

The Southern Pacific Line and New Trestle which crosses over the entrance road is noted as an historic rail line dating from 1881 in Santa Cruz County. The earlier bridge trestle was replaced in 1961.

An 1880 Chinese fishing village was located in the sheltered cove of the present-day state beach. It consisted of a series of wooden shacks supported on pilings, and is documented in historic photographs. It no longer exists.

The tile-roof State Park System buildings date from the late 1940s, and are not considered historic resources. They consist of two houses, one office, garages, and several maintenance buildings.

Esthetic Resources

Positive scenic resources at New Brighton State Beach include the panoramic views of Monterey Bay from the beach parking lot and from Sunset Trail, the pine forest in the northern portion of the unit, and the birds and other wildlife which are attracted to the wooded environment.

The large sewage pumping station near the west end of the beach, and its erosion-scarred, riprapped and patched access road are major negative scenic features. The large condominiums to the west of this unit would become a negative scenic feature if the intervening screen of trees was eliminated by road work, erosion, or other causes.

Positive auditory features at New Brighton include the generally prevailing quiet, the sound of surf, wind in the trees, and bird calls in the forest areas. Negative auditory features include the 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. freight trains, noise from the nearby freeway, and crowd noise from the Cabrillo College Stadium. Another esthetic problem is caused by the foul odors frequently emitted by the sewer transmission line, which runs along the toe of the cliff.

Recreation Resources

The coastal area of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties is one of the major recreation destinations in California. This area was the destination for roughly one out of 20 recreation trips (4.6 percent) within the state by Californians in 1980. These trips brought 5,760,000 recreation visitors to the two counties, not including local residents and visitors from out of state. In addition to these "destination" visitors, this area is very popular with persons touring through, or enroute to another destination.

New Brighton State Beach reported a visitor attendance of more than 412,000 in 1988-89 fiscal year. Campers accounted for 46 percent of this use. Summer accounted for 42 percent of New Brighton's use, fall for 23 percent, winter for 13 percent, and spring for 22 percent.

Twenty major recreation activities currently occur at New Brighton State Beach; of these, ten are strongly dependent on the ocean or ocean beach and six are dependent on other natural resources of the unit. Recreation activities which are primarily dependent on the ocean or sandy beach -- board surfing, body surfing, swimming, sunbathing, beachcombing, surf fishing, beachball, volleyball, and sand sculpture -- are of high statewide significance. Painting, photography, bird watching, other nature study, esthetic appreciation, camping, and kite flying are also of statewide significance at this unit.

Resource Policy Formulation

Classification

New Brighton State Beach has been a unit of the State Park System since 1933. The unit was classified as a State Beach by the State Park and Recreation Commission in November 1962. The Public Resources Code defines a State Beach as a type of State Recreation Unit as follows:

5019.56. State Recreation Units. State recreation units consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Such units shall be designated by the Commission by naming, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 (commencing with Section 5001) and this article relating to classification.

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

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

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

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of New Brighton State Beach is to make available to the people, for their benefit and enjoyment forever, the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the ocean beach and related uplands. The prime resource of this unit is the ocean beach.

The function of the California Department of Parks and Recreation at New Brighton State Beach shall be to preserve and protect public opportunities for ocean beach oriented recreation and camping in a high quality natural environment.

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest is that area outside the unit, in which land use changes could adversely affect the resources of New Brighton State Beach. This zone includes the Tannery Gulch watershed, where land use changes could affect the water quality of this creek which enters the unit. The department is also concerned with activities adjacent to the unit, particularly along Park Avenue, McGregor Boulevard, New Brighton Road, Potbelly Beach Road, State Highway 1, and the Southern Pacific Railroad right of way.

In addition, the department is interested in all lands, no matter how far away, whose use and development adversely affect the unit's resources and features. Air pollution is a regional problem which affect the unit's resources and which may be affected by changing land uses on distant lands. The damming of rivers and the building of breakwaters and other structures along the coast, which disrupts littoral sand movement and may increase coastal erosion, is another problem affecting the unit.

Resource Management Policies

Resource management in the State Park System is governed by laws contained in the Public Resources Code and the California Administrative Code, and is further guided by directives approved by the department's director, and by

policies approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission. General policies related to the unit classification and the declaration of purpose have been addressed in previous sections.

Specific departmental Resource Management Directives amplify the legal codes and provide clearer management guidelines. Directives that are especially pertinent to the management of resources within New Brighton State Beach are:

- #15 State Recreation Units; protection of resources
- #18 State Beaches; avoid using sandy beaches for secondary uses
- #19 State Beaches; protection of resources
- #33 Exotic Plant Species
- #35 Wildlife Protection
- #46 Environmental Quality
- #58 Cultural Resource Protection
- #70 Archeological Sites

Directives #18 and #19 are particularly relevant to planning issues for the state beaches along Monterey Bay:

(18) INSOFAR AS IS POSSIBLE IN STATE BEACHES, THE ENTIRE AREA OF THE SANDY LITTORALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RECREATION USE AND VISUAL ENJOYMENT. IT IS AN OBJECTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO AVOID USE OF NATURAL SANDY BEACHES FOR PARKING OR FOR OTHER SUPPORTIVE OR SECONDARY USES.

(19) THE SCENIC, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL VALUES OF STATE BEACHES, INCLUDING THE ECOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE LITTORAL, TIDAL, AND NEARSHORE AREAS WILL BE IDENTIFIED, EVALUATED, AND PROTECTED SO THE TOTAL QUALITY OF THE RECREATION EXPERIENCE MAY BE PERPETUATED AND ENHANCED.

Following several years of significant storm damage in many coastal State Park System units, the department adopted a policy for coastal erosion on October 24, 1984. The policy intent is to avoid construction of permanent facilities in areas subject to coastal erosion, and to promote the use of expendable or movable facilities in erosion prone areas. The policy reads as follows:

THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION SHALL AVOID CONSTRUCTION OF NEW STRUCTURES AND COASTAL FACILITIES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO OCEAN WAVE EROSION, SEA CLIFF RETREAT, AND UNSTABLE CLIFFS, UNLESS SPECIFIC DETERMINATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THE RISK OF LOSS OF THE FACILITY IS CLEARLY OFFSET BY THE INVESTMENT AND NEED FOR THE FACILITY. MEASURES SHALL BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE HUMAN INDUCED EROSION BY REDUCING: CONCENTRATED SURFACE RUNOFF FROM USE AREAS, ELEVATED GROUNDWATER LEVELS FROM IRRIGATION AND URBANIZATION, AND SURFACE DISTURBANCE OF BLUFFTOP SOILS. IN RECOGNITION OF CALIFORNIA'S ACTIVELY ERODING COASTLINE, NEW STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES LOCATED IN AREAS KNOWN TO BE SUBJECT TO OCEAN WAVE EROSION, SEA CLIFF RETREAT, OR UNSTABLE BLUFFS SHALL BE EXPENDABLE OR MOVABLE. STRUCTURAL PROTECTION AND

REPROTECTION OF DEVELOPMENTS SHALL BE ALLOWED ONLY WHEN THE COST OF PROTECTION IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE VALUE (PHYSICAL AND INTRINSIC) OF THE DEVELOPMENT TO BE PROTECTED, AND WHEN IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE PROTECTION WILL NOT NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE BEACH OR THE NEAR-SHORE ENVIRONMENT.

In addition to policies, directives, and laws that apply statewide, the following specific resource policies have been developed for New Brighton State Beach:

Shoreline Protection Devices

Terrace-top developments upcoast from Tannery Gulch (railroad, homes, and other buildings) may become threatened if seacliff retreat continues at a significant rate. Wave erosion may damage the beach access road, utility service lines, and beach-level restroom. Structural protection measures are not consistent with the general objectives for resource management within the State Park System. In certain circumstances, however, when the State Park System facility is of greater necessity and importance than the natural resources which may be negatively affected, structural protective devices may be appropriate.

Policy: Structural protection measures for State Park System facilities shall be undertaken only if non-structural measures (i.e., relocation of the facility, setback, redesign, or beach replenishment) are not feasible. If a protective structure is constructed (i.e., riprap to protect the sewage lift station at the beach-level restroom), the structure shall not:

- 1) Significantly reduce or restrict beach access;
- 2) Adversely affect shoreline processes and sand supply;
- 3) Significantly increase erosion on adjacent properties;
- 4) Cause harmful impacts on plant, wildlife, or fish habitats;
- 5) Be placed further than necessary from the development requiring protection; or
- 6) Create a significant visual intrusion.

Monitoring Erosion and Sand Loss

Beach erosion and seacliff retreat have been recognized as serious threats to facilities and use of coastal units of the State Park System. Additional baseline information on erosion rates is needed to evaluate site specific proposals for additional facilities, resource management, and visitor safety.

Policy: A monitoring program shall be established to document: 1) block falls on and adjacent to the beach, 2) landslides, 3) gully development, 4) pavement cracks or building cracks from settlement or subsurface movements, and 5) beach elevation and width. The program should include the comparison of historical and recent aerial photos, ground photos with explanations, and installation of permanent monuments, if necessary. The program should be coordinated with data collection efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Boating and Waterways, and the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Bluff Setbacks

Seacliff retreat is an ongoing process that should be taken into consideration when designing and placing facilities near cliff edges. To protect investments in facilities and assure public safety, it is a sound principle to establish setback zones -- both "zones of exclusion", where development is limited to expendable or movable facilities, and "zones of demonstration", where permanent facility development is allowable if stability and geologic suitability can be demonstrated.

Policy: A "zone of exclusion" shall be established to include the base, face, and top of all bluffs and cliffs extending inland to a plane formed by a 45-degree angle from the horizontal at the base of the cliff or bluff. No new structures shall be constructed within this zone unless they are either movable or expendable. Existing facilities, including buildings and campsites, may remain in use, subject to regular inspections by field personnel in coordination with the department's geologist. A "zone of demonstration" shall be established in the unit to extend inland from the zone of exclusion to the intersection of the ground surface with a plane inclined 20 degrees from the horizontal from the toe of the cliff (see Figure 1).

Paleontological Resources

The fossil record contained in the rocks at New Brighton State Beach is a valuable, irreplaceable natural resource. Past climatic conditions and plant and animal assemblages can provide us with clues of how the present-day scene evolved.

Policy: Permits for collection of paleontological resources within New Brighton State Beach shall be stringently limited, to ensure proper management and protection of these nonrenewable resources. Collection of fossil resources shall be approved only when the collection will result in a direct benefit to the State Park System.

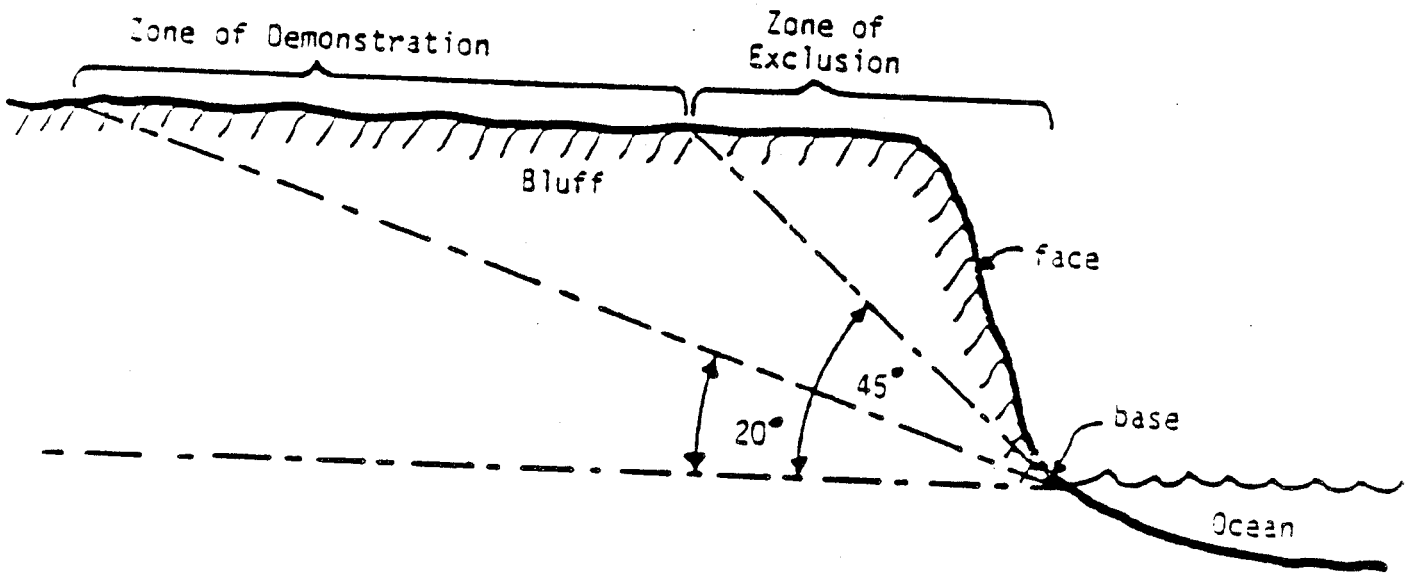
Vegetative Diversity

Coast live oak woodland occurs within New Brighton State Beach in open-spaced woods along the Oak Trail between the entrance kiosk and the ranger station. The understory is well developed and composed of large mesic shrubs such as California coffeeberry and poison oak. This natural community intergrades with a diverse, stratified riparian forest along Tannery Gulch. These plant communities are important ecological and esthetic resources. Management of these ecosystems will help maintain the diversity of natural communities within this unit.

Policy: The integrity of the riparian and coast live oak woodland ecosystems within New Brighton State Beach shall be perpetuated. A vegetation management plan should be implemented to provide direction and consistency to this effort. Control and/or eradication of exotic species would be an important element of this plan.

Figure 1

Zones of Demonstration and Exclusion



Campground Landscaping

The dense stand of Monterey pines and Monterey cypress in the campground area is rapidly declining in vigor due to a number of factors which are affecting the trees. When originally planted, the trees were placed close together with the intent of thinning the weaker trees once the trees were established. The thinning never took place; the dense stand grew tall and spindly. The heavy year-around use and the lack of vehicle barriers has caused extensive root damage and ground compaction. The multi-year drought the region has been experiencing since 1986 has increased the stress on the trees. Ips sp. beetles, red turpentine beetles, and pitch canker have infested the entire stand. Dozens of trees are dying each year. The result is an unesthetic and potentially hazardous landscape.

Policy: The Monterey pine and cypress landscaping within the campground will be replaced with trees and shrubs native to the region. The landscape restoration program should be phased over several years to provide for the maintenance of a suitable camping environment. No species of pine should be planted anywhere in the unit while the pitch canker spores are still present in the region. Vehicle barriers and fencing may be used to protect the new plantings and help reduce soil compaction.

Exotic Plant Species

Non-native plant species threaten the integrity of natural communities by displacing native plant habitat. Exotic species of concern within New Brighton State Beach include Monterey pine and cypress, eucalyptus, pampas grass, Hottentot fig, and annual European grasses.

Large, densely-planted Monterey pine and Monterey cypress dominate the campground area. A landscape restoration program is presently underway to replace introduced pines and cypress with native vegetation. Eucalyptus trees have also been planted in the western and northern portions of the unit. Pampas grass is established along the cliffs near the access to the beach.

Policy: Landscaping in developed areas should consist of species indigenous to the state beach. If exotic species are used, these shall be species which are incapable of naturalizing in the wild and which would not require a permanent irrigation system.

Wildlife Management

Animal life is an important part of natural ecosystems and adds interest and variety to the park experience. Protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife populations is an important management objective at New Brighton State Beach.

Policy: Significant wildlife habitat areas should be restored to the extent feasible. The department should avoid significant imbalances in natural wildlife populations caused by human actions. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, the methods used should be based upon sound principles of ecosystem management, and should avoid disturbance to other natural values of the unit.

Monarch Butterfly

Well known for its attractive color and migratory habits, the monarch butterfly is of great scientific and interpretive interest. With a nearly worldwide distribution, the monarch butterfly is not in danger of extinction. However, the North American populations are vulnerable due to their overwintering strategy of congregating in large flocks in small areas. Because the phenomenon of the North American migration could be lost in the near future, the conservation of monarch butterfly overwintering sites has been designated as a top priority of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The monarch butterfly is also listed on the international treaty known as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

One of the two populations of monarchs in North America migrates annually south through the Pacific states to a limited number of overwintering sites along the California coast. The butterflies are attracted to groves of Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and eucalyptus in New Brighton State Beach where they can find roost sites protected from the elements, near a source of water, and which provide a ready supply of nectar.

Policy: The Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and eucalyptus groves at New Brighton State Beach shall continue to be surveyed during the winter roosting season of the monarchs, heavily-used groves shall be identified, and suitable habitat shall be perpetuated. Trees that are roost sites for monarch butterflies shall not be removed unless suitable additional habitat capable of supporting monarch colonies is established. An exception to this policy may be made for a tree removed under the department's tree hazard guidelines. The department should support research into the ecology of the monarch butterfly. A resource management plan shall be developed and implemented to promote the perpetuation of the monarch butterfly within New Brighton State Beach.

Cultural Resources

The specific directives from the department's Resource Management Directives that pertain particularly to the Euroamerican cultural resources in New Brighton State Beach are 1832.2 and 1832.3. The 1984 Historic Resources Survey recorded two historic structures in New Brighton State Beach.

Although none of the historic sites recorded in the 1984 survey are eligible for the National Register, the CCC picnic ramada is a noteworthy resource. The CCC post and beam picnic ramadas at New Brighton, Seacliff, and Sunset State Beaches, built in the 1930s, are significant as representative examples of the rustic construction technique utilized by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the California State Park System.

Residence #1 is a simple utilitarian wood-frame stucco, tile-roof residence -- dating from the late 1930s -- which served as a combination gatehouse, office, and residence for the original unit personnel, and appears to serve as a prototype for the tile-roof stucco buildings which became a standard building form in other units in the State Park System in the late 1940s. The tile-roof buildings in this unit, which date from the late 1940s, are not considered historic resources. These buildings consist of two houses, one office, two garages, and several maintenance shops.

Policy: The exterior of Residence #1 shall be protected and maintained for its historic value.

The CCC picnic ramada and associated stoves, constructed by the CCC in the late 1930s, is representative of the rustic construction techniques utilized by the Corps throughout the park system during the Depression. Several of the mortared rock stoves associated with the post and beam ramada are in deteriorating condition, either through vandalism or lack of maintenance.

Policy: Efforts shall be made to maintain, repair, and preserve some of the historic camp stoves. The ramada shall be maintained and preserved as a historic, esthetic, and recreational resource.

Allowable Use Intensity

The California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made prior to the preparation of any development plan for any park or recreation area. Section 5001.96 further requires that attendance be held within limits so established. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the land carrying capacity concept and is prepared as part of the Resource Element of the General Plan in fulfillment of the above code sections.

Allowable use intensity is just one of several factors considered in developing the Land Use Element of the General Plan. Other factors that may also be considered in determining land use for any unit of the State Park System are classification and purpose, recreation needs, design considerations, and social carrying capacity or the desired quality of the recreation experience.

Allowable use intensity determinations establish the limits of development and use an area can sustain without an unacceptable degree of deterioration in the character and value of the scenic, natural, and cultural resources. Determinations are based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivities information.

Resource management objectives are defined by the Public Resources Code and other laws, unit classifications and declarations of purpose, and by specific declarations of resource management policy presented in this Resource Element.

Resource constraints are factors which would make visitor use or facility development unsafe, economically impractical, or undesirable. They are determined by evaluating such factors as erodibility and compaction potential of soils, geologic hazards, slope stability and relief, hydrologic conditions, potential for pollution of surface waters, and flooding.

Sensitivities are conditions, locations, or values of resources that warrant restricted use or development to protect resources. Sensitivities are evaluated by considering such factors as the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity), not only in the short term but also over a more extended time span; the fragility and significance of archeological and historical resources; vegetation characteristics such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations such as tolerance to human activity, population levels, and stability.

Sensitivities may also include scenic resources; rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and habitats; unique or scientifically important botanic features; and other resources of regional or statewide significance.

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensities for lands within New Brighton State Beach were determined and are shown on the Allowable Use Intensity Map. Three use intensity categories have been developed: low, moderate, and high. The low intensity zone includes areas where native oak woodland, or riparian plant communities occur, or where unstable bluffs exist. The moderate intensity zone is the sandy beach where the environment can withstand heavy visitor use, but is subject to ocean wave attack. The high intensity zone is characterized by level terrace land dominated by exotic plant species.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

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LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

This element of the general plan addresses the existing and proposed land uses and development at New Brighton State Beach. The recommendations are guidelines for future development and are based on an evaluation of the resource sensitivities and constraints, unit operational and visitor needs, with consideration for the expressed interest and concerns of the public and various governmental agencies.

Location and Access

New Brighton State Beach (93.67 acres) is partially located within the eastern city limits of the City of Capitola, with a portion of the unit in Santa Cruz County. Vehicle access is provided at the Park Avenue interchange with State Highway 1, .15 mile inland from the unit. The unit entrance is off McGregor Drive, which forms the highway frontage road. The Southern Pacific railroad tracks divide this unit, with the only vehicle access to the campground and day-use area developed through a railroad trestle.

Walk-in access occurs from Park Avenue, McGregor Drive, along the railroad right of way, and from adjacent private properties. Local public transit and bicycle routes are designated on Park Avenue and McGregor Drive, with a transit stop located near the park entrance. The City of Capitola presently operates a beach shuttle from a city-owned parking lot adjacent to state beach property on McGregor Drive.

An existing road easement and right of way connects the campground with New Brighton Road to the east. This road provides legal access to four private residences, and also serves as emergency vehicle access or campground evacuation when the entrance road is flooded.

Existing Land Use and Facilities

New Brighton State Beach is developed for both day and overnight use, having over 413,000 visitors annually. The prime resource at this unit is the ocean beach, consisting of 3,200 linear feet of ocean frontage. The beach is backed by 60 to 80-foot cliffs and a 60-acre upland terrace. The campground is an extremely popular destination for visitors to the Santa Cruz area. Portions of Tannery Gulch and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks bisect this unit. The existing entrance road and day-use parking lot are currently developed within the Tannery Gulch drainage.

The unit is bordered on the west by Park Avenue and single- and multi-family residential developments, and on the east by a eucalyptus forest and single-family homes. Seventeen beachfront homes are developed below the campground at Potbelly Beach. Land use to the north includes the State Highway 1, and mostly undeveloped properties along McGregor Drive.

Existing facilities include a 115-unit campground, day-use parking lot for 235 cars, group picnic area, campfire center, entrance kiosk, park office, five employee residences, two trailer pads, a trailer sanitation dump station, and a maintenance/service yard.

Unit Entrance

A small kiosk and turnaround was built in 1964 for visitor contact at the unit entrance. Increased day use, and the demand for camping facilities have generated unmanageable parking and traffic conditions around this entrance station. Vehicles checking into the park often back up onto McGregor Drive. Once visitors have reached the kiosk, they must park along the roadway for campsite registration. Campers checking out, or returning to the kiosk for information, stop or park on the road, which compounds traffic congestion around the entrance area.

The existing entrance road is built within a natural drainage and has experienced flooding under the railroad trestle, restricting vehicle access. Also, the road grades and alignment are not standard for recreation vehicle demands. This road serves both day and overnight use areas.

Beach Access and Trails

Access to the beach is provided by a short stairway and service road from the lower day-use parking lot, and from a bluff trail originating at the campground. The emergency vehicle/service road extends from the parking lot onto the beach for a distance of 900 feet, and provides access to a combination restroom/sewer pump station located at the toe of the bluff. A small day-use parking lot exists by the group picnic area, though it is not intended to provide parking for beach users.

A significant percentage (17 percent) of beach users walk in at this unit. Several pathways lead to the beach from nearby bus stops and local streets and neighborhoods. No developed walks or bicycle paths exist within the unit. Southern Pacific railroad tracks are also used locally for beach access. Also, the close proximity to the Capitola Beach shuttle lot on McGregor Drive encourages greater pedestrian use of the park. Potential conflicts between cyclist, pedestrian, and motorist are of particular concern at this unit.

Both the existing stairs and beach access trail are subject to major bluff erosion and storm damage, necessitating periodic replacement and repairs. The bluff trail currently provides the only direct walking access from the campground to the beach.

Day-Use Parking and Picnic Facilities

Beach parking is developed for 235 cars at the existing day-use parking lot. This parking doubles for enroute or overflow recreation vehicle camping. Portable toilets are currently provided at the parking lot for day use.

Additional day-use parking for 10 cars is provided at the bluff picnic area adjacent to the campground. This day-use area includes a large picnic ramada with 12 tables, 15 rock stoves, and 15 additional picnic tables for families and groups of up to 200 persons. The beach trail down the bluff is located nearby.

A wood frame restroom building built in 1950 and campfire center are also developed in the immediate vicinity. These facilities are located close to the edge of the bluff, where additional fencing and signing is necessary for visitor safety and resource protection. All these facilities are potentially threatened by accelerated bluff erosion and seacliff retreat.

Park Office and Employee Housing

This unit currently has a small park office and five employee residences and two trailer pads located within the park boundaries. The park office, three residences (No. 1, No. 2, No. 3), and one mobile home are located along the access road near the campground. Residence No. 4 is located on the bluff near three Potbelly Beach private residences, with their only access through the campground. There are two additional trailer sites with employee-owned mobile homes located near the maintenance area.

Residence No. 1 was constructed by the California Conservation Corps in the late 1930s and is considered an historic resource. This building served as a combination gatehouse, office, and residence for the original unit personnel and appears to serve as a prototype for the tile-roof stucco buildings constructed in other State Park System units during the late 1940s. The other three houses were built in 1948 and 1955; all have high maintenance needs.

The park office is a wood frame building (20 x 24 feet) constructed in 1948. It no longer serves the park's administrative needs, which are presently handled through the visitor services trailer at Seacliff State Beach and at the Pajaro Coast District office in Aptos.

Existing Campground

The existing campground is developed in three camp loops, having a total of 115 family campsites surrounded by a day-use picnic area, employee residences, and the district's primary maintenance facility. The campground is open, with little vegetative screening between campsites.

Approximately 4,000 Monterey pine and Monterey cypress were planted in the campground during the 1950s and 1960s, resulting in a dense tree canopy with little sunlight into the campground and no plant undergrowth. A program is currently underway to remove Monterey pines and cypress and reestablish native oaks and shrubs.

Each campsite is provided with a single or double parking spur, camp table, food locker, and stove. Presently, no formal group campsites are developed. However, because of frequent requests made by groups for campsites in this area, campsites are often reserved in clusters during the off-season to accommodate this demand.

The campground frequently becomes overcrowded with group campers and day-use activity. This intense use heavily impacts the resources, facilities, and the overall visitor camping experience. The park maintenance staff has constructed various types of wood barriers around the parking areas to control vehicles and protect open space. The campground is also affected by the service vehicle activity generated from the nearby maintenance facility.

Existing sanitary facilities include two combination restroom/shower buildings and three comfort stations located in the campground and picnic area. A restroom facility is also located on the beach, combined with the county regional sewer/pump station.

Maintenance Facilities

Existing maintenance facilities include an office, shop, garage, and storage areas. Original buildings were constructed in the early 1950s and presently serve as the primary maintenance facility for the unit and district. Subsequent land acquisition and park development over the years have resulted in the campground being situated adjacent to this service complex. Access to this facility is through the central park road, and is shared by campers, picnickers, and private residences.

Presently, the unit's maintenance activities have been increased by the added services provided to other park units, thereby having a greater impact on the New Brighton recreation camping experience. Recreation and esthetic values are adversely affected by the noise, traffic emissions, and visual impacts generated by increasing numbers of service vehicles and equipment operations.

The maintenance area is fenced, with gated access at three locations. The open service yard, including fuel islands and vehicle storage bays, are only partially screened from the campground by the surrounding office and shop buildings. Material storage and employee parking are provided behind this complex.

Lifeguard Facilities

No permanent lifeguard facilities are developed at this unit. A beach access ramp is provided for emergency vehicles and aquatic beach patrol, with beach connections downcoast to Seacliff State Beach.

Proposed Land Use and Facilities

Unit Entrance

Increased visitation and demand for camping facilities generate unmanageable traffic and parking conditions near the unit entrance. The size and location of the entrance station is presently inadequate for the campsite registration and user contact. The entrance road is built within a natural drainage and has experienced flooding under the railroad trestle, causing restricted vehicle access. The road grades and alignment are not standard for recreation vehicles, and the unit experiences heavy walk-in use from surrounding neighborhoods, regional transit, and beach shuttle operations. Indiscriminate paths bisect the road and parking at various locations, creating conflicts for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

The state-owned land between McGregor Drive and the railroad right of way has good potential for development of access and operations facilities. However, it has limited opportunities for public recreational use. This land base is presently split by a city-owned parcel, currently being used for beach shuttle parking. Topography in this area is relatively flat near the road, with a wide gulch, railroad embankment, and a steep vegetated slope up to the

campground. The distance across the gulch varies between 300 and 600 feet, and has potential for bridge construction to provide direct access into the existing campground.

Proposal: The department shall consider the construction of a new entrance road and bridge over the railroad for year-round access to this unit. Land use considerations for the McGregor Drive property include a new entrance station with office space, parking, and a vehicle turnaround. The potential joint use of city-owned properties and/or land exchange may be considered in determining feasible bridge locations and road alignments to separate day-use and overnight access. The existing entrance will be converted for pedestrian, bicycle, and emergency access. This area will also include a sanitary dump station and a small unit maintenance structure.

An interim development plan should be implemented for the existing entrance road. This plan shall include minor road grade adjustments and improvements near the trestle for improved drainage and traffic circulation. Necessary improvements include drainage inlets, culverts, stream channel, signage, and pedestrian walkways, to serve current visitors and for future conversion to emergency and service vehicle access and increased bicycle and pedestrian use.

Beach Access and Parking

Beach access is provided by stairways and trails from the day-use parking lot and the campground. Emergency and patrol vehicle access to the beach is provided by a service road located at the end of the day-use parking lot in Tannery Gulch. The stairway at this location provides easy day-use access to the beach and restroom facility. However, this access road, stairs, and parking lot are subject to major storm damage, necessitating periodic replacement and repairs. The bluff trail provides pedestrians the only direct access from the campground to the beach. This trail is subject to extreme erosion and is difficult to maintain year round.

Proposal: Maintain existing day-use parking lot for 235 cars and beach access. Improve parking for recreational vehicles with pull-through spaces. Construct a new stairway from the campground to the beach-level restroom facility. Close the existing bluff trail, improve the drainage system for surface runoff, and stabilize and protect the bluff with native vegetation and a new railing.

Trails

Walk-in access contributes to a significant percentage of beach users at this unit. Several park trails and pathways lead to the beach from city streets, bus stops, neighborhoods, and the campground. Pedestrians and bicycles utilizing the park roads and trail routes sometimes conflict with cars and camping vehicles. Southern Pacific railroad tracks are also used locally for beach access.

Proposal: Maintain and develop adequate trails and signing for nature walks and continued beach access. Provide appropriate connections to city streets, bus stops, future train stops, and recreation trails, with

a separation between vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Construct fencing along Park Avenue and provide steps/ramp from the street near the bus stop to the existing entrance road, with a new walkway under the railroad trestle to facilitate safer trail routes.

Park Office and Employee Housing

New Brighton State Beach has a small park office, three employee residences, and one mobile home located near the campground. Residence No. 1, dating from the late 1930s, is considered an historic resource. In addition, a single residence is located near the bluff overlooking Potbelly Beach, and two employee-owned mobile homes are presently located near the maintenance and service yard.

The department studied the existing employee housing at this unit to determine the importance of employee residences for providing public services.

Proposal: All existing employee residences are considered nonessential to provide visitor services for New Brighton State Beach. Remove the existing park office and Residences No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, and mobile homes. These sites will be revegetated and developed for expansion of overnight use facilities. Maintain the existing historic building (Residence No. 1) for appropriate adaptive uses, which may include interpretive exhibits, restrooms, office, storage, or a camp host. The unit office function should be included within the new entrance facility complex.

Campground Development

The recreation demand for camping facilities has doubled since 1983 for units within the Central Coast Region. Visitation at New Brighton State Beach has grown to nearly 800,000 persons in 1988, with campers accounting for 46 percent of this use. As a result, the existing campground facilities are worn out and require replacement and/or extensive rehabilitation.

The campground is divided into three camp loops, having a total of 115 family campsites. These campsites were developed around a group picnic area, employee residences, and the district maintenance facility. The campground roads and numbered campsites are confusing to visitors, and this mixed use degrades the recreational experience and creates conflicts between users. The CCC picnic ramada and rock stoves are considered having historical value in the park system.

Frequent requests are made by larger groups for campsites in this coastal area. Presently, no formal group campsites are developed at this unit. However, campsite reservations are often grouped together to accommodate this increasing demand. This impacts the family camps and open space between sites.

The mature stand of Monterey pines and other non-native trees have created a dense tree canopy with little sunlight reaching the campground. Little or no vegetative screening is provided between campsites. A program is underway to remove the Monterey pines and cypresses and reestablish native oaks and shrubs.

Proposal: Redesign campground Loops B and C, providing 25 additional campsites and a restroom where Residences No. 2 and No. 3 are presently located. Replace the existing restroom building in Loop C with a new restroom/shower building located away from the bluff edge.

Remove the existing campfire center and construct a new facility near the CCC-built residence site. Maintain and preserve the CCC-built ramada and some stoves as a historic resource, and develop a site for a 50-person group camp. Remove the outdated restroom and construct a new restroom facility, parking for a bus seven vehicles, and access for disabled persons.

Redesign campground Loop A to improve vehicle circulation and campsite layout with five additional campsites. Develop a group campsite for 30 persons in the vicinity of the existing maintenance facility, with restroom facilities and parking for five vehicles and the disabled.

Establish a uniform design standard for all park furniture, fencing, vehicle barriers, and new buildings. Landscape the campground with native plants for campsite screening and buffer between use areas.

Maintain the integrity of the riparian and coast live oak woodland ecosystems surrounding the campground development and implement a vegetation management plan, including the control or eradication of exotic species.

Operations and Maintenance Facilities

Existing maintenance facilities include an office, shop, garage, and storage areas. Original buildings were constructed in the early 1950s and presently serve as the primary district maintenance facility. This fenced service complex is located in close proximity to the campground, impacting the recreational camping experience and occupying land that could be developed for public use.

Proposal: Phase out the existing maintenance and service area facilities and construct or lease new facilities outside this unit. When a new entrance is developed, a small maintenance structure can be located at the existing entrance area, to serve the unit's minimal maintenance storage needs. This facility should be designed in conjunction with a new sanitary dump station, to serve campers at New Brighton State Beach and recreation vehicles enroute from other State Park System units.




Potential Land Additions

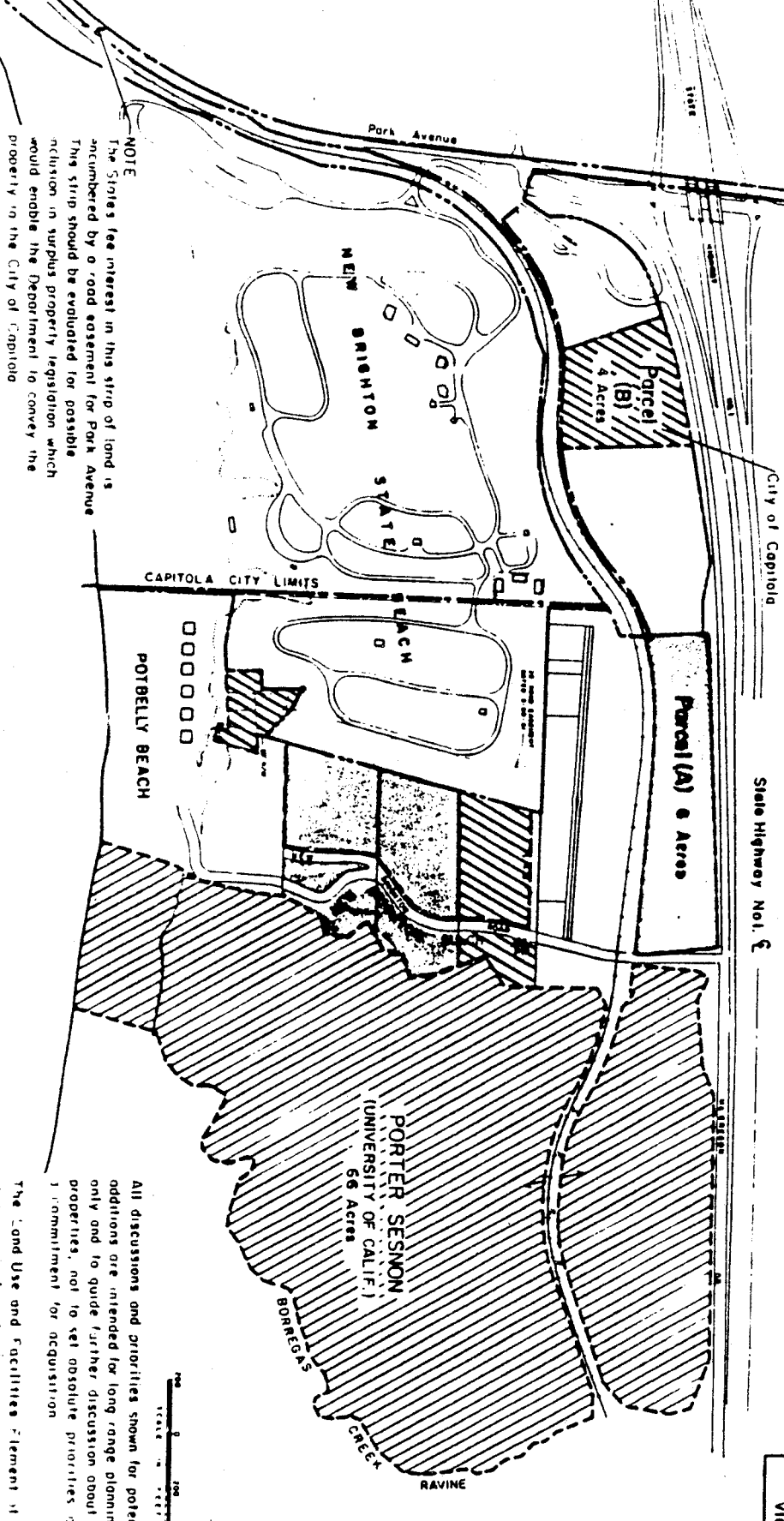
The land use proposals of this plan are not dependent on new land acquisition. However, the plan does discuss potential use if adjacent land becomes available for acquisition.

The following discussion and all other comments regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and do not represent a commitment for acquisition. The Potential Land Additions Map, Figure No. ___, illustrates the recommended priorities for future investigation if these lands were to become available.

Potential Land Additions Map
Figure 1

POTENTIAL LAND ADDITIONS

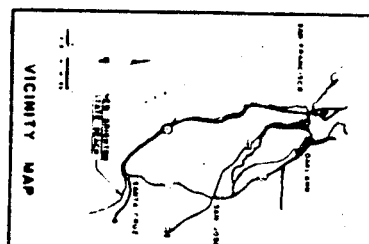
-  PRIORITY 1 Includes undeveloped coastal properties having significant open space and beach access potential for active/passive open space, camping, picnicking, and park operations facilities.
 -  PRIORITY 2 Includes inholding, private road easements, and adjacent properties that may improve public access and/or park management.
 -  PRIORITY 3 Includes adjacent or nearby properties desirable to protect scenic and natural values varied potential for development of state park operations or public recreation facilities
- STATE PARK BOUNDARY



NOTE
The State's fee interest in this strip of land is encumbered by a road easement for Park Avenue. This strip should be evaluated for possible inclusion in surplus property legislation which would enable the Department to convey the property to the City of Capitola.

All discussions and priorities shown for potential land additions are intended for long range planning purposes only and to guide further discussion about these properties, not to set absolute priorities or represent a commitment for acquisition.

The Land Use and Facilities Element of the general plan may include further discussion about lands not presently owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



New Brighton State Beach includes beach and upland properties presently managed and developed for coastal access and public recreational use. The increasing demand for picnic and camping facilities on the Santa Cruz coast has filled existing facilities at this unit to their capacity, with frequent turnaways during major use periods. Currently, there are no undeveloped properties at this unit, under state ownership, that have the potential for expansion of day-use or overnight use facilities.

The potential land additions to New Brighton State Beach being discussed here were prioritized based on resource values and their potential for improving park management and/or recreation use. Final priorities may be affected by future planning as it relates to other public and/or private development adjacent to this park. Therefore, priorities are intended to guide further discussion about these properties, not to set absolute priorities or a commitment for acquisition.

- PRIORITY 1 - Includes undeveloped coastal properties having significant open space and beach access. These properties have the potential for active/passive open space, camping, picnicking, and park operations facilities.
- PRIORITY 2 - Includes inholdings, private road easements, and the adjacent properties that may improve public access and/or park management.
- PRIORITY 3 - Includes adjacent or nearby properties desirable to protect scenic and natural values. These properties have varied potential for development of state park operations or public recreation facilities.

Porter-Sesnon Property

For some time, there has been a great deal of public interest concerning the Porter-Sesnon property near New Brighton State Beach. This property consists of 66+ acres of undeveloped land with direct access from McGregor Drive and 500 feet of ocean frontage. This property has outstanding scenic and natural values and excellent potential for park and recreation purposes. However, it is contiguous with the state beach only below the mean high tide, making possible future connections with New Brighton State Beach extremely limited.

This property includes a coastal terrace, divided by the Southern Pacific railroad and bordered by deep ravines on the east and west sides, and 500 lineal feet of sandy beach. The ravines on this property contain seasonal streams and associated riparian vegetation, with surrounding open space formerly cultivated for agricultural use. No structures presently exist on this site.

The underlying fee interest in this property is presently owned by the University of California. At the department's request, funds were appropriated in the 1982 state budget bill to acquire this property from the university for open space and public recreation purposes. While the department was budgeting funds, a private developer leased the property for a 99-year period and proposed a hotel, conference center, and performing arts complex called

"Wingspread". In 1988, the Santa Cruz County voters overwhelmingly rejected this proposed development. However, the state was unsuccessful in its attempts to buy out the long-term lease interest, and the acquisition funding reverted at the end of the 1988-89 fiscal year.

The Santa Cruz County LCP Land Use Plan proposed designation for the Porter-Sesnon property is for:

Park and Recreation: (1) New Brighton State Beach addition: active/passive open space, public recreation facilities, including up to 15 acres oriented to neighborhood/community park use, visitor accommodations/campground 115-130 units; or (2) combination state park/community park or regional park.

Alternative Use: Proposed Park and Recreation: Privately developed public recreation and visitor accommodations/conference facility of 115-130 units.

The county LCP also indicates that proposed developments are subject to special development standards, circulation requirements, and public access requirements.

Recommendations

The Porter-Sesnon property is identified within the Priority 1 category for further investigation (see Figure 2). This plan recommends that the state continue discussions with the lessee and with the City of Capitola and County of Santa Cruz to explore potential alternatives for public acquisition of the lease interest in all or part of this property. If a viable alternative is developed, the state would need to pursue a new funding appropriation.

Inholdings and Adjacent Properties

Located along McGregor Drive adjacent to state properties are two separate parcels (see Figure 2):

Parcel (A) is six acres of undeveloped land located at the intersection of McGregor Drive and New Brighton Road. This property was also included in the proposed "Wingspread" private development. This parcel, which is heavily vegetated, is listed in the Priority 3 category. It could provide additional open space protection, trail connections, or development of support facilities;

Parcel (B) is four acres located between state beach properties on McGregor Drive. This parcel is currently owned by the City of Capitola and used for a beach shuttle parking lot. This property is included in Priority 2, because it is an inholding whereby existing or future use could have a negative impact on adjoining state property, and/or if acquired, it could enhance the land use potential of existing state-owned properties with improved public access. The city's beach parking shuttle currently provides a major service to recreation visitors and should be considered in future land use evaluation of this property.

New Brighton Gulch

Certain properties, outside state ownership, are recognized as overwintering sites for monarch butterflies. One site is New Brighton Gulch, located between the state beach and the Porter-Sesnon property. These properties are currently in private ownership and include a large stand of eucalyptus trees and dense riparian vegetation associated with a seasonal stream.

The department currently manages a portion of Natural Bridges State Beach as a protected overwintering site for monarch butterflies. That area has similar site characteristics to New Brighton Gulch and is classified as a Monarch Butterfly Natural Preserve. The department should encourage continued public and private efforts to effectively manage and protect these butterfly habitats.

Potbelly Beach

This area includes three parcels of undeveloped land and five developed residential lots located adjacent to the campground. The three undeveloped parcels, covered with eucalyptus trees, provide a buffer and open space for the adjacent campsites. The five residences have a right of way easement for vehicular access through the state campground.

The potential to expand the campground is limited. However, expanded development of these adjacent private properties would reduce the buffer and could have a negative impact on the "camping experience". Therefore, it is recommended that if these properties are offered for sale, the state should consider acquiring them. Appropriate buffers should be protected and alternate access routes be considered during any future planning proposals for these properties.

The priorities for these adjacent properties may also be affected by future planning, acquisition, or public and/or private development of the Porter-Sesnon property.

Park Avenue (city street)

New Brighton State Beach boundaries include property underlying Park Avenue between McGregor Drive and Monterey Bay Avenue. The state's fee interest in this strip of land is encumbered by a road easement for Park Avenue. This strip should be evaluated for possible inclusion in surplus property legislation which would enable the department to convey the property to the City of Capitola.

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INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Interpretive Considerations

New Brighton State Beach presently has the following interpretive facilities: a campfire center, two exhibit shelters, and a plaque erected by the E Clampus Vitus (ECV) fraternity. The exhibit shelters are located in the campground, near the campfire center, and at the foot of the trail from the parking lot to China Beach. The panels in the campground exhibit shelter are entitled "Pier Fishing" and "Monarchs and Milkweed." The exhibit shelter at China Beach houses panels entitled "Gulls of the Seashore" and "How Deep is the Bay?" The plaque installed by the ECV commemorates the Chinese fishing village at China Beach.

Interpretive opportunities exist along the trail at the top of the bluff, overlooking the beach and bay, and at the picnic ramada and park residences constructed by the CCC.

Currently, park staff conducts campfire programs at the campfire center and makes routine interpretive contacts with visitors who have questions.

Interpretive Period

The department will interpret a flow of history at New Brighton State Beach from geologic times to the present.

Interpretive Themes

Several themes are appropriate for interpretation at New Brighton State Beach. They cover both the natural and cultural history of the beach, as well as its present-day condition. The themes are as follows:

Primary Themes:

- Rebuilding a natural garden
- A bill for every purpose
- Staying safe at the beach
- From tourists to sand and gravel
- A way of life lost
- Now you see it, now you don't
- Once a sea floor, now a wall

Secondary Themes:

- Building to last
- Echoes of a good time

Expanded Themes

Primary Themes:

Rebuilding the natural garden: The natural ecosystems at New Brighton State Beach have been reduced in size by park development. Much of the park has been planted with non-native Monterey pine and Monterey cypress. These trees have grown and spread to the point where they have formed a dense canopy that overshadows the campground and has almost eliminated the natural understory

plant life. These trees are also crowding out the native coast live oaks. To return the park to a more natural appearance, the pine and cypress trees are gradually being removed and replaced with native vegetation.

A bill for every purpose: The shorebirds that visit New Brighton State Beach come to feed, to rest, and to breed. A greater understanding of the kinds of food these birds eat can be gained by observing their bills and where they are feeding. Those with long bills probe deep into the sand for the small creatures who live there. Those with short bills peck through the windrows of kelp and along the edges of the waves for crustaceans and marine worms. The birds also follow their food as it moves up and down the shore with the tides.

Staying safe at the beach: New Brighton State Beach is a popular recreation beach. Wind surfing, swimming, and other ocean-oriented sports occur here. But, the seemingly quiet waters of the ocean off New Brighton State Beach hide rip currents and undertows that can turn an afternoon at the beach into a tragedy.

From tourists to sand and gravel: Passing over the entry road to New Brighton State Beach is a branch of the Southern Pacific Coast Railroad. This railroad spur started as the Santa Cruz-Watsonville Narrow Gauge Railway, which opened in 1876. The railway was constructed by Frederick Hihn to bring tourists to his new resort at Capitola, although freight provided most of the line's income. In 1881, the Southern Pacific Railroad bought Hihn's spur, and by 1884 had converted the line to standard gauge. The trains that once transported tourists to the beaches and freight to points north and east now transport sand and gravel from Davenport to the Southern Pacific Railroad connection at Watsonville.

A way of life lost: The beach area of New Brighton State Beach was once home to a Chinese fishing village. Known locally as China Beach, the village housed 29 Chinese fishermen in 1880. Using seine nets, the fishermen hauled immense catches of smelt, sardines, anchovies, sole, skates, sting rays, and other fish onto the beach. The fish were either sold fresh locally and in San Francisco, or dried and salted for shipment to China. The village was short lived, however. Increasing pressure from the manager of Camp Capitola on the bluff above the beach, and from the Italian and Portuguese fishermen in the area, forced the Chinese to move down the beach. The last Chinese fishing village in Santa Cruz County was located at Camp Goodall near the Pajaro River in 1887.

Now you see it, now you don't: The bluffs that back up New Brighton State Beach are susceptible to erosion from both above and below. Winter storm waves gradually erode away the buffer zone of the beach, exposing the bluffs to the power of the breakers gnawing at their base. The jointing patterns of the rock and sand that make up the bluffs, percolation of surface water from street runoff and yard watering, and intruding tree roots all join with the breakers to cause rockfalls and slumping.

Once a sea floor, now a wall: Close examination of the bluffs that line New Brighton State Beach will show the remains of many varieties of shellfish, and occasionally of sea mammals, imbedded in the rock. The layers of shells and occasional skeletons were deposited over hundreds of thousands of years when these bluffs were horizontal on the sea floor. Subsequent shifting of landmasses and uplifting have warped and raised these former ocean floors above the waves, often to a nearly vertical position.

Secondary Themes:

Building to last: From 1935 to 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps was active in the Santa Cruz area. These young men, employed by the federal government, worked all over the country developing parks and forest areas. Within the California State Park System alone, more than 10,000 man years of labor were put into park development work. At New Brighton, the CCC was responsible for the construction of Residence #1 and the cliff-top ramada. Both structures are still in use, and stand in evidence of the quality workmanship of the CCC.

Echoes of good times: The beaches of Santa Cruz County have long attracted tourists, both for sightseeing and recreation. The beach directly south of New Brighton State Beach, Pot Belly Beach, was owned in the 1850s by an Irish immigrant, Thomas Fallon. He developed an ocean resort on his property and named it after his favorite English resort, Brighton. Present day New Brighton State Beach is named for Fallon's venture. At the site of the present New Brighton State Beach, Frederick Hihn established Camp Capitola in 1874. Interested persons could purchase a lot and construct anything from a tent to a cottage for their use while at the beach. Space was also available for short-term tenting. The bathing beach was reputed to be one of the best in the state, and was lined with people in bathing costumes, playing in the surf and sunning themselves on the shore.

Proposed Interpretation

Facilities and Media

The present campfire center is too small for current and projected usage, and use of the land at the site is causing the adjacent bluff to erode. Therefore, a new campfire center is proposed. The preferred site is the current location of employee Trailer No. 1, between the service road and the road to the campground. This site will allow the construction of a larger center with modern equipment and capabilities.

Exhibit shelters are proposed for construction in conjunction with development of new facilities. These shelters are proposed for the area near the new campfire center and the trailhead of the new beach access trail from the campground. When these new shelters are installed, those currently in the campground should be removed. If the panels in the old structures are in good condition, they can be reused in the new exhibit shelters. Panels on the other interpretive themes proposed in this element would also be appropriate for the new shelters. Interpretive panels can be rotated on a seasonal basis.

The CCC-constructed picnic ramada and residence should be signed as to their interpretive value. The residence (known as Residence No. 1) should be considered for interpretive uses when it becomes available.

A self-guided nature trail is proposed for the Hooper property, located between the campground and the Highway 1 frontage road. The theme of this trail would be a combination of "rebuilding the natural garden" and "echoes of good times," interpreting the changing use of the property from farming to residences, and as a state park.

Visitor Services

It is recommended that campfire programs continue to be offered at the park's campfire center until the new center is completed. In addition, nature walks and beach walks should be conducted in the park.

A Junior Lifeguard and Junior Ranger program should be instituted at the park.

Interpretive Concessions

No interpretive concessions currently operate at New Brighton State Beach (see Concessions Element.)

Interpretive Associations

The Monterey Bay Natural Historical Association currently operates at Seacliff and Natural Bridges State Beaches. Volunteers should be recruited who want to work at New Brighton State Beach.

Interpretive Collections

The historic photographs relating to New Brighton State Beach are housed at the Seacliff State Beach visitor center. There are currently no other interpretive collections associated with the park. The photographic collection should be augmented as the opportunity arises. Additional collections could include plant and animal specimens from the park.

Recommendations

Research Needs:

Research should continue on all the interpretive themes proposed for New Brighton State Beach.

Future Acquisitions:

No interpretive acquisitions have been identified at New Brighton State Beach at this time.

Interpretive Priorities:

1. Initiate nature walks and beach walks.
2. Initiate Junior Lifeguard and Junior Ranger programs.
3. Develop new campfire center.
4. Construct and install interpretive panels, signs, and exhibit shelters.
5. Design and construct self-guided nature trail on Hooper property.

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CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of the Concessions Element is to evaluate existing and potential concessions in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Section 5080.03 et. seq., and the classification of the park unit.

Public Resources Code, Section 5080.03(c) states:

"With respect to any unit of the State Park System for which a general development plan has been approved by the commission, any proposed concession at that unit shall be compatible with that plan."

Objectives

The objectives of the Concessions Element are to:

1. Examine previous or existing concessions within the unit.
2. Examine current and future concession needs of the visitor.
3. Examine park needs for any development, services, etc., which may be included in a concession contract.
4. Recommend appropriate concessions for the park unit in accordance with Public Resources Code, Park and Recreation Commission policy, and the findings presented in other elements of the General Plan.
5. Examine a concession's relationship with cooperating associations, docent groups, and any other nonprofit organizations affiliated with the park unit.

Scope

The Concessions Element is a guide to assist in the development of concessions within state parks. The Concessions Element should provide direction as to the appropriateness of a concession within a specified unit and to ensure consistent management practices.

The intent of a concession is to provide the public with goods, services, or facilities for a specified period of time that the department cannot provide as conveniently or efficiently. Concessions should not create added financial burden and, whenever possible, should reduce costs and/or generate revenue to aid in the maintenance of the State Park System. Concessions shall not be entered into solely for their revenue-producing potential.

It is the policy of the department to cultivate and encourage small business, as well as ethnic and racial minority-owned/operated businesses, as concessionaires within the State Park System.

It is the department's policy to generally avoid entering into convenience-type concession agreements for facilities, products, or programs that are adequately provided for a short distance outside state park unit boundaries.

It is the policy of the department that concessions shall provide facilities, products, programs, or services at prices competitive with similar businesses outside State Park System units.

Concession History and Current Services

Mobile food units have provided service to the visitors of New Brighton State Beach in the past under short-term concession contracts, on a seasonal basis.

Concession Recommendations

Mobile food units can provide adequate service under short-term contracts as the need arises. Should the need for services increase at some time in the future, a longer term contract could be entered into through the public bidding process.

While it is impossible at this time to predict all potential concession activities for New Brighton State Beach, specific proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis for feasibility and appropriateness.

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OPERATIONS ELEMENT

New Brighton State Beach is operated as part of the Pajaro Coast District. Administrative services are provided from the district office, which is currently located in Aptos, California. Visitor services and maintenance are provided by facilities located at this unit and from Seacliff State Beach. Volunteers are active in the interpretation of the unit's features.

The department's operational goal is to provide protection that is appropriate and necessary to maintain visitor safety and perpetuate features and resource values at New Brighton State Beach.

New Brighton State Beach is noted for its campground near the ocean, sandy beaches, and local history. Public recreation at the unit includes camping, hiking, nature study, picnicking, sunbathing, and water-oriented sports.

Recreational activities sponsored by individuals, groups, or organizations may be considered by special event permit. The unit's sensitive and natural resource areas will receive special care and consideration when any activity is conducted within the unit.

Recommendations

Maintenance

For maintenance purposes, New Brighton State Beach is currently administered as part of the north sector within the Pajaro Coast District. Other units in this sector include Natural Bridges State Beach, Twin Lakes State Beach, and Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. All personnel report to the maintenance shop at New Brighton State Beach.

Recommendations

The facility maintenance and housekeeping shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to meet standards for public health and safety, to maintain public and department expectations for cleanliness and appearance, to meet security requirements, and to preserve historic structures for visitor use and interpretation.

The unit currently houses the primary maintenance facility for the district, where maintenance vehicles and heavy equipment are centrally located for use in the unit and throughout the district. To accommodate the maintenance needs of the unit and district, and to improve the visitor's camping experience, an alternative facility site is recommended outside this unit.

Additional staff and equipment may be needed to meet the increased demands for campground and day-use facilities and beach cleaning (sand-sifting). This will help provide a clean, hazard-free environment for visitors. Delineation of individual campsite parking areas will be given a high priority by the district. Trail, roadway, pedestrian, and disabled accessways will be developed and maintained to provide safe and convenient access throughout the unit. The water and sanitation facilities/systems will be maintained at a level to provide adequate and safe water and sanitation.

Law Enforcement

New Brighton State Beach has moderate to serious law enforcement problems. Violations include auto burglaries, theft, vandalism, drug and alcohol related crimes, assaults, indecent exposures, and domestic violence. Areas of the park have become attractive havens for many homeless people. Vandalism to state property is extensive.

Another area of concern is loose dogs, which creates problems, with visitor injury and disturbance of wildlife.

State park peace officers in this unit receive law enforcement assistance from the Capitola Police Department. State park peace officers, in turn, provide assistance to the Capitola Police Department in apprehending suspects, conducting investigations, public safety training, and assisting with cliff and surf rescues. The ability to participate in response to public safety needs is desirable 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Recommendations

Regular public safety patrols of the unit will be performed to establish a law enforcement presence, prevent crime, and apprehend violators. A crime prevention program will continue in this unit to reduce alcohol and drug use, vandalism, thefts, burglary, and other adverse activities affecting the visitor security and the integrity of unit resources and facilities. Citizen education and participation will be essential toward preventive action. Training and equipment will be adjusted as needed.

Visitor and Aquatic Safety

The Aquatic Safety Task Force prepared a report in September 1988 that indicates aquatic users of the Pajaro Coast can be exposed to rip-currents, piers, jetties, and hazards of the rivermouth areas. The report states that proper mitigation includes signage, interpretive panels, junior ranger/junior lifeguard programs, community school programs, and provisions of lifeguard personnel.

Rip-currents and a rocky shoreline exist at New Brighton State Beach. Therefore, provisions for the appropriate mitigation have been discussed in both the Interpretive Element and the Land Use and Facilities Element.

The approximately 5,000 linear feet of ocean beach frontage is one of the main attractions of this unit. The surf that breaks at this beach is generally small to none; however, it is extremely popular for all types of aquatic activities, especially swimming and wading. Kayaking and fishing are also popular. Because of the generally calm conditions on this beach, visitors can have a false sense of security when using flotation devices and can be pulled or blown too far from the shore.

The bluffs overlooking the ocean on the extreme west end of the beach are sometimes the site of accidents. Visitors often venture onto the cliff edges, ignoring warning signs. Injuries and deaths have resulted when people lose their footing and fall or jump to the rocks below.

Lifeguard staff is provided seasonally at this unit. There are no lifeguard towers located at New Brighton, and this unit does not currently station seasonal guards during the off-season (October through March). Beach surveillance is provided from a tower located on the pier at Seacliff State Beach. Water safety incidents at this beach remain few, but generally serious, such as overturned vessels.

Recommendations

The unit's geographical makeup, combined with increases in use and visitation, may necessitate increases for aquatic safety coverage.

Lifeguard service by seasonal lifeguards would be needed to provide year-round aquatic safety service of this unit. A minimum of one portable lifeguard tower is recommended.

A seasonal aquatic patrol unit is desirable to provide backup response for the lifeguard tower during high-use periods and for preventive aquatic patrol during the "off season".

As visitor and aquatic recreation increases at this unit, aquatic seasonal staffing and equipment needs may also increase for public safety at the beach.

Special Considerations

Agency Coordination

New Brighton State Beach lies partially within the city of Capitola and county of Santa Cruz. Planning of activities, projects, development, emergency plans, and law enforcement have to be carefully coordinated by the operations staff with appropriate city and county agencies to assure that all concerns are addressed to avoid potential misunderstandings and conflicts.

Aptos Transmission Facility New Brighton Pumping Station

Currently, the Aptos Transmission Facility New Brighton Pumping Station is located at the east end of the lower New Brighton Beach access road. This sewer/pump station is also combined with a public restroom. Modifications, construction, or maintenance in or adjacent to the facility should be compatible with the continued operation and maintenance of this facility.

The Sandy Beach

The yearly ebb and flow of beach sand and the winter surf occasionally litters the beach with hundreds of driftwood logs, creating unpredictable maintenance requirements needed to restore visitor services.

Open, Undeveloped Areas

Approximately half of the unit is in this category and will require year-round vegetation management. Dense areas of brush and trees scattered throughout creates a potential fire risk. These areas are often used by illegal campers, and brush fires from untended campfires are common. In the past, non-native growth has been allowed to propagate. Pampas grass, eucalyptus trees, and sea

fig are crowding out and eliminating the native plants, grasses, and trees. Poison oak is abundant in the unit and often encroaches onto trails and into campsites and picnic areas.

Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Site/Eucalyptus Grove

A stand of blue gum eucalyptus trees near the campground near New Brighton Road currently provides shelter for several thousand migrating monarch butterflies. This attraction is cause for an increased need for visitor services and management of butterfly habitat. The pruning of eucalyptus trees is done occasionally throughout the year to reduce the hazard of falling branches. Protection of butterfly migration sites will be given a priority in the maintenance and visitor use of these areas.

Vegetation Management

The operations staff will be responsible for removing non-native plants and re-introducing native plants. A fire management program will be maintained to reduce the risk of wildfire within the unit. The removal of accumulated tree litter shall be part of the program. Tree hazard control shall continue for visitor safety.

Animal Control

Unit staff will remove and control feral cats and dogs that endanger visitors and native wildlife. Staff should receive appropriate training and equipment in this effort.

Volunteerism

A docent program (currently under the management of the Monterey Bay Natural-Historical Association) will continue as appropriate. Volunteers could assist in conducting guided walks and give presentations to various groups. Interpretive displays could be maintained by volunteers. The district's Ranger Explorer program should be continued and encouraged.

Other volunteer projects could be accomplished by this organization, such as native plant revegetation, trail clearing and maintenance, and fence or stair construction.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The General Plan, with all its elements, constitutes an environmental impact report (EIR), as required by state law (Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq.). The Environmental Impact Element will discuss the topics usually discussed in an EIR.

When a point has been adequately discussed in another element of this General Plan, it is mentioned in this element by reference to avoid redundancy.

Summary

Following are the major environmental effects that will result from the implementation of this project, and the major mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate those environmental effects. Mitigation measures will be monitored.

In general, the proposals at New Brighton State Beach will benefit the unit's environment and improve facilities for the public.

Project Description

The Resource Element, the Land Use and Facilities Element, the Operations Element, and the Concessions Element in this plan propose how the unit will be used, how resources will be protected, and what facilities will be constructed.

Description of the Environmental Setting

Refer to the Resource Element for a description of the natural and cultural environment of this unit. The Land Use and Facilities Element and, to a lesser degree, other elements also describe the existing natural environment and human influences on the environment.

In addition to those descriptions of the local environmental setting, please note the following:

Air Quality

Air quality along the Monterey Bay coast is generally good because of the influx of clean air off the Pacific Ocean. The Salinas II Monitoring Station records in 1988 indicated that gaseous and particulate pollutants were below state and national standards during the period when records were kept. Records at other Central Coast monitoring stations substantiated these findings, but their records were less complete. However, the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution District is currently not attaining the standards for ozone. On five days during September and October, but only at the Hollister Station, the California Ambient Air Quality Standards were exceeded. The less-stringent Federal Standards were not exceeded.

Traffic Circulation and Parking

Access to the main entrance of New Brighton State Beach is via Park Avenue, which connects with State Highway 1 about 100 yards to the north of McGregor Drive, which leads to the park's entrance road. McGregor Drive is a frontage road between Park Avenue and State Park Drive.

Public Services

Water, sewer, telephone, and electric services are provided to this unit.

(See the Operations Element for existing public safety, law enforcement, and aquatic safety procedures, and personnel responsibilities and capabilities.)

Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

Most of the proposals as described in the Land Use and Facilities Element and the Resource Element will ameliorate existing adverse conditions at New Brighton State Beach. Several possible significant effects to the environment, which already exist or may be caused by the project, are:

Soils and Geology: The state beach's soils consist mainly of sand and loam (see Resource Element). The proposed project includes features that will protect the sand beach, cliff, bluffs, and gulches. Human use, unless mitigated, could cause beach erosion and bluff erosion. Likewise, proposed construction could denude areas of soil and make it more susceptible to erosion.

The closest segment of the San Andreas Fault is located approximately nine miles northeast of New Brighton State Beach. No significant damage to facilities was reported at this unit as a result of the October 17, 1989 earthquake.

Energy: The use of energy by construction equipment will be a short-term effect. Long-term energy uses will include maintenance, emergency and patrol vehicles, and vehicles driven by the public to reach the unit.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Some native vegetation and wildlife may be minimally affected by proposed project construction and, intentionally or unintentionally, by the public. No rare or endangered species are known to exist in this unit.

Many species of wildlife use or visit the area (see Resource Element). The California brown pelican, an endangered species, occurs in the area.

The plan proposes that selected Monterey pines and other exotics will be removed to provide more sunlight. Native oaks will be planted along with other native species. Native plants will help screen campsites from one another.

The state-listed (threatened) Guadalupe fur seal may venture near the beach, and the federally listed (threatened) southern sea otter has been seen offshore. Offsite influences and development and uses within the unit are a potential threat to these resources.

The Resource Element describes in detail a plan for how the vegetation and wildlife will be managed at New Brighton State beach.

Cultural: The Resource Element discusses the standing historic structures and historic sites. No prehistoric archeological sites have been found in this unit.

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

The proposed short-term uses of the unit will be similar to present uses. The proposed project should be a long-term solution to the needs of the public for parking, beach access, improved maintenance, and visitor protection. In addition, the natural and cultural resources will be better protected.

Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes
if the Proposed Project is Implemented

None.

Growth-Inducing Impacts of Proposed Project

This project will not increase permanent human population in the area. The number of parking spaces being proposed exceeds the existing number. Parking infrequently reaches capacity, and does not have a significant impact.

Traffic Circulation and Parking: The Land Use and Facilities Plan proposes ways to alleviate the existing problems at the main entrance.

Esthetics: The Resource Element describes this topic. Several visually unesthetic features are in the area, such as the sewage pumping station on the beach, and scars from patched riprap and erosion along the access road to the pumping station. Noises from the freeway and odors from the sewer transmission line are negative but non-visual esthetic impacts.

Public Services: This plan proposes continued services. (See Operations Element and Interpretive Element.)

Recreation Safety: Certain hazards exist for the unwary recreationist. These include ocean or surf hazards such as riptides, tides, and unexpected high waves. Winter storms and rare tsunami conditions are especially dangerous. There are also hazards on the cliffs and bluffs (see the Operations Element). Pedestrians could be endangered from walking along roads and through the narrow tunnel under the Southern Pacific railroad.

Mitigation Measures

The resource management policies in the Resource Element should be referred to for guidance on the protection of the unit's natural and cultural resources. Several mitigation measures are specified here and will be monitored when the project is implemented.

Soils and Geology: Proposed roads, parking area, and trails in the state beach and trails will be designed so that water runoff will not erode soils. Design features such as boardwalks and landscaping with native vegetation will help prevent soil erosion.

Signs and fencing will be installed to keep people off the cliffs, bluffs, and fragile sites.

Beach erosion is a regional and statewide problem. The department will work with the Corps of Engineers and other agencies in finding long-range solutions. (See Resource Element policies.)

Energy: Use of construction machinery will be minimized to conserve energy.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Resource policies in the Resource Element for plants and animals will be followed.

Exotic species will be removed, i.e., Monterey pine and eucalyptus trees, in favor of native species of plants. This will result in more sunlight, screening, and a correct representation of native plant species in the area.

Cultural: The Land Use and Facilities Plan Element proposes to preserve the historical features in the unit, such as the historic ramada, and use of the historical residence for interpretive use.

Esthetics: The proposed project will improve esthetics throughout the developed area.

The project will: 1) rehabilitate areas that have received heavy use, leaving visual scars on soils; 2) construct new facilities that are visually attractive; 3) design access and trails that will protect cliffs, bluffs, gullies, and vegetation; 4) landscape and screen with an emphasis on native vegetation; and 5) remove dense exotic vegetation.

Visitor Safety: Unit personnel will help visitors needing emergency attention. Signs warning visitors about surf conditions, or that a lifeguard may not be on duty, will be prominently displayed.

Interpretive displays and unit personnel will assist in informing the public.

Traffic Circulation and Parking: The proposed Land Use and Facilities Element will improve the traffic circulation and provide more parking and improve traffic circulation.

Any Significant Environmental Effects That Cannot Be Avoided if the Proposal is Implemented

Most environmental problems can be effectively mitigated, as described in this plan. Traffic problems on peak days will be one problem that cannot be mitigated. These occasions are infrequent, and are not considered a significant effect.

Alternatives to Proposed Project

1. The first alternative is the No Project or "Do Nothing" alternative. The problems, such as overuse of facilities, soil compaction, erosion, exotic vegetation, traffic, etc., would continue to worsen.
2. There are two alternatives to the entrance. One would be to continue using the present entrance road and improve the alignment drainages, and others as outlined in the Land Use and Facilities Plan.

The other entrance alternative would be to have the entrance come into the state beach by an overpass over the railroad tracks. The entrance road would emanate from McGregor Drive as it is now located or somewhat east of the present location.

3. There are a myriad of arrangements for campground roads, placement of campsites and structures. The proposed plan would serve recreation demands and ameliorate environmental concerns.

Various alternatives have been considered for the operations and maintenance facilities. One site would be the undeveloped area near McGregor Drive. Another possibility would be on land to be leased or acquired outside the unit. The present facility affects the campground and uses up potential recreation space.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES
GENERAL PLANS AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT
NEW BRIGHTON, SEACLIFF, AND SUNSET STATE BEACHES
SCH #86011401

Review copies were provided to the following on and subsequent to February 7, 1990. The review period ended on March 23, 1990.

State Clearinghouse (10 copies)

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, House of Representatives
The Honorable Byron Sher, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Eric Seastrand, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Henry J. Mello, Member of the Senate
The Honorable Sam Farr, Member of the Assembly
Wallace J. Rothbart, Caltrans District 4
Bruce Elliott, California Department of Fish and Game
Rick Hyman, California Coastal Commission
Debbie Townsend, State Lands Commission
Larry Pearson, Associate Planner, City of Santa Cruz, Planning and Community
Development
David Laughlin, Chief, Housing and Community Development, County of Santa Cruz
Steve Russell, Director, Capitola Planning Department
Jim Lang, Director, City of Santa Cruz
Alyse Jacobson & Laurie Marcus, California Coastal Conservancy
Benton Angrove, Director, Santa Cruz County Parks Department
Sierra Club Coastal Task Force, c/o Carl Larson
U.S. Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service
Devon Bates, Regional Coordinator, California Coastal Commission
Ed Inai, State Lands Commission
Southern Pacific Transportation Company
La Selva Beach Improvement Association
Pajaro Dunes Homeowners Association, South
Cypress Townhouse Project Committee
Pajaro Dunes Shorebirds
Rio Del Mar Improvement Association
Place de Mer Townhouse Association
Pot Belly Beach Club
Santa Cruz Historical Society
Seacliff Park, Inc.
Council of Improvement Associations
Seacliff Beach Association
Santa Cruz County Hostel Society
Santa Cruz Archeological Society
Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association
Sand Dollar Beach Homeowners Association
Sunset Beach Homeowners Association
Sunset Beach Erosion Committee
Santa Cruz Chapter - Sierra Club
Jacqueline O'Connor, President, Seacliff Beach Homeowners Association
Rose S. Costa, Friends of the Pier
Alex K. Peabody, California Association of Lifeguards

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Stoessel, Seacliff Park Association
 Steve Matarazzo, Santa Cruz County Planning Department
 Joan Stoker Rost, Sierra Club
 Santa Cruz Public Library, Attention Debora Jones
 Santa Cruz Sentinel, Attention Barbara McKenna
 Santa Cruz Transportation Commission, Attention Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
 John Lane, Biologist, Santa Cruz City Museum
 Katherine Snow, Monarch Project
 Brad Gordon, California Native Plant Society
 Chairperson, Monterey Bay Natural Historical Association
 John McEnery, Seabright Homeowners Association
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Port District, Attention Roderick A. Chisholm II
 Watsonville Planning Department
 Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
 Dr. Robert Mark, Sierra Club State Park Task Force
 Gail Kobetich, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
 James D. Carson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Point Reyes Bird Observatory
 Robert Elliot
 Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities, Attention Mike Molesky
 Joan Scanlon, MENHA
 The Honorable Robley Levy, Supervisor, County of Santa Cruz
 Leon Mattingly (Sunset only)
 Julie Goodnight, Coastal Conservancy (Sunset)
 George McNeely (Sunset)
 Norman Case (Sunset)
 Ken T. Schantz

A notice announcing the location of copies of the documents for public review was published in the following newspapers:

The Santa Cruz Sentinel
 The Register - Pajorianian

Documents were available at the following locations for public review:

Santa Cruz Public Library System
 Central Library
 224 Church Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Watsonville Public Library
 310 Union
 Watsonville, CA 95076

Santa Cruz Public Library System
 Branciforte Library
 230 Gault Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Santa Cruz Public Library System
 Aptos Library
 7695 Soquel Drive
 Aptos, CA 95003

Department of Parks and Recreation
 Pajaro Coast District
 101 Madeline Drive
 Aptos, CA 95003

Department of Parks and Recreation
 Central Coast Region Headquarters
 2211 Garden Road
 Monterey, CA 93940

Comments were received from the following agencies, organizations, and individuals:

California Coastal Commission, Central Coast Area Office
Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission
California Recreational Trails Committee, William Bliss
Sierra Club Ventana Chapter, John Stonum Chair, Santa Cruz Regional Group
Sunset Beach Improvement Association, Margaret Felts, Secretary
Aptos Neighbors Association, Peter Carr, President AHA
New Brighton Beach Action Coalition, Pat Manning, Chair
Save Our Shores, Michael J. Humenik, Chair
Barbara G. McGee (petition with 20 names)

G-3074R

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST AREA OFFICE
640 CAPITOLA ROAD
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062



March 21, 1990

California Department of Parks & Recreation
Resource Protection Division
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: Preliminary General Plans for: New Brighton,
Seacliff and Sunset State Beaches

Attention: James Doyle - Environmental Review Section

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The California Coastal Commission staff has reviewed the Preliminary General Plans for the three state beaches and offer the following comments.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

While the Coastal Commission concurs with the General Plan's broad environmental review, a detailed environmental analysis must be conducted for all significant individual development projects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Coastal Commission will continue to take part in this review as a responsible agency. All subject units are in Communities with certified Local Coastal Programs (LCP's), therefore, the final documents should include a section on permit procedures for all new developments. All proposed developments, such as a new entrance facility, will have to comply with the Coastal permit procedures of each respective LCP. In addition, cumulative environmental impacts of each project should be in compliance with the LCP's and CEQA. 1

A general review of policies consistent with Section 3.0 of the Santa Cruz Local Coastal Plan (SCLCP) dealing with hazards should be discussed with an emphasis placed on Section 3.1.9 in response to the October 17, 1989 earthquake. 2

Slope stability and erosion concerns should be consistent with the policies under Section 3.2 of the SCLCP. In addition, when determining zones of exclusion the review should include the analysis required by Section 3.3.6 of the SCLCP.

The final documents should identify a project time frame and priority list as well as a more detailed analysis of each proposed project. 3

NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH

The Coastal Commission acknowledges the need for a new entrance road and entrance facility. The proposal for such an entrance, however, is vague and unclear. A concrete plan for the construction as well as a time-frame for this project should be identified for the final document. The new road entrance should also be analyzed relative to traffic and circulation. 4

Currently no bicycle paths exist along the entrance road. The interim development plan for the existing entrance road needs to include such paths, especially near and under the trestle. In addition, the park as a whole contains no visible bicycle trails. The SCLCP's policies fully support development of bicycle trails throughout state beach systems. New trail proposals should be included in the final documents. In addition, adequate indicative signing should accompany all new trails and roads. 5

Improved beach access for the Loop A campsites (southern sites) should be considered. The proposed new access stairway from the campground (Loop C) to the beach-level restroom facility needs to be constructed in a way to avoid additional bluff erosion as well as to withstand such erosion when it naturally occurs. 6

The landscape restoration program discussed on page 29 needs to be more clearly identified and developed. The timing of this project should also be indicated. The need for hazard signing along the beach at the north-end cliffs has intensified since the October 17, 1989 earthquake and should be included in the final document. 7

A forest management plan component needs to be addressed as a means of providing butterfly protection. The pruning of eucalyptus tree branches, discussed on page 62, does not identify the impacts of such pruning on the Monarch butterfly habitat. While the department encourages continued public and private management and protection efforts for the Monarch butterfly habitat (page 45), the plan does not identify a possibility for additional acquisition of land or of creating a Natural Preserve designation. Such possibilities should be discussed in the final document. 8

Greater emphasis should be placed on a more extensive beach shuttle service, this is supported by Section 4.14.1 of the SCLCP. 9

SEACLIFF STATE BEACH

Improvements to the entrance road and entrance station were proposed on page 41, however, no clear plans for the project were discussed. The final document should contain a detailed analysis of the proposed entrance road. Such a path should be included in the entrance improvement project. 16

The bluff adjacent to the entrance kiosk is susceptible to excessive erosion due to human trampling. A protective fence could ameliorate this problem. 17

The General Plan should include impacts of the October 17, 1989 earthquake. Page 68 briefly acknowledged the occurrence of cliff erosion and tree felling as a result of the seismic activity. Much more detailed analysis of the long term impacts would be included in the final document. The analysis should include a discussion of possible slide prevention measures. 18

No clear, long-term restoration plans, including revegetation and restabilization projects were identified. Bluff restabilization should be a top priority.

The current seawall maintenance program does not conform to shoreline structure development criteria (see attachment). A more in-depth analysis of the shoreline protective device alternative (pages 24 & 33) is needed for the final document. The 1984 report, which estimated annual cost of "maintenance repair and replacement" to be \$150,000, is not clearly stated. In addition, the revenues have been lower and the costs greater than the 1984 estimates. Some consideration should be given to possible alternative seawall designs, to be implemented when continued seawall maintenance and storm damage repairs become infeasible or if actual collapse occurs. 19

Would redesigning a portion of the existing day-use parking area upcoast from the visitor center to accommodate large recreational vehicles, as proposed on page 42, cut down on day-use potential? This is not clearly stated in the proposal. Due to past storm damages to recreational vehicle campsites on the beach, the Coastal Commission strongly encourages putting future RV/campsite facilities in the undeveloped overflow parking area set back from the cliffs and screened by heavy vegetative buffer from the adjacent residential areas. 20

A possible pier extension was briefly mentioned on page 44. A detailed discussion of such a possibility needs to be included in the final document before any judgement of the appropriateness of the project can be formulated. 21

Public parking and beach access along Beach Drive from Beach Island to the south-end beach restrooms should be developed. This half mile strip is currently under-utilized by the general public due to the lack of public parking. 22

The text of the final document should include a discussion of how open space easements are utilized consistent with the Allowable Use Intensity map on page 77. 23

SUNSET STATE BEACH

Currently no designated bicycle trails exist on the entrance road or throughout the park. An interim bicycle path should be designated on the existing entrance road. A path should also be included in the new entrance road project. New trail proposals throughout the park should be included in the final document. In addition, adequate indicative signing should accompany all new trails and be added to the existing trails.

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In response to Section 5.3.3 of the SCLCP, the bicycle trail connecting Palm Beach to Sunset Beach should be expanded and proper signing should be provided. A possible bicycle link through Pajaro Dunes to the mouth of the Pajaro River should be included in the final document as required by Section 4.15.14 of the SCLCP. This mile stretch of state beach appears private due to the "locked gate" development at Pajaro Dunes.

The final document should cite Section 5.1.3 of the SCLCP which is consistent with the proposal to expand overnight camping sites and RV spaces in appropriate locations. Further discussion is needed, however, for the two new group camps north of Dunes Camp.

39

Present development encroachments upon the public beach are mentioned briefly on pages 16 and 27. Such encroachments are inconsistent with Sections 3.3.8 and 4.3.3 of the SCLCP. A more detailed analysis on protection of private property as well as State Park facilities in accordance with LCP policies is needed. Structural alternatives are not warranted for the present or planned park facilities.

40

A discussion of a possible vegetation screen from the Shorebirds condominium complex should be included in the final document.

Trail access across the sand dunes should be limited and revegetation of this area initiated in order to prevent possible dune blowouts. Day use picnic areas should have designated boardwalk crossovers.

41

The protection policy for the Monarch butterfly, discussed on page 39, is not clear. Perhaps tree removal should be tied to a forest management plan component.

42

The final document should include a discussion of the possibility of extending the multi-lingual interpretive panels and signs to the entire unit and possibly to the other units.

43

Palm Beach -- A boardwalk extending from the parking lot to the beach should be included in order to prevent dune erosion. A revegetation project should be initiated in the buffer area between the parking lot and the Watsonville Slough.

44

California Department of Parks & Recreation
March 21, 1990
Page 5

Reference Map -- The Department of Parks and Recreation manages the Pajaro River lagoon as part of Zmudowski State Beach. It should be referenced as a significant wetland affecting the Watsonville Slough complex adjacent to Palm Beach.

45

With consideration of the above comments these State Beach General Plans provide excellent public recreational opportunities while protecting the natural resources that make the areas desirable for recreational use. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please call.

Sincerely,



David Loomis
Assistant District Director

DL/11/cm

Attachment

cc: Dianne Guzman, Planning Director, Santa Cruz Co.
Susan Tupper, Planning Director, Capitola
Ray Jenkins, Dist. Superintendent, D.P.&R., Pajaro Coast
Dick Felty, Regional Director, D.P.&R.

4380A

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 310
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(408) 426-7390



March 30, 1987

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: EDWARD Y. BROWN, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

RE: WHAT IS NECESSARY BEFORE WE FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A SHORE PROTECTION STRUCTURE

Ownership/Boundaries

The submitted plans should show the applicant's property boundaries in relation to the project limits. In addition, if there is not a sandy beach, i.e., tide pool areas or cliff with little beach and frequent waves, the plans must indicate the location of the Mean High Tide Line. And, in any case, if it is available, the Mean High Tide should be shown and the date(s) it was established.

If the project extends onto an adjoining property, the adjoining owner should be invited to apply, or the applicant must show a legal right to use the property. In addition, the applicant shall demonstrate the authority to comply with condition of permit approval on the adjoining parcel pursuant to Coastal Act Section 30601.5.

Plans

The project plans must be prepared or certified by a registered professional engineer with expertise in shoreline processes. Normally, this means a civil engineer or engineering geologist. On occasion, this can be a structural engineer or soils engineer if they have experience in coastal engineering.

A benchmark should be established on the plans and on the site. This benchmark must be in relation to the standard of MSL or NGVD, Mean Sea Level or National Geodetic Vertical Datum. Beach contours at 1 foot intervals shall be provided. Construction access shall be indicated with any special considerations noted.

Geotechnical Report

The report must be prepared by a registered professional engineer or engineering geologist as described in the section of Plan above. For small projects (for example, adding some rock to an existing wall above the toe and the beach) a short report, i.e., letter, is acceptable. This is also the case if a prior thorough investigation has been done and only an update is necessary. For most projects, however, a full report that is prepared according to the standards set by the Division of Mines and Geology, (see their Note #44, Guidelines for Preparing Engineering Geology Reports; copy attached) with some added features:

- * Design wave height
- * Maximum expected wave height
- * Frequency of overtopping
- * Normal and maximum tidal ranges
- * Erosion rate with/without protection device
- * Effect of structure on adjoining property
- * Potential/effect of scouring at base
- * Design life of structure/maintenance provisions
- * Alternatives to the chosen design including "no project"
- * Maintenance provisions including methods and materials

In addition, the engineer must certify that the structure is designed to withstand storms comparable to the winter storms of 1982-83, pursuant to Commission direction for such verification on all projects.

1668A

SIERRA CLUB Ventana Chapter
Santa Cruz Regional Group
P.O. 604
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
PO 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

New Brighton State Beach General Plan was reviewed by the Regional Group. At the February meeting of the Executive Committee the group discussed the plan, commended the process and plan, and made the following comments:

COMMENDS THE PARK PLAN in these areas:

POTENTIAL LAND ADDITIONS The priority one status given to the acquisition of the Porter Sesnon Property as one with outstanding scenic and natural values and excellent potential for park and recreation programs.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES

Development of a new access road to the park for improved access and the interim modifications to improve drainage and traffic circulation.

Reorganization of the campground and campfire areas. The plans will provide more and better camping with addition of needed group camping.

Landscaping with native plants is excellent. The plans for the campground, for the bluff near Park Ave, and for interpretive themes emphasizing natives are good and should be emphasized. Some nice natives are found in the bluff area according to Dave Bockman.

Fencing and improvement of access from Park Ave by steps/ramp from the street near the bus stop.

Removal of employee residences.

83 RECEIVED

MAR 2 1990

INTERPRETATIVE ELEMENT

New campfire center

Junior lifeguard and junior ranger programs

CONCESSIONS: Restrict to mobile units. Concession or stores appear to be needed only at Sunset State Beach due to the distance from groceries for bike campers.

OPERATIONS: Protection of Monarch butterfly migration sites.

CONCERNS / MONITOR Interpretation: Construction and installation of interpretative panels, signs and exhibit shelters should be done with moderation. Signs can be detrimental to appreciation of beautiful areas.

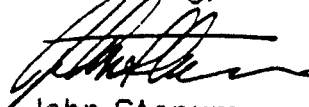
10

Overflow campground in parking area is designated for off season. Why? Will this become a permanent campground for RVs. Is overflow camping less needed at high season?

11

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



John Stonum

Chair Santa Cruz Regional Group



P.O. Box 1560 · Santa Cruz, California · 95061

James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, Ca. 94206-0001

Mar 23, 1990

Dear Mr. Doyle,

Save Our Shores has reviewed the preliminary general plan for New Brighton State Beach. We are in general agreement with most of the plan's recommendations, but wish to call your attention to one issue in the plan-potential land additions. We applaud your designation of the 66 acre Porter-Sesnon property as the "priority 1" land acquisition site for annexation to the state beach. However, we believe the plan should give more discussion to this property than is now provided by the single page of text on this subject.

Serious consideration should be given to the New Brighton Beach Action Coalition's plan for an Outdoor Environmental Learning Center/Interpretive Center use on this property. Their plan uses the term "Environmental Discovery Center" and is a more innovative proposed use of the land than now proposed in the State Beach General Plan. The Discovery Center concept is based on a cooperative partnership among State Parks, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, the County of Santa Cruz, and possibly the City of Capitola. This arrangement could provide for land acquisition funds beyond those available to state parks for such purposes.

SOS therefore recommends you contact the New Brighton Beach Action Coalition to thoroughly understand their "Discovery Center" proposal and include it as part of the text on possible uses of Porter-Sesnon land in your final New Brighton Beach General Plan document. Also please advise us of any public hearings on New Brighton, Seacliff, and Sunset State Beaches plans.

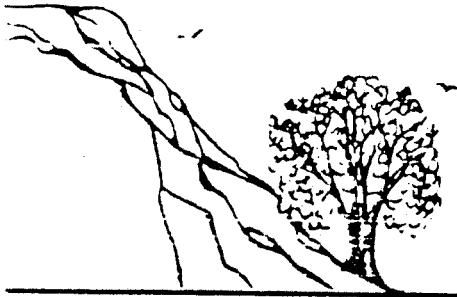
Sincerely

Michael J Humenik, Chair

cc: New Brighton Beach Action Coalition
County Supervisor Gary Patton
County Supervisor Robly Levy
Capitola Mayor Jerry Clarke

85 RECEIVED

MAR 27 1990



NEW BRIGHTON BEACH ACTION COALITION

March 20, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94206-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle,

Members of the New Brighton Beach Action Coalition (NEWBBAC) support the designation of the Porter-Sesnon property as a Priority 1 use for potential land additions in the New Brighton State Beach General Plan.

NEWBBAC is a coalition of local citizens' organizations and individuals dedicated to the public use and preservation of the Porter-Sesnon land. Affiliated groups include Save Our Shores, Aptos Neighbors Association, Live Oak Community Association and the (San Lorenzo) Valley Women's Club.

Formed in June, 1988, after the overwhelming defeat of Measure A (Wingspread), NEWBBAC began a community effort to determine a feasible alternative for the property that would allow for the greatest possible public benefit while keeping it as close to its natural state as possible.

Last month, after spending several months interviewing public officials, neighborhood groups, and holding public meetings in order to explore various possible uses for the property, NEWBBAC proposed the idea of an Environmental Discovery Center. I have enclosed our first newsletter, in order to explain more fully our initial ideas as to how the Discovery Center could be developed.

Since the Discovery Center proposal has received widespread support, NEWBBAC would like to propose that the future development of the Porter-Sesnon property as an Environmental Discovery Center be added to the New Brighton State Beach General Plan.

Sincerely,

Pat Manning
Pat Manning, Chair

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MAR 26 1990

RPD

1849 Dry Creek Road
San Jose, California 95124
23 March 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I am a member of the California Recreational Trails Committee. I have been asked by the Committee chair to review the Pajaro Beaches General Plans with special emphasis on trail elements. I have done this and have a couple of suggestions.

In the Seacliff State Beach Plan's summary of Land Use and Facility Proposal #10 includes "coordinate trail connections with other city and county regional trail plans." This is great, but I did not find the basis for the proposal in the body of the plan. Dave Keck of the DPR said that this proposal stems from the possibility of a trail to Seacliff from the Forest of Nisene Marks. I think that somewhere in the body of the Plan there should be a paragraph describing the possibility of the interpark trail (and other trail plans, if appropriate), followed by a proposal or policy supporting the intent of the Department to plan and construct Park trails that connect with regional trails.

The Pajaro Beach Parks are located close to the Bicentennial Coast Bicycle Route, originally developed and mapped by Caltrans; the maps are now available from Bicentennial, a national bicycle touring organization in Missoula, Montana. The maps indicate a Hike/Bike camp at New Brighton State Beach. Mr. Keck said

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MAR 26 1990

that there is such a camp at New Brighton (in a poor location) and that it could be continued in a better place. I urge the continuation of the Hike/Bike-in camp at New Brighton State Beach. In the General Plan the Hike/Bike location should be shown on the Existing Condition map. The better location should be indicated on the Proposed Land Use & Facilities map. The move and continuation of the Hike/Bike camp should be supported in the body of the plan.

Except for these comments, I believe that, given the intent, scope, and structure of the plans, recreational trails are properly addressed in the Pajaro Beach General Plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Wm. Bliss

SIERRA CLUB Ventana Chapter
Santa Cruz Regional Group
P.O. 604

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

March 18, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
PO 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Seacliff State Beach General Plan was reviewed by the Regional Group. At the February meeting of the Executive Committee the group discussed the plan, commended the process and plan, and made the following comments:

COMMENDS THE SEACLIFF PLAN FOR:

IMPROVED ENTRANCE STATION

Restriction of larger RVs on roadway and parking beyond pier.

Walk in use beach-level day use. NO Vehicles

Comfort station bluff top

Moving district vehicle maintenance function

Removal of employee residences.

Upgrade facilities at the south end of Beach Drive

Restoration of riparian habitat on Aptos Creek

QUESTION: MORE INFORMATION AND MONITORING NEEDED:

Bluff parking plan includes walks, benches, picnic tables, and ramadas as well as interpretative panels. Use of native plants is desirable. Overflow parking may be paved for regular use. Possibility of beach shuttle is mentioned. Shuttle feasibility should be explored.

24

Lights on the pier and evening hours for the pier. Intensity of lighting and hours of use are concerns.

25

Need for exhibit shelters on the pier when the interpretative center is

26

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89

MAR 22 1990

just off the pier.

Concession booth should not be rebuilt. A mobile unit should suffice as well as at New Brighton. Seacliff and Rio Beach stores are close and open regularly for groceries and deli service.

27

Overflow off season camping is unnecessary. It seems intended to become a year round expansion of beach-level camping. Such expansion is opposed. Thank you for your consideration.

28

Yours truly,



John Stonum

Chair, Santa Cruz Regional Group

APTOS NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

**Post Office Box 1732
Aptos, California 95001**

March 18, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

Re: Seacliff State Beach - General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Let us first thank the State Parks Department for their efforts in the handling of the parks in this area. We have found the staff thoughtful and attentive to both the parks and to neighbors of the parks,

This letter is written from the viewpoint of residents of the area surrounding Seacliff State Beach. We are especially concerned with the impact of the General Plan dated January, 1990 on the Seacliff area in particular and the Aptos area in general.

Description of the Resource Element of the Report (pp. 11- 29) and the Land Use and Facilities Element of the Report (pp. 33 - 47) in our opinion do not adequately describe the location of this Seacliff State Beach. It is bordered by residential areas; the Seacliff area on the inland bluff side, Las Olas Drive on the upcoast side, and the Rio Del Mar area on the downcoast side. State Park Drive is the main access from Highway 1 into the residential areas, as well as Seacliff State Beach. We are concerned that this location be kept in mind during the planning process and during implementation of the plan.

We submit these comments on specific items:

1. Moving the maintenance station outside the unit (p. 46). Good. However, we do appreciate the low profile of this facility to the area as it has been operated. Modifications of the perimeter of the Park in this area

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29

are probable, though not mentioned in the Plan. We request that the neighbors across the street be kept in mind when the perimeter is planned. If the maintenance facility is moved, would the area be used for parking? For some type of access by foot? If parking, a screen of shrubs of moderate height might mitigate the impact. We question allowing foot traffic to enter the area from this one block location because of commercial uses across the street.

29

2. Changes are scheduled for the bluff top. We commend improvement of the perimeter and bluff fencing and planting of native shrubs and groundcover. These should not be so tall that they obstruct the view of the homeowners across the street.

Installation of picnic tables, and benches will draw additional users to the bluff top. Installation of a comfort station will do the same thing. We are concerned about people using these facilities at dusk and on into the night. Certain groups of people gather at the wall at the Rio Del Mar Esplanade parking lot bordering the Park. Drinking is visible. Increased law enforcement efforts have reduced but not eliminated these problems. We are concerned that an easily accessible area at the bluff top will result in the same kind of problem. Sleeping in the bluff shrubs has also been a problem. Law enforcement is recognized as a problem (p. 61). Lighting this area would be intrusive to the surrounding area. Increasing the facilities inevitably will increase the necessity for patrolling the area. We think that the Parks Department should recognize and provide for increased patrolling of this area. Additionally, the more structures there are in the area whether tables, benches or ramadas, the more difficult it is to patrol the area.

30

We question the adviseability of Ramadas for the bluff top area. This is a foggy coastal area. Sun protection is sometimes required, but not a prevalent problem. Ramadas would create added structures which may affect patrolling. They also create a feeling of structural development which is not appropriate to the park. We suggest consultation with a design consultant before installing ramadas.

3. The General Plan (p. 44) also mentions lights on the pier. Currently, the pier is closed at dusk. First, if lighted, the lights should not be intrusive. They are mentioned in the General Plan as "low level." We support this, if lights are installed. Certainly the sodium vapor or arc

31

type of lights should be avoided.

Second, does this mean that the pier will be open at night? The safety hazards would be significantly increased. And night use of the park also has the same law enforcement problems mentioned above. If lights are installed, we think they should be low level plus the patrolling of the area should be increased.

31

Very truly yours,



Peter Carr, President AHA

cc: Mr. Ray Jenkins District Superintendent
Pajaro Coast District Headquarters
7500 Soquel Dr.
Aptos, CA. 95003

March 12, 1990


James M. Doyle
Supervisor, Environment Review Section
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, Ca 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Enclosed please find Petition in protest to the Proposal
for BLUFF PARKING EXPANSION.

Please have this Proposal canceled from general plan as
stated in Petition attached.

Sincerely,



Encl. 1

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MAR 14 1990

James M. Doyle - Supervisor, Environment Review Section
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Sir,

This is a Petition in protest to the Proposal for BLUFF PARKING (expansion) including groundcover, walks, benches, picnic tables, and ramadas as well as the proposed comfort station near the existing stairway which is intended to serve the bluff top facilities.

We believe that such a proposal infringes on our privacy as well as imposes a threat to the environment which we as homeowners have come to appreciate and enjoy. This property exists in the middle of a restricted residential zone with properties valued in many millions of dollars. Such a proposal will increase noise, smell, as well as bring many persons trespassing on our private property not to mention the "pollution" to our unobstructed view of one of natures LAST remaining gifts... Monterey Bay.

We urge that this proposal be abandoned since it produces minimal value for citizens and maximal destruction of a beautiful existing natural facility.

32

Barbara G. McLean
179 Seacliff Drive
Aptos CA 95003

210 Seacliff Drive
Aptos CA 95003

158 Seacliff Dr
Aptos CA 95003

Mr. & Mrs. William Bond
194 E. Seacliff Dr. Aptos CA

Mr. & Mrs. Jose L. da Silva
216 Seacliff Dr. East, Aptos, CA.

Mr & Mrs Ronald J Brown
218 Seacliff Dr Aptos CA 95003

Mr. & Mrs. BRIAN QUILL
208 E. Seacliff Dr., Aptos 95003

Yvonne Miller
204 Seacliff Dr E Aptos 95003

Mrs & Mrs Jud H Form
101 San Ramon ST APTOS. CA

Mrs Ann Vanni
193 E Seacliff Dr Aptos

Mr & Mrs. Mark Yellin
106 San Ramon Ave
Aptos CA 95003

Mr & Mrs Mary Camarillo
186 E. Seacliff Dr.
Aptos, CA 95003

Paul D. Givens
183 Seacliff
Aptos CA 95003

Mrs & Mrs C. Davies
202 East Seacliff Dr.
Aptos, CA 95003

Bob Bunnio
206 Seacliff Dr E
Aptos, CA 95003

Mr & Mrs John Paul ...
214 Seacliff Dr Aptos CA 95003

Mr & Mrs Harwood G. Holley
181 Seacliff Drive E, Aptos, CA 95003

Mrs & Mrs David B. ...
212 Seacliff Dr
Aptos CA 95003

SIERRA CLUB Ventana Chapter
Santa Cruz Regional Group
P.O. 604
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
March 18, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
PO 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Sunset State Beach General Plan was reviewed by the Regional Group. At the February meeting of the Executive Committee the group discussed the plan, commended the process and plan, and made the following comments:

COMMEND/SUPPORT

RESOURCE ELEMENTS:

Groundwater overdraft. Saltwater has intruded into wells in Sunset state beach and coastal Monterey County. Nitrate levels are in excess of drinking standards. Water is posted as unsafe. Park will work with Santa Cruz county and with State Water Resources Control Board. This effort is important and is to be encouraged

Aerial and ground application of pesticides needs attention as a potential hazard. Continued strengthened efforts are to be urged.

Dune revegetation efforts have been successful and should be continued using native plants.

LAND USE:

UNIT ENTRANCE: needs to be realigned to separate visitor and non visitor traffic, to provide for safe pedestrian movement.

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MAR 2 1990

CAMPGROUNDS: Develop two additional group camps. This is appropriate and needed.

INTERPRETATIVE priority to develop programs and exhibits at Palm Beach with primary focus to Hispanic Community.

CONCESSIONS Sunset Beach is a designated bike campground. A campstore seems to be important especially for bike campers. It would be used by other campers and dayuse visitors as an grocery service is at a great distance.

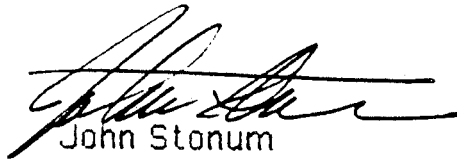
RADIO TOWER Support not renewing the lease.

RECOMMENDATION: PATH FROM THE LEVEE BIKE TRAIL TO THE BEACH

46

Thank you for your consideration of the Sierra Club comments.

Yours truly,



John Stonum
Chair, Santa Cruz Regional Group



March 19, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94286

RE: General Plans for Sunset, Seacliff, and New Brighton State Beaches

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission (SCCTC) staff thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the draft general plans for Sunset, Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches. Staff has reviewed these plans and made comments below. Additionally, staff concurs with the comments submitted by the SCCTC Bicycle Committee under a separate cover.

SUNSET STATE BEACH

- 1. Land Use and Facilities Element should identify existing bicycle facilities. | 47
- 2. When redesigning campsites, retain current number of hike and bike campsites. | 48
- 3. Plan for accessible wheelchair paths to the beach area and shoreline. | 49
- 4. Incorporate projects which bring parking areas and restrooms into compliance with the California State Accessibility Standards, Title 24 Manual (Office of the State Architect). | 50

SEACLIFF STATE BEACH

- 1. Land Use and Facilities Element should identify existing bicycle facilities. | 34
- 2. Incorporate extension of State Park Drive bike lanes into entrance road improvement.
- 3. Include bicycle parking when upgrading Rio Del Mar parking facilities. | 35
- 4. Plan for accessible wheelchair paths to the beach area and shoreline. | 36
- 5. Incorporate projects which bring parking areas and restrooms into compliance with the California State Accessibility Standards, Title 24 Manual (Office of the State Architect). | 37

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MAR 26 1990


RPD

NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH

1. Land Use and Facilities Element should identify existing bicycle facilities.
2. Provide for separation or accommodation of pedestrian and bicycle traffic according to CALTRANS Highway Design Manual Bikeway Planning and Design Criteria when designing new trails.
3. Plan for accessible wheelchair paths to the beach area and shoreline.
4. Incorporate projects which bring parking areas and restrooms into compliance with the California State Accessibility Standards, Title 24 Manual (Office of the State Architect).

If you have any questions, contact Jack Witthaus of my staff at (408) 425-2951.

Sincerely,



Linda Wilshusen
Executive Director

LW/jw
A:statebch

cc: AMBAG

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942895
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

March 14, 1990

Dear Mr. Doyle,

Thank you for the Draft Environmental Report on Sunset State Beach and we wish to submit the following comments:

Sunset State Beach is one of the earliest to preserve coastal environment in North Monterey Bay area and to protect the sweeping panorama of its natural beauty.

It has been adequately managed and cared for - never overwhelmed by public access to picnic and camping areas.

Wildlife has been maintained among trees and shrubs: birds, butterflies, wild animals native to the area. Homeowners have been feeding quail for many years.

Trees and shrubs, natural vegetation, have been protected.

Above points must be considered when expansion of public use is being proposed in the plan for the future.

There will be a necessary expansion of staff to watch and protect the environment.

Expansion of the main parking lot to the size proposed will change the ambience of the area by crowding it with many more visitors.

Issues of concern:

Many more garbage cans and fire rings will be needed.

The 200 ft. bank must be watched constantly to prevent beach users from climbing up it since it has been so destabilized since the earthquake of Oct. 17, 1989. Most of the bank has no fencing to protect it.

The regular cleanup of trash on the beach will have to be increased. We now often find broken glass, styrofoam cups and other picnic garbage left by visitors.

We hope this projected change will enable Sunset State Park to continue to offer intrinsically the same thrilling experience it always has.

Sincerely,

Margaret Felts

Margaret Felts, Secretary
Sunset Beach Improvement Association

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MAR 16 1990

RPD

Margaret Felts 101
14 Sunset Drive
Sunset Beach
Watsonville, CA 95076

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

March 23, 1990

James M. Doyle
State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001Subject: General Plans for Sunset, Seacliff and New Brighton State Beaches
SCH# 86011401

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call Nancy Mitchell at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. When contacting the Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight-digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Nunenkamp".

David C. Nunenkamp
Deputy Director, Permit Assistance

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102

MAR 26 1990



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

MAIL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 190, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93942 • TELEPHONE (408) 373-6116
OFFICE LOCATION 977 PACIFIC STREET

March 12, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: MCH #039010 - General Plan - Sunset State Beach
#039011 - General Plan - Seacliff State Beach
#039012 - General Plan - New Brighton State Beach

Dear Mr. Doyle:

AMBAG's Regional Clearinghouse circulated a summary notice of your general plans to our member agencies and interested parties for review and comment.

AMBAG Board of Directors considered the project on March 9, 1990 and there were no comments.

Thank you for complying with the Clearinghouse process.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Papadakis
Executive Director

NP:bp

P.S. Please note AMBAG's street address has changed. It is now 977 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940. Our mailing address remains the same: P.O. Box 190, Monterey, CA 93942.

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MAR 14 1990

103

RPD

STATE LANDS COMMISSION

LEO T. McCARTHY, *Lieutenant Governor*
GRAY DAVIS, *Controller*
JESSE R. HUFF, *Director of Finance*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1807 - 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
CHARLES WARREN
Executive Officer

File Ref: SD 90-02-26 (3)

April 2, 1990

Mr. James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks & Recreation
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Staff of the State Lands Commission (SLC) has reviewed the Preliminary General Plans for Sunset State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, and New Brighton State Beach. Based on this review, we offer the following comments.

As these documents are Preliminary General Plans and specific projects are not proposed, staff has not determined the exact extent of SLC ownership at this time. However, you should be aware that the SLC has an ownership interest in lands waterward of the last natural ordinary high water mark. Examples of such ownership are the mouths of the Pajaro River, Watsonville Slough and Valencia Creek as well as the Pacific Ocean. Areas no longer subject to tidal action because of artificial influences remain subject to State sovereign ownership. Therefore, the SLC should be notified of any activities proposed in such areas.

The areas in and near the mouth of the Pajaro River are subject to State Lands Commission lease PRC 4742 and Exchange Agreement AD 54. Furthermore, title to portions of the Pajaro Dunes area below the last natural ordinary high water mark along the Pacific Ocean are under the jurisdiction of the SLC and along Watsonville Slough are subject to the Public Trust Easement which is administered by the SLC. This interest is a retained property right effecting the above lands which were sold pursuant to Tideland Surveys 2 and 3 (Santa Cruz County).

Additionally, you should be aware that waterways that are physically navigable in fact are subject to a public navigational easement. This easement allows members of the public to navigate and exercise incidences of navigation including, but not limited to boating, rafting, fishing, sailing, rowing, fowling, and other water related uses in a lawful manner.

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APR 4 1990

105

RPD

MR. JAMES M. DOYLE

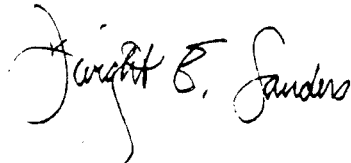
April 2, 1990

Page 2

This action does not constitute nor shall it be construed as, a waiver of any right, title, or interest of the State of California in any lands under its jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Fossum at (916) 322-2277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dwight E. Sanders". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

DWIGHT E. SANDERS, Chief
Division of Research
and Planning

DES:maa

cc: Curtis Fossum

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

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(FIFTH DISTRICT)

April 3, 1990

James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: SUNSET, SEACLIFF AND NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACHES' GENERAL
PLANS, INCLUDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS

Dear Mr. Doyle:

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Sunset, Seacliff, and New Brighton State Beaches General Plan, including the Draft Environmental Impact Reports. For your review, I have attached my letter of September 20, 1989, which includes my initial comments from the proposed drafts. I am very pleased to see that many of my concerns regarding aquatic safety have been addressed in the preliminary general plan documents.

My concerns fall into two categories:

1. I am very pleased to see included in the General Plans the recognition of the need of aquatic services in these three units. Previously omitted in the first draft, Sunset State Beach General Plan now includes the recognition of the need for aquatic services, in addition to a seasonal lifeguard program and a lifeguard headquarters. I am very pleased with this addition and it is my sense that it will clearly assist in reducing the number of drownings and incidents on this stretch of coast.

It is my understanding that the Department of Parks and Recreation has hired a new aquatic specialist working out of Sacramento for the northern coast districts. I believe these general plans could benefit from a review by the aquatic specialist on the technical aspects of this report, in addition to adherence to the findings of the Department of Parks and Recreation's Aquatic Safety Task Force report.

2. The possible use of meter parking at the platform parking lot at Rio del Mar State Beach will unnecessarily restrict public use and access to the beach. This is an area of beach access currently available to the public without charge, and it is one of the few remaining areas in the State Parks system in Santa Cruz that is so available. Generally, crowded conditions do not prevail here, and it does not seem appropriate to charge beach access fees.

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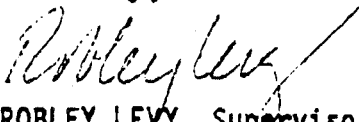
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April 3, 1990
Page 2

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any clarification. I look forward to the public review of this document in May of this year.

Sincerely,



ROBLEY LEVY, Supervisor
Second District

RL:lg
Attachment

cc: Senator Mello
Assembly Member Farr
Ray Jenkins, Superintendent of Pajaro Coast District

6220T

Response to comments on General Plans for Seacliff, Sunset, and New
Brighton State Beaches. SCH# 86011401

California Coastal Commission - Response to General Comment and New
Brighton State Beach

1. The level of specificity for the environmental assessment in the General Plan is broad and general. Further environmental assessment will be performed whenever specific construction or management programs are proposed. If significant environmental impacts differ from those specified in the general plan further environmental documents will be filed. The Department will adhere to the Local Coastal Plans and file for coastal development permits issued by the county or Coastal Commission as required.
2. The additional sections of the SCLCP will be quoted in the appendix of the final document. The Department will work with the California Coastal Commission and Santa Cruz County and adhere to recommendations concerning hazards as outlined in the LCP for consistency with the Local Coastal Plans.
3. The General Plan is a guide for the Department's actions for the subject State Park System unit over the next 15 - 20 years. There is no guarantee the project will be budgeted, or how much or in what order it will be implemented. (Also see Response No. 1)
4. The traffic conditions as outlined under Unit Entrance, page 36, demonstrate the need for improvements to the existing entrance and eventually a new entrance. The existing road is narrow and experiences flooding in the drainage area under the railroad trestle. When the specific project is budgeted, a more detailed plan and specific environmental assessment will be done. (Also see Response No. 1)
5. The Department does not usually designate bicycle lanes on park roads. Bicyclists are welcome to use roads but must be aware of motor vehicles and pedestrians.
6. The Department will construct the stairway being careful not to cause erosion or bluff instability. The existing stairway and bluff trail near loop A will be closed. We feel that the location of the proposed beach access stairway and distance from Loop A campsites is not excessive, and that additional stairways would be unnecessary.
7. The Department recognizes the need for maintaining hazard signing along the beach for visitor safety and prevention of further bluff erosion. Page 26 and 29 discusses the bluff setback policy and vegetation plan. There is an ongoing project of bluff stability and replacing existing plant

species with native plant species, except for the vegetation that serves as overwintering habitat of the Monarch butterfly.

8. Pages 41-45 describes potential land additions, including New Brighton Gulch, an area where Monarch butterflies have been observed. Page 30 states a policy about Monarch butterflies and their habitat protection. This policy states: " The Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and eucalyptus groves at New Brighton State Beach shall continue to be surveyed during the winter roosting season of the monarchs, heavily-used groves shall be identified, and suitable habitat shall be perpetuated. Tress that are roost sites for monarch butterflies shall not be removed unless suitable additional habitat capable of supporting monarch colonies is established. An exception to this policy may be made for a tree removed under the department's tree hazard guidelines. The department should support research into the ecology of the monarch butterfly . A resource management plan shall be developed and implemented to promote the perpetuation of the monarch butterfly within New Brighton State Beach."
9. The Department supports more beach shuttle service. The City of Capitola presently uses a 4-acre parcel adjacent to the unit along McGregor Drive, which is used for parking and a shuttle to Capitola Beach. This parcel is listed in the plan as a priority 2 potential land addition because of its location as an inholding and has value for unit entrance alternatives and present use.

Sierra Club

10. We agree that signs and exhibit shelters should be carefully designed and constructed with moderation. These interpretive projects will enhance the experiences of the park visitor and increase their awareness for visitor safety and resource protection.
11. There is an increasing demand for camping on the Santa Cruz Coast. Retired persons and families with preschool children are camping more often with recreation vehicles during the off-season months, when beaches and campgrounds are not as crowded .

The general plan proposal for RV camping is not intended to reduce day-use parking spaces or create a new permanent campground. Recreation vehicles who use this area for overflow camping must be self-contained.

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission

12. (see response No. 5) Pages 39 and 90 discusses a plan to have a separate walkway for pedestrians under the railroad trestle.
13. New facilities will be developed and made accessible for the disabled, including some campsites, restrooms, and campfire center. The emergency vehicle access ramp to the beach is also available for vehicle access by the disabled. Wheelchair access to the water can be achieved with the use of specially designed beach mats. Subsequent documents will discuss access for the disabled in greater detail when specific projects are budgeted for construction.

Save Our Shores and New Brighton Action Coalition

14. The General Plan purposely does not discuss in detail various potentials for property that is not in the State Park System.

California Recreational Trails Committee

15. Provisions for Hike/ Bike camping exist at New Brighton State Beach and will be shown in the final plan.

California Coastal Commission - Seacliff State Beach

16. (See response No. 4)
17. Temporary fencing has been placed along the blufftops for visitor safety and resource protection since the October 17, 1989 earthquake. These areas are being monitored and studied by department Geologist and Resource Ecologist to determine stability and required measures.
18. The Department is monitoring the bluffs and will take appropriate actions. Signs, fencing, and revegetation will be considered.
19. Further analysis of the seawall would occur at such time that it would need replacing. An environmental assessment on new construction, including a no construction alternative, would be done in compliance with CEQA and the SCLCP. Revenues are increasing, as table 2 on page 36 indicates. The \$400,000 revenue figure should be reached in the next few years.

20. No, the proposed RV parking in the day-use area adjacent to the existing camping would not compete with day users and day-use potential. This proposal would only occur during the off-season. The suggestion for RV camping on the unpaved parking area near the residential area would be unacceptable to Aptos residents living nearby. From a management standpoint, it would be better to keep all overnight use in one area, and encourage blufftop parking by day users to reduce the amount of beach-level traffic.
21. As stated on page 44, a pier extension should be considered because the ship Palo Alto continues to deteriorate and may someday be closed for visitor access. The proposed pier could be used to observe the historic concrete ship and interpret its history, as well as for fishing, walking, and observing nature (also see response No.1).
22. Beach Drive in this area is a county road bordered by private property and sandy beach. The State doesn't have sufficient property here to construct additional parking spaces or restroom facilities.
23. The open space easements include property not owned in fee by the state, but are managed by the Department for open space and resource protection.

Sierra Club

24. The Department plans to use native plants for landscaping in the bluff area. The Department is in favor of the beach shuttle system and will work with the county, but the Department does not propose its own shuttle system. Whenever the specific project is budgeted, it will be determined if any portion of the overflow parking area will be paved. (see response No. 1)
25. The pier lighting project would be designed for visitor safety and not intended to extend hours of use. Lighting will be low intensity and used only during hours of park operation and for emergencies.
26. The exhibit shelter on the pier would help interpret the ship's history, and Monterey Bay marine life and natural resources. Interpretive panels would be unobtrusive. There are periods when the visitor center is closed, so outside information and exhibit panels become very important for visitor safety and enjoyment.
27. A permanent concession building would be more uniform in appearance with other park structures than a mobile unit. It would serve to sell bait and other needed items.

28. The proposed overflow camping would not be permanent for year-round use. It will only occur during the times when the state beach facilities are underutilized. There is a high demand for recreation vehicle campsites during the off-season from retired people, people that don't have children in school, and coastal travelers enroute to other destination areas.

Aptos Neighborhood Association - Peter Carr

29. The needs of the neighborhood will be recognized in the planning for Seacliff SB. As indicated in the plan, a permanent unit office with vehicle storage will remain, including a small storage structure for supplies and tools. Landscaping and screening will help improve the appearance of the State Beach, including the entrance area, parking lot, and areas within view from the neighborhood.
30. The comfort station will be beneficial to the bluff top area, since there is none at the present time. We recognize law enforcement problems in the area. The park staff and the County Sheriff deputies are coordinating their actions to improve law enforcement in this area. The plan outlines crime prevention programs and the need for increased staff to control the problem better. The Department shares your concern for protection of coastal views and will attempt to construct facilities so that they will be as unobtrusive as possible. At the same time, facilities will be built and landscaping provided that will be easy to maintain and provide for area surveillance. The Department is aware of the crime problems in the area and will increase patrols and continue to work with the County and local citizens in keeping these problems under control. Designated use areas also tend to improve area surveillance.

area will be made more esthetic to park visitors and the neighborhood alike. The area will be kept cleaner and more sanitary with the proposed facilities and programs. The Department does not believe that the implementation of the project will cause an increase in trespassing and crimes to private properties in the area.

California Recreational Trails Committee

33. A description of potential trail connections from Seacliff State Beach will be included in the final plan. The Department does not proposed to construct or develop regional trails outside the state beach.

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission

34. (see response No. 5)
35. This proposal of bicycle parking will be considered. (see response No.1)
36. Accessible wheelchair paths are being proposed to the beach and shoreline. Future development of day-use and camping facilities will accommodate disabled visitor needs.
37. The Department does comply with Title 24 .

California Coastal Commission - Sunset State Beach

38. Bicycle use is permitted on park roads and must comply with California vehicle Code regulations. Park roads are narrow and will not allow designation of a separate bike lane. No special designated striping will be made. Shell Road will be open for bicycle use through the park and will provide access from Palm Beach to the south beach day-use facilities. Trail signing will be used to direct bicyclist for connections to other regional coastal trails outside this unit. The Department will comply with Section 4.15.14 of the SCLCP.
39. The final plan will cite the Section 5.1.3 of the SCLCP, in the appendix of this plan. The proposed group camps north of Dunes Camp are discussed on Page 52.
40. Sections 3.3.8 and 4.3.3 of the SCLCP will be cited in the final plan. The Shorebird and Pajaro Dunes housing developments were established before CEQA and the Coastal Act. The Department policy is generally not to allow seawalls on state beach property.

41. We agree. The Department has constructed boardwalks for the public to cross over the dunes to the beach. There is also an ongoing revegetation program that utilizes native dune plant species, to prevent sand blow-outs as well as for replacement of exotic species.
42. The policy on page 39 states that the habitat for the Monarch butterfly will be protected. (see response No. 8, stated policy) A resource management plan will be developed for this state beach as so stated.
43. The suggestion that the entire unit and other units have multi-lingual interpretive panels and signs is a good one and will be considered.
44. Boardwalks and revegetation projects already exist. Boardwalks are shown in the plan and revegetation with native species is ongoing to prevent sand erosion and to replace exotic species.
45. The existing and proposed Land Use and Facilities maps show the Pajaro River Mouth Natural Preserve. Yes, it is true that the management of the river lagoon does affect the Watsonville Slough at Palm Beach.

Sierra Club

46. No new trails are contemplated from the trail (Shell Road) to the beach. Bicyclists can gain access to the beach from the Palm Beach Area, or the North and South Beach day-use areas.

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission

47. Bicyclists are able to use roads and facilities at this unit.
48. This will be considered.
49. Accessible wheelchair paths are being proposed to the beach and shoreline as outlined in the Operations Element, Page 72.
50. The Department will comply with Accessibility Standards, Title 24 .

Response to Margaret Felts - Sunset SB

51. Yes, it is true the the plan proposes to increase the number of parking places near the main entrance to Sunset State Beach considerably from 60 up to 125 total spaces. It should also be noted that at present there are many visitors who park outside the state beach along San Andres Road approximately 3/4 mile from the beach. The proposed parking will help alleviate much of the roadside parking that occurs. This will result in better traffic flow, increased protection of personal vehicles, a cleaner roadside, and more convenience to the public. The plan also proposes to revegetate and stabilize bluff areas with native vegetation and provide fencing of the area for visitor safety. Fencing between the parking area, edge of the bluff, and adjacent private property will encourage direct beach access. In addition, the Department will maintain the beach and add facilities for visitor use as needed.

FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE
FOR GENERAL PLANS
NEW BRIGHTON, SEACLIFF, AND SUNSET STATE BEACH

Most environmental problems can be effectively mitigated, as described in this plan. Traffic on peak days will be one problem that cannot be fully mitigated.

Soils and Geology: As stated in the Resource Elements, new facilities will not generally be constructed in the zone of inclusion. An exception is the RV campground at the northwest end of Seacliff State Beach that is protected by a wooden seawall. It will be replaced and repaired as long as it is cost effective.

Proposed roads, parking area, and trails in the State beaches and trails will be designed so that water runoff will not erode soils. Design features such as boardwalks and landscaping with native vegetation will help prevent soil erosion.

Signs and fencing will be installed to keep people off the cliffs, bluffs, and fragile sites.

Beach erosion is a regional and statewide problem. The Department will work with the Corps of Engineers and other agencies on finding long-range solutions. (See Resource Element policies.)

Energy: Use of construction machinery will be minimized to conserve energy.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Resource policies in the Resource Elements for plants and animals are as followed.

Exotic species will be removed, i.e., Monterey pine, and eucalyptus trees, except where Monarch butterflies overwinter, in favor of native species of plants. This will result in more sunlight, screening, and a correct representation of native plant species in the area.

Cultural: The Land Use and Facilities Plan Elements propose to preserve the historical features in the units, such as the historic ramadas, Diablo stoves, and use of the historical residences for interpretive use.

Esthetics: The proposed project will improve esthetics throughout the developed areas.

The project will: 1) rehabilitate areas that have received heavy use which has left visual scars; 2) construct new facilities that are visually attractive; 3) design attractive access and trails that will protect cliffs and vegetation; 4) landscape and screen with an emphasis on native vegetation; 5) improve Aptos Creek and remove riprap at Seacliff State Beach; 6) improve appearance of bluff and parking areas at Seacliff State Beach; and 7) remove dense exotic vegetation, except where Monarch butterflies overwinter.

Finding of Significance
General Plans for
New Brighton, Seacliff, and Sunset State Beaches
Page 2

Beach Safety: Unit personnel will help visitors needing emergency attention. Signs warning visitors about surf conditions, or that a lifeguard may not be on duty, will be prominently displayed.

The proposed project will provide more sanitary facilities for the public, with provision for the disabled (see Operations Element regarding Visitor Safety).

Interpretive displays and unit personnel will assist in informing the public.

Traffic Circulation and Parking: The proposed Land Use and Facilities Element proposes to improve the traffic circulation. Improvements will be made for the disabled, and for emergency vehicle access.

Mitigation Monitoring

At the time specific features of the General Plans are budgeted, detailed environmental assessments will be made including methods to monitor the mitigation efforts. Appropriate departmental staff will monitor construction, visitor use and in general protect natural and cultural resources of the units.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

CONFORMANCE TO LOCAL COASTAL PLAN POLICIES

Various state and local plans that addressed issues relevant to New Brighton State Beach were reviewed in preparing this plan. Following are policies and programs from the Santa Cruz County LCP Land Use Plan, with specific reference to the State Department of Parks and Recreation and New Brighton State Beach:

POLICIES

- 4.1.2 The following are designated as primary public access: Mid-County (primary public accesses which have existing basic improvements and law enforcement necessary for state and regional publicity) New Brighton State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, and Rio del Mar Beach.
- 5.4.5 Require adequate maintenance and management programs concurrent with all State Parks development projects and park master plans.
- 7.8.1 Require archaeological and paleontological resources to be protected.

PROGRAMS

- 4.3.11 Develop a program in conjunction with the County Sheriff, State Highway Patrol, State Parks, and other appropriate public and private agencies, to ensure provision of adequate law enforcement and supervision on beaches, beach accessways, and immediate vicinity. Consider use of horses for patrolling.
- 4.15.12 Provide bicycle lanes or widen shoulders along certain coastal roadways: (c.) McGregor Drive (Park Avenue to State Park Drive).
- 4.16.11 Develop links between the county and state trail systems in coordination with the State Department of Parks and Recreation:
- 5.3 Protection and Provision of Lower Coast Public Recreation Facilities
 - 5.3.1 Where appropriate, request State Parks and other appropriate public agencies to retain and expand appropriate park and recreational uses such as picnic facilities, camping sites, RV facilities, trails, and shoreline access.
 - 5.3.2 Where appropriate, support State Parks budget requests for expanded development, management (including adequate law enforcement and maintenance), and use of Santa Cruz County facilities.
 - 5.3.3 Support the continuation of existing free facilities provided by State Parks.

POLICIES

5.4 Priorities for Public Funds

5.4.2 Acquisition: Recommend, encourage, and support each of the following acquisitions:

(b.) New Brighton State Beach: addition of Porter Sesnon property.

5.4.5 Require adequate maintenance and management programs concurrent with all State Parks development projects and park master plans.

PROGRAMS

6.14.4 Continue to monitor the sewer pump station for odor problems, and make corrections as needed.

POLICIES

7.3.3 The following site development criteria: use designations, densities, development standards, and access and circulation requirements shall apply to the priority sites listed:

Site No. 24: Porter Sesnon

Designated Uses: Proposed Park and Recreation: (1) New Brighton State Beach addition: active/passive open space, public recreation facilities, including up to 15 acres oriented to neighborhood/community park use, visitor accommodations/campground 115-130 units; or (2) combination state park/community park or regional park.

Alternate Use: Privately developed public recreation and visitor accommodations/conference facility of 115-130 units.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES

3.0

HAZARDS

3.1

POLICIES

Seismic Policies

- 3.1.1 Require a field review by the staff geologist of geological hazards for all new development projects, including the creation of new lots, in designated fault zones. Fault zones designated for review in the Coastal Zone include the Zayante Fault and the state designated Seismic Review Zone on the San Gregorio Fault. Required geologic reviews shall examine all potential seismic hazards including surface rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction and landsliding, and may consist of a staff geological hazards assessment where a more complete investigation is not otherwise required. Investigations of groundshaking hazards will be conducted if required through environmental review of a project.
- 3.1.2
GP Require a preliminary geological investigation by a registered geologist for single family dwellings in the San Andreas and San Gregorio Fault Zones, and a full geologic investigation by a registered geologist for development proposals other than single family dwellings in the San Andreas and San Gregorio Fault Zones.
- 3.1.3
GP Require a full geological investigation by a registered geologist whenever a significant potential hazard is identified by a preliminary geologic hazard assessment, and prior to the construction of any new public facility or critical structure within the designated fault zones.
- 3.1.4
GP Require site-specific full geologic investigation by a registered geologist of all development proposals of more than four residential units in areas designated as having a high or very high liquefaction potential. Proposals of four units and under and non-residential projects shall be reviewed for liquefaction hazard through environmental review and when a significant potential hazard exists a full geologic report shall be required.
- 3.1.5 Require the clustering of development away from potentially hazardous areas and condition development permits based on the recommendations of the site's hazard assessment or full geological investigation.
- 3.1.6
GP Approve the final density of a development proposal only if it is consistent with the recommendations of the geological reports. Deny the location of the proposed development if it is found that the hazards on the site cannot be mitigated to within acceptable risk levels.
- 3.1.7 Require full geologic investigation prior to the construction of new reservoirs to serve major water supplies. If an unmitigatable hazard exists, relocate the reservoir. New dams shall be constructed according to high seismic design standards of the Dam Safety Act and as specified by structural engineering studies. Smaller reservoirs will be reviewed for potential seismic hazards as a part of the environmental review process.

- 3.1.8 GP Exclude land within 50 feet of an active or potentially active fault trace from density calculations for land divisions. Require 50-foot setbacks for all residential structures and 100-foot setbacks for all commercial, multi-residential and critical structures from active and potentially active fault traces.
- 3.1.9 Require all new public facilities and critical structures to be designed to withstand the expected ground shaking during the design earthquake on the San Andreas fault.
- 3.1.10 GP Require the developer and/or subdivider of a parcel in an area of known geologic hazards to record a deed restriction with the County Recorder indicating the hazards on the parcel and the level of prior geologic investigation conducted.
- 3.1.11 Require a minimum parcel size for the creation of new parcels of 20 acres in areas within all State and County designated seismic review zones if proposed building sites lie within the fault zone.

PROGRAM

- 3.1.13 Investigate the feasibility of requiring all new structures within all known fault zones and in areas subject to high or very high liquefaction potential, to be constructed to withstand ground shaking generated up to the design earthquake on the San Andreas Fault.

3.2
POLICIES Slope Stability and Erosion

- 3.2.1 GP Require a geologic hazards assessment of all discretionary permits, including grading permits within areas of known slope instability, in all cases where development is planned on slopes greater than 30%, and for all projects including permits for single family dwellings on existing parcels of record in the designated landslide review area. Such assessment shall be prepared by County staff or a registered geologist may conduct this review at applicant's choice and expense.
- 3.2.2 GP Require a full geological investigation by a registered geologist when the hazards assessment identifies unsafe geologic conditions in the area of proposed development.
- 3.2.3 GP Require an engineering geology or a soils report as determined by staff on any proposed grading project where a significant potential hazard has been identified in the area of proposed grading activities.
- 3.2.4 GP Condition development and grading permits based on the recommendations of the hazard assessment and other detailed soils or geology investigations.
- 3.2.5 GP Deny the location of a proposed development or permit for grading project if it is found that geological hazards cannot be mitigated to within acceptable risk levels, and approve development proposals only if the project's density reflects consideration of the degree of hazard on the site, as determined by available geotechnical information.

- 3.2.6 GP Exclude land with slopes exceeding 30 percent in urban areas and 50 percent in rural areas and recent or active landslides from density calculations for land division purposes.
- 3.2.7 GP Require clustering of structures away from potentially unstable slopes in landslide-prone areas. Require drainage plans that direct runoff and drainage away from unstable slopes.
- 3.2.8 Prohibit the location of septic leachfields in areas subject to landsliding.
- 3.2.9 GP Require the developer and/or subdivider of a property in an area of known geologic hazards to record a deed restriction with the County Recorder indicating the hazards on the parcel and the level of prior geotechnical investigation conducted.
- 3.2.10 GP Require an engineering report and engineering supervision to ensure effective road reconstruction where there have been washouts or landslides on private or public roads and require geologic and engineering review of all proposed road construction in landslide prone areas.
- (See related policies in Natural Systems Section.)

PROGRAMS

- 3.2.11 Designate additional areas, of known slope instability, within the Coastal Zone as Landslide Review Zones. (A staff geologic hazards assessment would thus be required prior to project approval. Recommendations from the report could become permit conditions.)

3.3 POLICIES

Coastal Erosion

Coastal Bluff Erosion

- 3.3.1 Require a geologic hazard assessment by the staff geologist for all new development proposals within 100 feet of a coastal bluff. A full geologic investigation shall be required if a significant potential hazard to the proposed structure is identified from the assessment. The setback for structures shall be determined from conditions on and adjoining the site. In general, a 50-foot setback shall be maintained, but in no case shall the setback be reduced to less than 25 feet. Projects shall be sited and designed for a minimum 50 year life time as demonstrated by the geologic investigation or hazard assessment report.
- 3.3.2 Allow new development in areas subject to bluff erosion on existing lots of record only under the following circumstances:
- a. Technical report (either a geologic hazard assessment or a full geologic report) demonstrating the stability of the site for a minimum 50 year lifetime.

- b. All development activity (including pools) set back a minimum of 25 feet from the bluff edge. (A greater setback may be required based on the site conditions as determined by the hazard assessment or geologic report.)
- c. The long-term stability of the site is not dependent on the installation of shoreline protection structures except on lots where both adjacent parcels are already similarly protected (i.e., are already fronted by rip-rap).
- d. A deed restriction indicating the potential hazards on the site and the level of prior geologic investigation conducted is recorded with the County Recorder.

3.3.3 Limit shoreline protection measures to structures which protect existing residences, and business or commercial structures, vacant lots which through lack of protection threaten adjacent developed lots, public works, public beaches, or coastal-dependent uses. Permit structural shoreline protection measures only if non-structural measures (i.e., building relocation or change in design) are infeasible from an engineering standpoint or not economically viable. The protection structure must not reduce or restrict public beach access, adversely affect shoreline processes and sand supply, increase erosion on adjacent properties, or cause harmful impacts on wildlife and fish habitats. The protection structure must be placed as close as possible to the development requiring protection and must be designed to minimize visual intrusion. Shoreline protection structures shall be designed to meet adequate engineering standards for the site conditions as determined through the environmental review process. Seawall construction should only be considered where a significant threat to an existing structure exists, where seawalls have been constructed on adjoining parcels, and where rip-rap would not adequately protect the structure. Detailed technical studies may be required to accurately define the oceanographic conditions affecting the site.

3.3.4 Require drainage and landscape plans recognizing potential hazards on the site to be approved by the staff geologist prior to the approval of blufftop development.

3.3.5 Permit reconstruction of structures located on a coastal bluff which are damaged as a result of coastal hazards and loss exceeds 50 percent of their market value in accordance with recommendations from the hazards assessment as well as 3.3.2 (a,b & d). Exemption: Public beach facilities and damage which results from non-coastal related hazards such as fire and replacements consistent with Coastal Act Policy 30610 (g).

Beach Erosion

3.3.6 Require a geologic hazards assessment for all new development proposals subject to storm wave inundation. A full geologic investigation shall be required if a significant potential hazard to the proposed structure is identified from the assessment. The setback for structures shall be determined from conditions on and adjoining the site. Projects shall be sited and designed to minimize hazards as determined by the hazards assessment or geologic investigations.

- 3.3.7 Allow new development in areas subject to storm wave inundation and beach erosion on existing lots of records within existing developed neighborhoods under the following circumstances:
- a. Technical report (either a geologic hazards assessment or a full geologic report) demonstrating that the potential hazard can be mitigated. Mitigations can include, but are not limited to, building setbacks, elevation of the proposed structure and friction pier or deep caisson foundation.
 - b. Mitigation of the potential hazard is not dependent on shoreline protection structures except on lots where both adjacent parcels are already similarly protected.
 - c. A deed restriction indicating the potential hazards on the site and the level of prior investigation conducted is recorded on the deed with the County Recorder.
- 3.3.8 Limit structural shoreline protection measures to structures which protect existing residences, and business or commercial structures, vacant lots which through lack of protection threaten adjacent developed lots, public works, public beaches, or coastal-dependent uses. Permit structural protection measures only if non-structural measures (i.e., building relocation or change in design) are infeasible from an engineering standpoint or not economically viable. The protection structure must not reduce or restrict public beach access, adversely affect shoreline processes and sand supply, increase erosion on adjacent properties, or cause harmful impacts on wildlife and fish habitats. The protection structure must be placed as close as possible to the development requiring protection and must be designed to minimize visual intrusion. Shoreline protection structures shall be designed to meet adequate engineering standards for the site conditions as determined through the environmental review process. Seawall construction should only be considered where a significant threat to an existing structure exists, where seawalls have been constructed on adjoining parcels, and where rip-rap would not adequately protect the structure. Detailed technical studies may be required to accurately define the oceanographic conditions affecting the site.
- 3.3.9 Permit the reconstruction of individual structures located in areas subject to storm wave inundation which are damaged as a result of coastal hazards and loss exceeds 50 percent of their market value in accordance with recommendations from the geologic hazards assessment as well as with policy 3.3.7 (a) and (c). If more than 75 percent of the neighborhood, structures and public facilities, are damaged, reconstruction must take place in accordance with the requirements of Policy 3.3.7. Exceptions: Public beach facilities and damage which results from non-coastal hazards such as fire, and replacements consistent with Coastal Act Policy 30610 (g).

- a. Outside the Urban Services Line:
 - o to pocket beaches if there is no other dedicated vertical access;
 - o to long sandy beaches if there is no dedicated vertical access within one-half mile;
 - o to bluffs which are large enough and of a physical character to accommodate safety improvements, and which provide room for public use as a vista point.
- b. Within the Urban Services Line:
 - o from the first public roadway to the shoreline if there is not dedicated access within 650 feet;
 - o through properties inland of the first public roadway if there is evidence that residents have been using the property to gain access to the shoreline, and if closure of the pathway would require residents to detour more than one-eighth mile.
- c. All dedications required shall be consistent with policies 4.5.1 and 4.5.6.

4.3.3

Lateral Access

The following policies shall be applied as a condition of new development approval:

- a. No development shall be approved which would interfere with public lateral access along beaches in Live Oak and from New Brighton Beach to the Pajaro River. Where appropriate require dedication of lateral access along the beach to the first line of terrestrial vegetation to the base of the bluffs, where present, or to the base of any seawall. (Also see policy 3.3.3.)
- b. Unrestricted lateral access to North Coast beaches shall be provided where environmental and public safety concerns can be mitigated.
- c. Dedication of lateral access along bluffs where pedestrian and/or bicycle trails can be provided and where environmental and use conflict issues can be mitigated. (Also see policies 4.15.1, 4.15.2, and policy section 3.3.)

Acceptance of Dedications

4.3.4

Develop a program in conjunction with the County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, Department of Public Works, State Department of Parks and Recreation, Coastal Conservancy, and other appropriate agencies for the acceptance offers of dedication required as conditions of coastal development permits, including but not limited to the offers of dedication listed below. Also address the improvement, maintenance, and policing of the accessways.

- 4.12.4 Develop programs and funding which facilitate transit use by providing intermodal transportation or monetary savings such as the bicycle racks on buses and bus pass programs of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.
- 4.12.5 Request coordinated operations and use of transit facilities by local transit and inter-County carriers.
- 4.12.6 Develop recreational transit services and funding in conjunction with local transit and inter-County carriers, such as park and ride facilities or beach shuttle to recreation areas. Consider any existing large parking areas, such as the Cabrillo College parking lots, as potential park and ride parking facilities.
- 4.12.7 Promote and encourage special recreation oriented transit routes such as the "Elephant Seal Express."

4.13 Rail
POLICIES

- 4.13.1 Consider the potential for rail use during the review of all new developments.
- 4.13.2 Require that the design of new development near existing rail lines minimize the impact of existing and potential rail system noise.

PROGRAMS

- 4.13.3 Update the study of rail passenger service to include the consideration of service to all portions of Santa Cruz County as necessary to reflect changes in energy costs, local policy, and environmental concerns. Emphasis should be placed on study of service between Santa Cruz and Watsonville.
- 4.13.4 Support the addition of a passenger stop at Watsonville Junction for Amtrak's coast route trains.
- 4.13.5 Support the reinstatement of a rail link from the San Francisco Bay Area to Santa Cruz and Monterey around the Santa Cruz Mountains and through the Watsonville Junction.

4.14 Parking
POLICY

- 4.14.1 Require new recreation and visitor-serving developments in the Coastal Zone to support alternative forms of transportation to the beaches, e.g., bikes, small scale shuttle service.

PROGRAMS

- 4.14.2 Provide vehicular access to the beach area in Live Oak, particularly in the area between the Yacht Harbor and 17th Avenue by improving public parking at the following locations:

- 4.15.5 GP Pursue additional state and federal funding for the Bikeway System, including funding to initiate a program to pay for placement of bicycle parking facilities by public and private agencies.
- 4.15.6 GP Provide secure bicycle parking in conjunction with the development of transit shelters.
- 4.15.7 Provide bicycle parking stands (facilities) at all primary public access points and at appropriate neighborhood access points.
- 4.15.8 Provide bicycles at nominal daily rental fees, as part of ongoing County transportation programs, in conjunction with established park-and-ride beach shuttle parking services.
- 4.15.9 Provide for safe bicycle travel along the coastal corridor by developing a coordinated, continuous bicycle route parallel to the shoreline.
- 4.15.10 Post and stripe coastline roads in a manner designed to discourage parked cars from creating hazards for moving bicyclists.
- 4.15.11 Request the State of California and the County of Santa Clara to provide a safe bicycle route between the town of Los Gatos and Santa Cruz County.
- 4.15.12 Provide bicycle lanes or widen shoulders along certain coastal roadways:
 - a. San Andreas Road (State Route 1 to Beach Road);
 - b. Beach Road (Palm Beach to Watsonville);
 - c. McGregor Drive (Park Avenue to State Park Drive);
 - d. Sumner Avenue (Rio del Mar Boulevard to Seascape Boulevard, beach parking south of Clubhouse Drive to be preserved, bike lane to be developed on shoulder if possible).
- 4.15.13 Request private and public transit companies' carriers connecting the coastal area with the Santa Clara Valley to provide bicycle carrying services.
- 4.15.14 Improve and complete recreational bicycle/pedestrian loops in the South County coastal area:
 - a. Complete Watsonville-Pajaro dunes-Sunset Beach bicycle route loop.
 - b. Extend and link, as much as feasible, New Brighton Beach, Potbelly Beach, and Los Olas Roads.

4.16
POLICIES

Trails

General

- 4.16.1 Establish a system of hiking and bicycle trails and bridges which provides access to and connects the various parks, recreation areas, riparian corridors, beaches, and urban areas. For example, develop trails to link Nisene Marks State Park with Seacliff State Beach. Link the County trail system between the state parks and provide a lateral trail route along the coast.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES

5.0 RECREATION AND VISITOR-SERVING FACILITIES

5.1 Types of Growth in the Visitor Sector

POLICIES

Visitor Accommodations

- 5.1.1 Encourage the provision of a balanced and diverse spectrum of visitor accommodations consistent with available infrastructure, natural and visual resource protection, distribution of facilities to mitigate against adverse impacts and protection and provision of lower cost facilities.
- 5.1.2 Encourage diversification of visitor accommodation types such as hotels, motels, inns, hotels, and resorts.
- 5.1.3 Encourage the provision of additional overnight camping sites and RV spaces in appropriate locations.
- 5.1.4 Encourage small scale lodging facilities, such as inns or bed and breakfast accommodations in appropriate locations. (See 7.1.29 and 7.1.30.)
- 5.1.5 Encourage privately funded development of Visitor-Serving facilities. (See specific Visitor Accommodation policies in Section 7.1.)
- 5.1.6 Prohibit conversion of visitor accommodations in the coastal zone to any non-priority use unless it can be convincingly demonstrated that it is economically infeasible to use the property for any priority use. Absolutely prohibit the conversion of horizontal hotel visitor accommodations in the coastal zone.

Day Use Services

- 5.1.7 Where appropriate, allow the provision of tourist commercial concessions within state parks at appropriate destinations (commercial concessions should not be required at rural, remote beaches). Encourage the provision of tourist commercial services within Special Communities, as follows:
- a. Davenport: Highway 1 frontage.
 - b. Harbor Area: Commercially designated areas along 7th Avenue.
 - c. East Cliff Village Tourist Area: Commercially designated areas along East Cliff Drive.
 - d. Seacliff Beach Area: Entire Special Community.
 - e. Rio del Mar Flats/Esplanade Area: Esplanade frontage to Stephen Road.

(See also Visual Resources policies 6.8 through 6.14.)

PROGRAMS

5.1.8 Where appropriate, request the provision of additional day use facilities at publicly owned beaches and blufftops such as picnicking, viewpoints, and play space.

Boating

5.1.9 Request the regulating agencies such as the U. S. Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers to permit open water moorings off suitable locations along the County's coastline taking into consideration the following factors:

- o public safety concerns
- o disturbance to the marine environment
- o individual and cumulative visual impacts
- o other communities' experiences with open water moorings
- o interference with other water-related uses

5.1.10 Request State Parks to permit small boat uses of State Park beaches consistent with maintaining the safety of other beach users and the character of the beach.

5.2 Neighborhood Compatibility

POLICIES

5.2.1 Require Planned Development permits including mandatory design criteria for all recreation and visitor-serving developments.

5.2.2 Specify densities and require, as necessary, site specific performance criteria, including development standards and/or a management plan for recreation and visitor-serving developments.

(See policies 7.1.25, 7.1.28, 7.1.34, 7.1.41, and Table 7.3.3.)

5.3 Protection and Provision of Lower Cost Public Recreation Facilities

PROGRAMS

5.3.1 Where appropriate, request State Parks and other appropriate public agencies to retain and expand appropriate park and recreational uses such as picnic facilities, camping sites, RV facilities, trails and shoreline access.

5.3.2 Where appropriate, support State Parks budget requests for expanded development, management (including adequate law enforcement and maintenance), and use of Santa Cruz County facilities.

5.3.3 Support the continuation of existing free facilities provided by State Parks. Encourage the provision of additional free facilities. Where user fees must be charged, encourage State Parks to continue to provide season passes and a discounted fee schedule for economically disadvantaged groups such as elderly, or non-profit organizations.

5.3.4 Encourage replacement of damaged or destroyed public beach recreation facilities.

MAPS

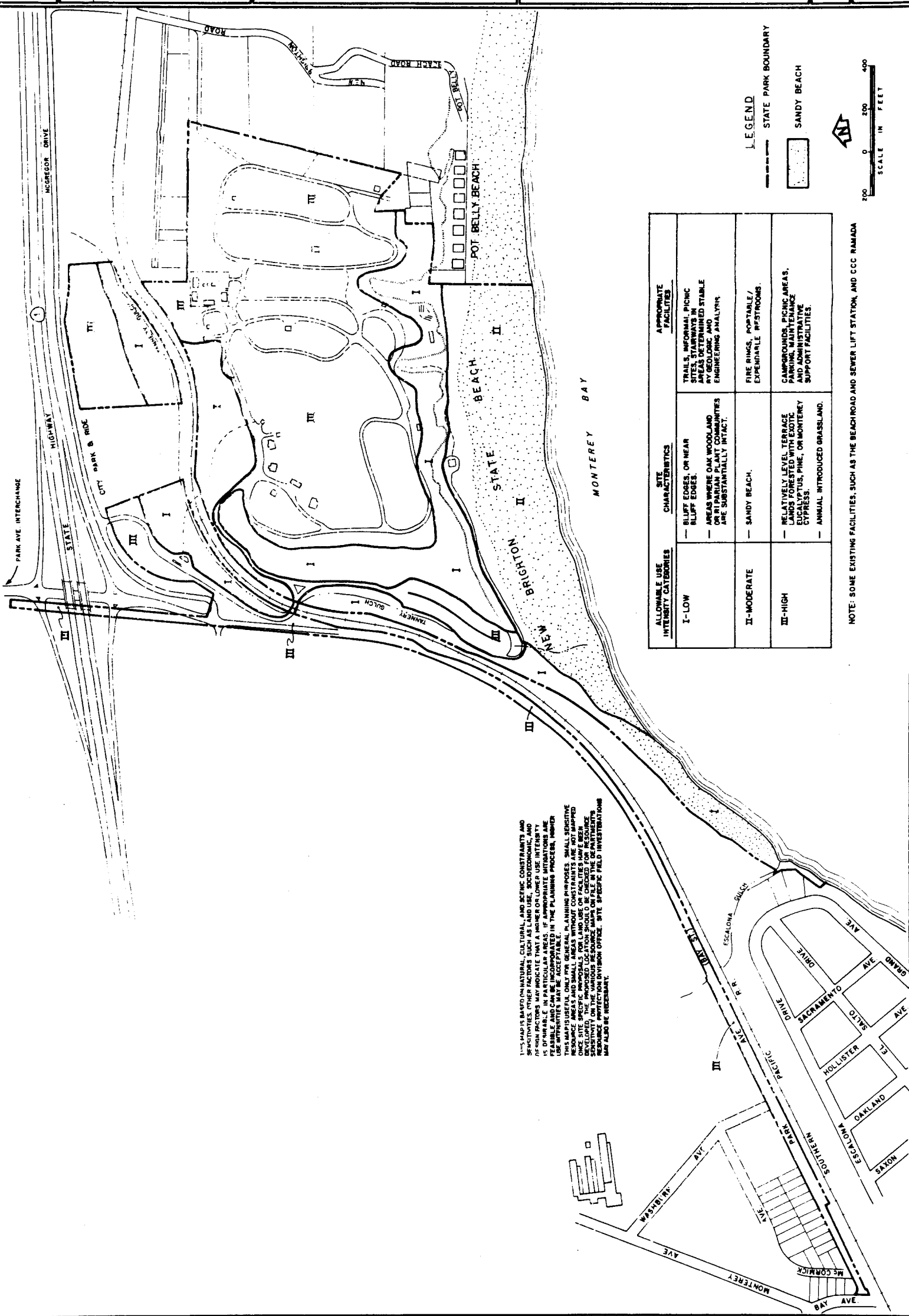
NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH
ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY MAP

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DRAWING NO. **2495**
 SHEET NO. 1

DESIGNED K. GRAY
 DRAWN J. DONALDSON
 CHECKED

REVISIONS
 CORRECTED ROAD NAMES, ADDED GULCHES
 DATE 11/83



















ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY CATEGORIES	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	APPROPRIATE FACILITIES
I-LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLUFF EDGES, OR NEAR BLUFF EDGES. AREAS WHERE OAK WOODLAND OR RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRAILS, INFORMAL PICNIC AREAS DETERMINED BY GEOLOGIC AND ENGINEERING ANALYSIS
II-MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SANDY BEACH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRE RINGS, PORTABLE/EXPENDABLE RESTROOMS.
III-HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RELATIVELY LEVEL TERRACE LANDS FORESTED WITH EXOTIC EUCALYPTUS, PINE, OR MONTEREY CYPRESS. ANNUAL INTRODUCED GRASSLAND. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAMPGROUNDS, PICNIC AREAS, PARKING, MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FACILITIES.

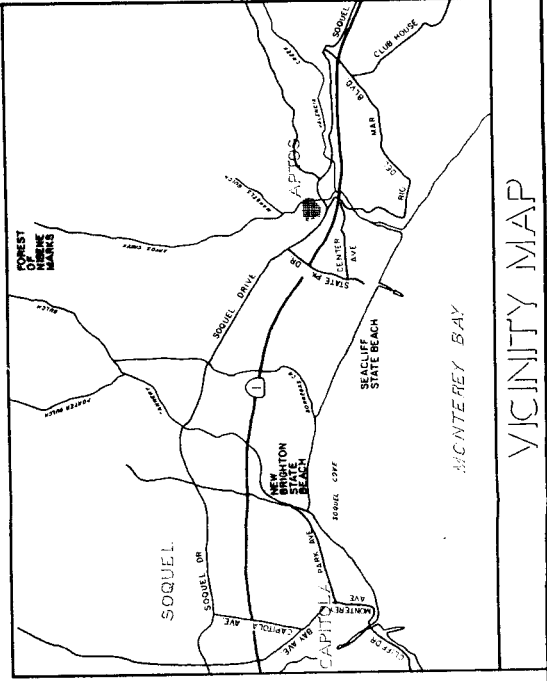
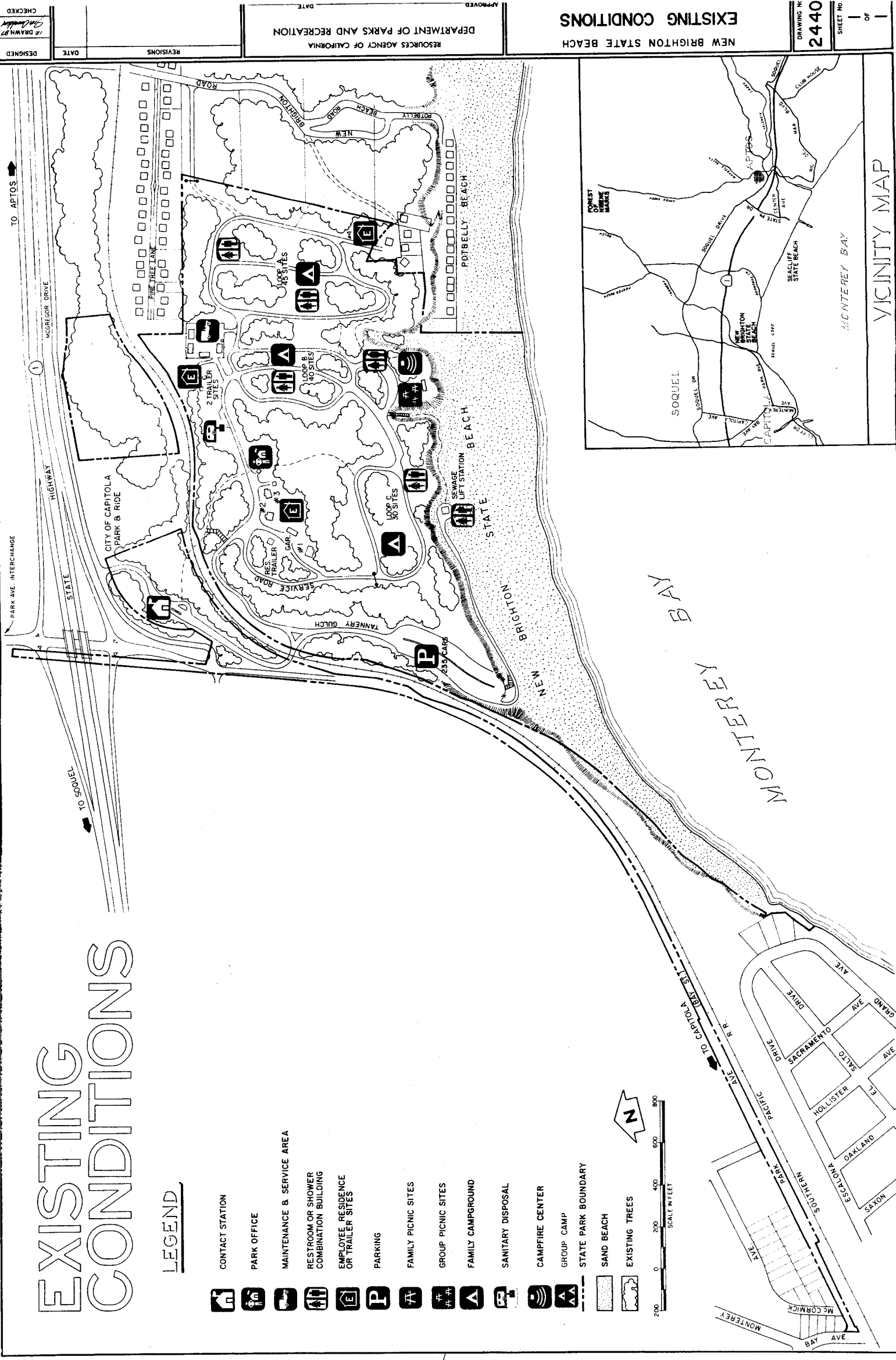
NOTE: SOME EXISTING FACILITIES, SUCH AS THE BEACHROAD AND SEWER LIFT STATION, AND CCC RAMADA

THIS MAP IS BASED ON NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC CONSTRAINTS AND SENSITIVITIES. OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS LAND USE, SOCIOECONOMIC, AND OTHER FACTORS MAY INDICATE THAT A HIGHER OR LOWER USE INTENSITY IS DESIRABLE IN PARTICULAR AREAS. IF APPROPRIATE MITIGATIONS ARE IDENTIFIED, THE USE INTENSITY ZONING IN THE PLANNING PROCESS, NUMBER OF USES, AND FACILITIES MAY BE ACCEPTABLE.
 THIS MAP IS USEFUL ONLY FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES. SMALL SENSITIVE RESOURCE AREAS AND SMALL AREAS WITHOUT CONSTRAINTS ARE NOT MAPPED ON THIS MAP. FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SENSITIVITY OF THE VARIOUS RESOURCE MAPS ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION OFFICE, SITE SPECIFIC FIELD INVESTIGATIONS MAY ALSO BE NECESSARY.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

LEGEND

-  CONTACT STATION
-  PARK OFFICE
-  MAINTENANCE & SERVICE AREA
-  RESTROOM OR SHOWER
-  COMBINATION BUILDING
-  EMPLOYEE RESIDENCE OR TRAILER SITES
-  PARKING
-  FAMILY PICNIC SITES
-  GROUP PICNIC SITES
-  FAMILY CAMPGROUND
-  SANITARY DISPOSAL
-  CAMPFIRE CENTER
-  GROUP CAMP
-  STATE PARK BOUNDARY
-  SAND BEACH
-  EXISTING TREES



PROPOSED LAND USE & FACILITIES

PROPOSED ENTRANCE

- Construct a new entrance road and bridge for improved year-round access. Develop a new contact station, office, restrooms, with entry parking and turnaround.

EXISTING ENTRANCE

- Implement an interim development plan for existing entrance road, to improve drainage and traffic circulation.
- When the new entrance is developed, convert existing entrance to accommodate a new sanitary dump station and small maintenance facility.
- Improve trail connections, signing, fencing, and walkways for continued bicycle and pedestrian beach access.

EXISTING MAINTENANCE AREA

- Phase out existing maintenance facilities and construct or lease new facilities outside this unit.
- Remove sanitary dump station and existing mobile home sites.
- Develop a new 30 person group camp, once maintenance facilities are removed. Providing parking, restrooms, and landscaping as part of campground redesign.

EXISTING OFFICE AND RESIDENCES

- Remove existing park office, residences No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4, and develop sites for additional camping.
- Preserve residence No. 1 for historical value, with adaptive use for office, restrooms, storage, camp host, or interpretive purposes.

CAMPGROUND

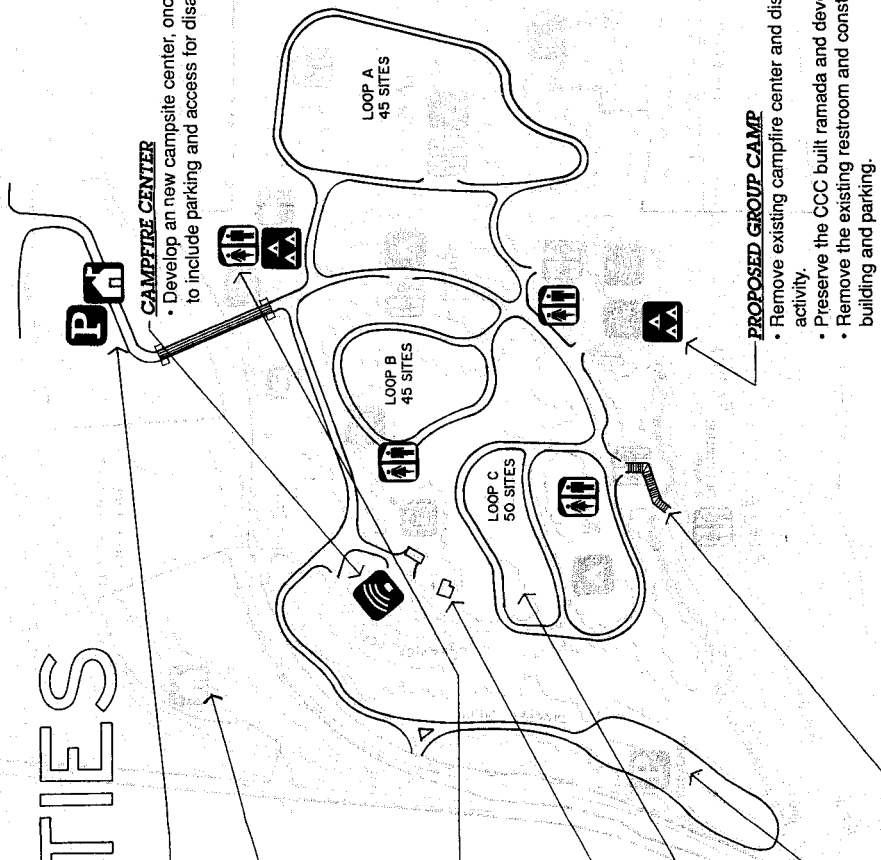
- Rehabilitate existing campground, with 25 additional family campsites and one combination building. Redesign camp loops, trails, and roadways for improved circulation and overnight use.
- Establish a uniform design standard for park furniture, fencing, vehicle barriers, and new buildings. Landscapes with native plants for screening between campsites.
- Replace existing restroom in Loop C, with new combination building located away from the edge of the bluff.

DAY-USE PARKING & BEACH ACCESS

- Maintain existing parking lot (235 cars) and improve parking for recreation vehicles and overflow camping during the "off-season".
- Maintain emergency vehicle beach access ramp and stairway.

BEACH ACCESS STAIRS

- Construct new bluff fencing and stairway for beach access from the campground. Close existing bluff trail, improve drainage, and revegetate with native vegetation.



PROPOSED GROUP CAMP

- Remove existing campfire center and discontinue existing day-use activity.
- Preserve the COC built ramada and develop a 50-person group camp.
- Remove the existing restroom and construct a new combination building and parking.

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NEW BRIGHTON STATE BEACH
**PROPOSED
LAND USE AND FACILITIES**
GENERAL PLAN-LAND USE & FACILITIES ELEMENT

DRAWING NO.
25096

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