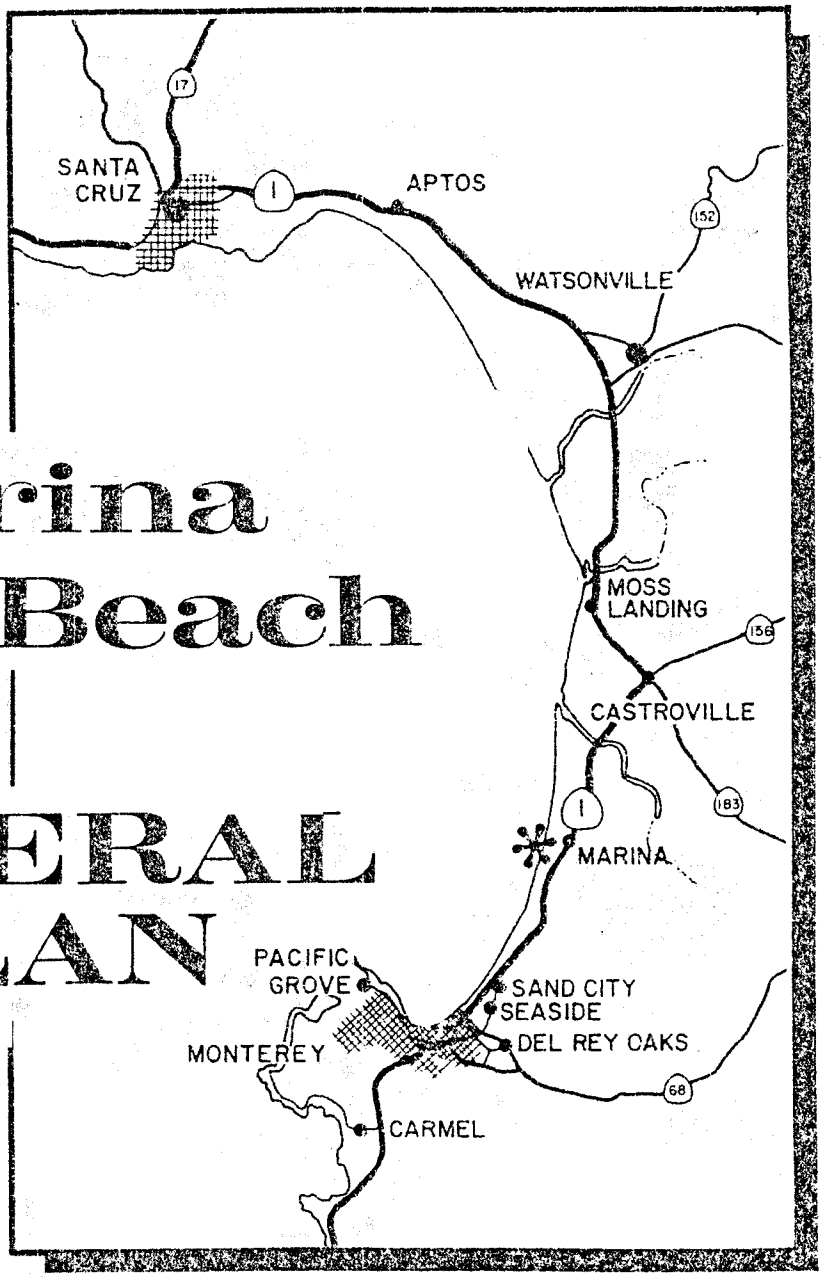
Marina State Beach

GENERAL PLAN



George Deukmejian, Governor
Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary for Resources
Henry R. Agonia, Director

State of California – The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation

State Parks and Recreation Commission Approval — August 1987

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P.O. Box 942896, SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001

Resolution 57-87
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Pacific Grove on
August 14, 1987

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Preliminary General Plan for Marina State Beach, dated May 1987, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan.

The following statement shall be included in the Operations Element:

"The Department will keep under close monitoring the status of aquatic and other safety measures to determine whether lifeguarding may be required in some form."

MARINA STATE BEACH
GENERAL PLAN
SEPTEMBER 1990

George M. Deukmejian
Governor

Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources

Henry R. Agonia, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

State of California - The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
Post Office Box 942896
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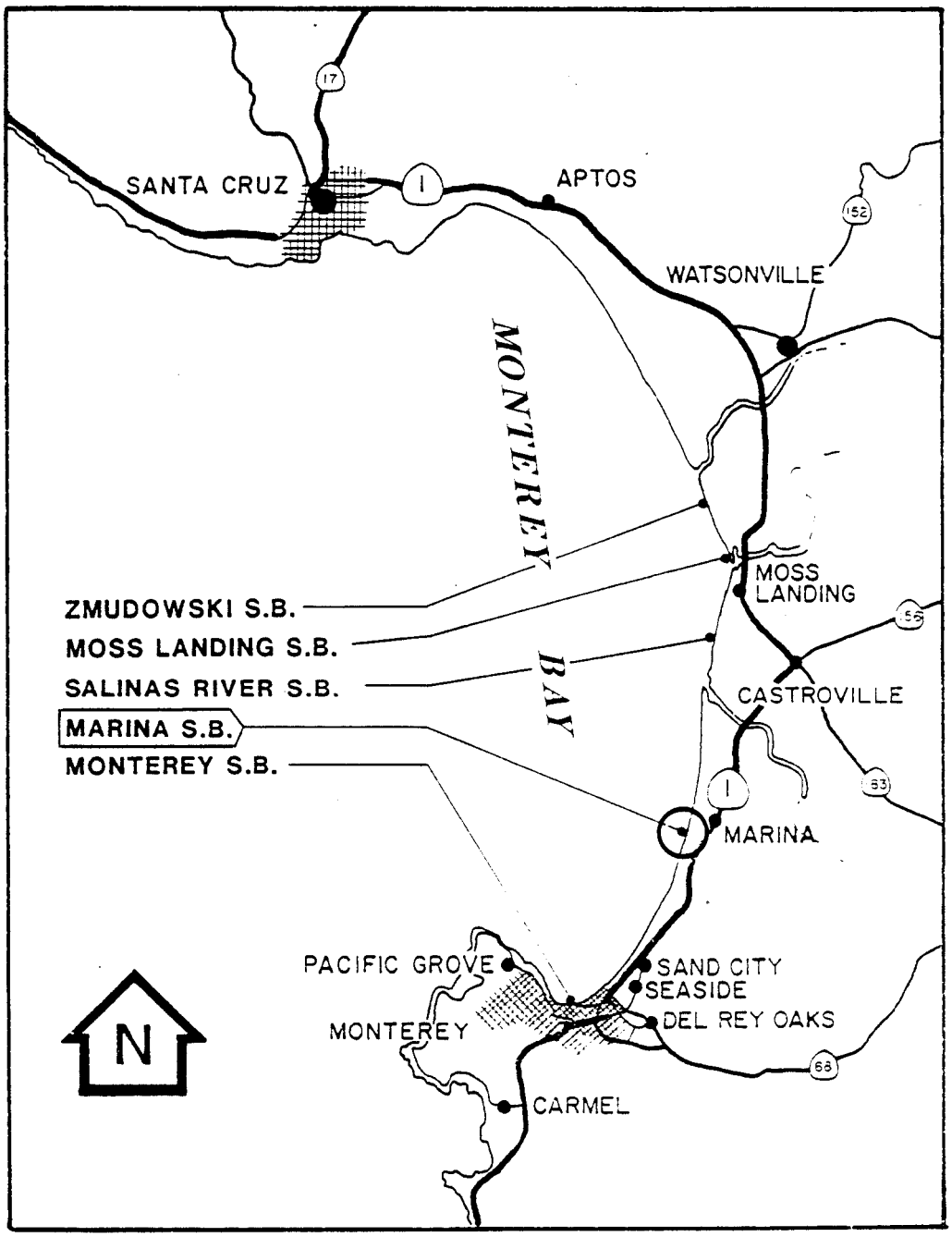


MARINA STATE BEACH

UNIT DATA

STATISTICS
Size:170 acres
Ocean frontage: 6,000 linear feet
Existing facilities:
- 50 car parking
- park office and residence
- hang gliding concession
Visitation: 300,000 visitors

VISITOR USE
Primary recreation activities include:
-Hang gliding
-Surf fishing
-Beachcombing and sunbathing
-Photography
-Radio-controlled glider/kite flying
-Nature study and landscape painting

RESOURCES
-Sandy beach
-Biologically sensitive dune system
-Rare and endangered plant and animal species

ISSUES AND CONCERNS
-Dune stabilization and revegetation
-Natural resource protection
-Limited visitor access
-Park maintenance and operations
-Day-use parking, restrooms,
-North sector operations center
-Land use in the Lake Court area
-Adjacent land use compatability

SUMMARY

This General Plan for Marina State Beach was prepared as part of an overall general planning process for five state beaches in the northern portion of Monterey County. The others are Monterey, Moss Landing, Salinas River, and Zmudowski State Beaches.

A separate General Plan has been developed for each unit so as to clearly present the material, and more importantly to aid in the future implementation of this plan.

The plans have been developed through extensive coordination within the various departmental divisions and offices, a series of public meetings and user questionnaires, and interaction with local agencies.

All five of these state beaches are similar in that they consist of a stretch of ocean beach backed by coastal dunes. Each is unique, however, in respect to dune height, vegetation, human disturbance, and recreation opportunities. The beaches themselves are the primary recreation resource, providing opportunities for jogging, fishing, swimming, surfing, horseback riding, and a wide variety of other uses.

This collection of beaches serves visitors both from the adjacent communities and statewide. With the exception of Monterey State Beach, these units present a rural and somewhat isolated experience for visitors. (The City of Monterey and its collection of cultural and recreational resources draw visitors statewide. The proposals of the Monterey State Beach General Plan reflect that relationship.)

Collectively these General Plans provide a wide array of uses; however, individually they will provide only those recreational uses and development that are compatible with the resource values of the unit.

Marina State Beach is located 10 miles north of Monterey, within the City of Marina. The property encompasses the area between Highway 1 and Monterey Bay. It consists of a sand beach backed by a biologically sensitive dune system that ranges in elevation from near sea level to 144 feet. Topographic features on the dunes are subject to relatively rapid change since much of the dune system lacks stabilizing vegetation and has been subjected to many disturbances. This state beach unit is the known location for eight plant species listed as endangered that require special protection to preserve their integrity. The endangered Smith's blue butterfly and the California brown pelican are also within this property.

Recreation is a big attraction at Marina State Beach. Along with surf fishing, the beach is a very popular hang gliding area. However, due to the steep slope, cold waters, and undertow, it is not considered to be a swimming beach. Facilities consist of a paved entry road and public parking area, a small public restroom, a hang gliding launch platform, and an office and storage building, all located at the north end of the unit. There is also a walk-in access point at the south end, with limited parking along the unpaved shoulder of a city street.

In general, the proposals will have beneficial effects upon the resources and for the public. The proposed natural preserve will help to protect the endangered species, and the facility adjustments and expansion will better serve the multi-use activities now occurring in this unit.

Key recommendations of this plan include:

- In recognition of the Marina dunes' value to rare and endangered species, the dune system within Marina State Beach shall be considered for designation as a natural preserve. The destabilized dune areas shall be revegetated with seeding or transplanting of native plants from local populations.

- Primary beach access will continue from the main entrance and parking lot, including interpretive and hiking trail designations through the dunes.

- The existing parking lot will be redesigned to increase capacity to 150 cars and to improve circulation and orientation to facilities and designated use areas.

- A small 15-car parking lot is proposed near the entrance for limited-term and disabled parking access to the boardwalk and new restroom facilities.

- Permanent restrooms facilities are proposed near main parking areas.

- Free-standing exhibit shelters with interpretive panels will be located at the parking lots near trailheads, boardwalk locations, and the hang gliding center.

- The existing office, storage, and work areas should be improved at their present location.

- A primary contact location is proposed for the unit at Reservation Road.

- The hang gliding center will be reestablished in the vicinity of the main launch platform and existing parking lot.

- Proposed parking (50 spaces) for the Lake Court area will serve visitors to the proposed 25 picnic sites and dune trails.

- An employee residence site (a trailer pad) is also proposed in the Lake Court area.

INTRODUCTION

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

INTRODUCTION

General management and development guidelines in this plan will remain flexible through review and continued updating. The plan will act as the primary source of information for future park management and use. Specific proposals will be further refined when specific items are funded for implementation.

This plan includes the following elements:

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

The Land Use and Facilities Element describes current and proposed land uses, and describes proposed facilities.

The Interpretive Element describes proposals and programs for public information and interpretation.

The Concessions Element describes the use of concessions in the unit.

The Operations Element describes operational guidelines for the unit.

The General Plan as a whole serves as the draft environmental impact report. Environmental impact information is presented in the Environmental Impact Element. Further environmental assessment will be performed when specific construction or management programs are proposed. If significant environmental impacts differing from those specified in this General Plan are found, further environmental documents will be filed.

In preparing the plan, several initial goals and objectives have been established to serve as a general guide.

1. Identify the unit's cultural and natural resources.

2. Identify existing and potential problems, and provide solutions.

3. Determine land use, development, and visitor activities that are compatible with the purpose of the unit and the surrounding area.

4. Determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities.

5. Establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation, development, and interpretation of the resources.

6. Establish a sequence of unit development.

7. Provide an information document for the public, the Legislature, department personnel, and other government agencies.

RESOURCE ELEMENT

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

RESOURCE ELEMENT

This Resource Element was prepared to meet requirements in state law,* setting 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 established 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 outside the unit that represent potential acquisition opportunities are intended for planning purposes only and do not represent an intention or commitment for acquisition.

Unit Description

Marina State Beach (170.5 acres) is located in Monterey County within the Coastal Strip Landscape Province. The nearest State Park System units are Monterey State Beach, 6 miles to the south, and Salinas River State Beach, 5 miles to the north.

The unit is within the Marina city limits. Other nearby communities are Seaside and Sand City, 6 miles south, and Monterey, 8 miles south. Salinas, the Monterey County seat, is 9 miles east.

The State Beach is generally bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Fort Ord Military Reservation on the south, State Highway 1 (freeway) to the east, and Reservation Road to the north. The day-use parking area, ranger residence, and other areas north of Reservation Road are on lands recently acquired from Monterey County.

Resource Summary

Natural Resources

Topography

Marina State Beach is part of an extensive dune system adjacent to southern Monterey Bay. The dunes at Marina Beach range in elevation from near sea level to 144 feet. Topographic features on the dunes are subject to relatively rapid change since much of the dune system lacks stabilizing vegetation. The prevailing westerly winds move sand eastward, changing the slopes and forms of the dunes. Steep slopes occur throughout the project, although relatively flat areas are not uncommon. There are several active dune lobes that are moving eastward and may eventually encroach on the adjacent freeway (State Highway 1). Slopes on the eastern face of these active dunes exceed 100% (45°).

*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.

Meteorology

The waters of Monterey Bay have a profound moderating effect on the climate at Marina Beach. There is relatively little seasonal variation in temperature. During the summer, the mean maximum temperature is 65°F and the mean minimum is 52°F. In winter, the mean maximum is 59°F and the mean minimum is 43°F.

Persistent fog and low cloudiness contribute to the mild summer temperatures. Comparatively warm, moist Pacific air moving across the cool, upwelling near-shore ocean water causes the air to cool rapidly, precipitating out the moisture to form fog. The fog is swept inland by the prevailing winds. Typically, a 1,500 to 2,000-foot-thick deck of clouds extends inland during the night and recedes to the vicinity of the coastline during the day.

The mean annual precipitation of 13.4 inches falls primarily during the winter and spring. Sixty percent of the annual precipitation occurs from December through February, and 24% occurs from March through May.

Strong offshore winds are very common during the spring and summer months. Wind speeds of four to 15 miles per hour are reported 75% of the time, 16 to 31 mile per hour winds 5% of the time. Winds are calm 20% of the time.

The large sand dunes at Marina Beach produce a number of subtle microclimatic effects. The large expanses of bare sand are a "heat sink," absorbing heat during sunny periods and radiating heat during foggy or cloudy periods and at night. Leeward swales between the dunes are protected from the almost constant wind and sheltered from the wind-borne salt spray.

Air quality at Marina Beach is very good. The onshore winds provide a nearly constant source of clean, marine air, dispersing and pushing automobile emissions and pollution from other sources inland.

Hydrology

Permeability is generally rapid through the beach and dune sand at Marina Beach so there is very little runoff. The topography of the dunes was generally formed by wind erosion; erosion and sedimentation related to runoff are not significant morphological factors. There are several depressions in the dunes where water could temporarily collect during periods of intense rainfall. Depressions in the rear dune areas at the northeast and southeast corners of the project have been identified as areas that would be inundated by 100-year floods.

Saltwater intrusion into the groundwater is a general problem in the region. Overdrafting of the Salinas Valley groundwater basin has reversed the natural gradient which normally keeps the freshwater-saltwater interface near the coastline. As a result, saltwater is flowing inward, contaminating well water.

The depression at the northeast corner of the unit supports plant species (*Salicornia sp.*) which are characteristic of saline, wet areas. The presence of the species indicates that saltwater is present in the groundwater, which is near the surface at the bottom of this depression.

Geology

Marina State Beach is within the Salinian block of the southern Coast Ranges geomorphic province. The Salinian block consists of continental crust material dominated by granitic rocks, flanked on either side by oceanic crust of the Franciscan complex. The granitic basement is overlain by very recent alluvial and sedimentary deposits -- beach and dune sand and Pleistocene marine terrace deposits.

No rock outcrops occur within Marina State Beach. The granitic basement is deep beneath the recent surficial sand deposits. The unit is part of the Monterey dune complex, which extends from the Salinas River southward to the Canyon del Rey. The unit includes beach sand, active dunes directly behind the beach, and Flandrian dunes (dunes formed since the close of the Ice Ages -- 18,000 to 4,000 years ago). These dunes are characteristic of retreating shores and have migrated landward at varying rates -- rapidly during the rise in sea level that marked the close of the last glacial period and much more slowly since that time.

The beach area is subject to liquefaction in the event of an earthquake, as are the lower inland dunes, where the water table is near the surface.

The beach elevation and profiles change with the season and as climatic conditions vary. Summer-winter profiles and stormy-dry period profiles illustrate the beach variability and periodic active erosion of the base of the dunes.

Marina State Beach lies within the King City-Rinconada fault zone, which is responsible for and topographically defines the Salinas River Valley. Although the fault has not exhibited movement during the last 200 years, it has displaced post-Pleistocene deposits of the Paso Robles Formation. Although the King City fault has not exhibited historical displacement, the San Andreas fault, approximately 30 kilometers northeast of the unit, certainly has exhibited spectacular movements. That seismically active area has recorded 24 earthquakes greater than Richter magnitude 5.0 between 1841 and 1900, and more than 27 earthquakes greater than 5.0 from 1900 to 1984.

Sand mining has been active in the area. Sand is used in road construction, sandblasting, filters, foundaries, and surface finishes. However, the sand also serves as a recreation resource, as well as a land protector-buffer for beach erosion.

In summary, Marina State Beach is subject to many geologic constraints and sensitivities. Coastal erosion, flooding, liquefaction, seismic shaking, and fault rupture are all possible in the area. And, while no paleontological resources have been noted, further investigation could result in significant (post-Pleistocene) discoveries, as the dunes erode and migrate.

Soils

Soils within Marina State Beach have been mapped by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service as dune land, coastal beach, and Baywood sand.

Coastal beach land occurs adjacent to the ocean. The beaches are covered with water during high tides, exposed during low tides. Drainage is excessive to very poor. Permeability is very rapid, and the available water holding capacity is two or three inches. Runoff is slow, and the erosion hazard is very high due to wind and wave action.

Dune land comprises most of Marina State Beach. It is composed of wind-deposited quartz and feldspar sand in hummocks, mounds, and hills. Much of the sand is loose, moving with the wind, while other areas are stabilized with vegetation.

Baywood sand, located near the southeast and northeast corners of the unit, is somewhat excessively drained soil that has formed in stabilized sand dunes. The surface layer is grayish brown and brown, slightly acid sand. It is underlain by very pale brown, slightly acid sand which extends to a depth of more than 60 inches. Permeability is rapid. Roots penetrate to a depth of more than 60 inches. Runoff is slow to medium, and the erosion hazard is slight to moderate.

Vegetative cover is essential for maintaining stable dunes within Marina State Beach. Until a dune restoration project was undertaken in 1985, the unit had several dune blowouts where large areas were devoid of vegetation. The prevailing westerly winds were moving the dune mass slowly eastward.

Plant Life

Marina State Beach is located in the central coast floristic region of the California Floristic Province. The unit encompasses a single vegetation type, coastal strand. The coastal strand of the central coast is known for its high percentage of endemic and rare species.

The coastal strand at Marina Beach is composed of three communities: foredune, coastal scrub, and dune pond. Species diversity is generally low throughout the three communities except for the protected north-facing slopes of the coastal scrub.

The foredune community extends along the entire coastline from the first rise back to the well vegetated and stabilized areas. The most common species of the foredune are sea rocket (Cakile maritima), beach bur (Ambrosia chamissonis), and yellow sand verbena (Abronia latifolia). At Marina State Beach, this community usually extends less than 50 feet back from the beach.

The coastal scrub community includes all dune vegetation behind the foredune. The dominant species are mock heather (Haplopappus ericoides) and sea fig (Carpobrotus aequilaterus). Much of the diversity has been eliminated by the aggressive sea fig, but the north-facing slopes, protected areas, and areas of minimal disturbance support seaside wooly sunflower (Eriophyllum staechadifolium), deerweed (Lotus scoparius), and the coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium).

At the north end of the unit, in the reardune hollow, there is a dune pond. The pond flora consists of pickleweed (Salicornia virginica), alkali heath (Frankenia grandifolia), saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), and rabbitfoot grass (Polypogon monspeliensis). Surrounding the pond in an area of seasonal

inundation are sea sedge (Carex pansa) and wire rush (Juncus balticus). Surrounding the vernal pond on higher and drier land are coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis) and non-native annual grasses.

The dunes at Marina Beach have been subjected to many disturbances. In the early 1950s, the area became a popular off-road vehicle use area, continuing until 1973. Sewer plant construction along Beach Road resulted in the bulldozing of large amounts of sand over the previously stable front of a parabolic dune. At present, the northern end of the unit is a popular location for hang gliding. Off-road vehicles, construction activities, and pedestrian and equestrian uses have all contributed to the loss of vegetation. Comparisons of 1941, 1978, and 1984 aerial photographs show that the various human disturbances have significantly reduced the vegetation cover. In 1941, 79% of the dunes were vegetated; in 1978, the cover had been reduced to 63%; it is now less than 48%.

Marina State Beach is a known location for six plant species listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare and endangered: Erysimum menziesii (Menzie's wallflower), Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria (slender flowered gilia), Castilleja latifolia (Monterey paintbrush), Chorizanthe pungens (Monterey spine flower), Corethrogyne leucophylla (branching beach aster), and Erysimum ammophilum (coast wallflower). E. menziesii and Gilia tenuiflora are also state-listed endangered species.

The plant species list for this unit, which contains 100 species, includes 24 exotic (non-native) species. The most abundant non-natives are sea fig and Hottentot fig (Carpobrotus aequilaterus and C. edulis), which dominate many areas of the coastal scrub.

Animal Life

The biotic communities within Marina State Beach are ocean, coastal strand, and coastal dune, which includes a dune pond.

The littoral and beach zones are included within the coastal strand. Occasionally grey whales are spotted within the littoral zone. Harbor seals and sea otters may occasionally use the beach as a haul-out area (place of rest). Gulls and shorebirds forage in the intertidal zone and commonly rest upon the beach. Black-bellied plover, snowy plover, killdeer, and willet are shorebirds representative of this biotic community.

The foredune and reardune communities within Marina State Beach are vegetated by low to medium herbaceous or shrubby species. The diversity of vegetation provides food and cover for numerous species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Pacific tree frog, bullfrog, northern alligator lizard, and black legless lizard are representative coastal dune species. Mammals include the ornate shrew, brush rabbit, and black-tailed hare. Birds include the savannah sparrow, song sparrow, and white-crowned sparrow. There is a small dune pond surrounded by freshwater and saltwater marsh vegetation in the northeastern portion of the unit. Small mammals, birds, and reptiles occur in the vicinity of the pond.

Two endangered species, the Smith's blue butterfly and the California brown pelican, are known within Marina State Beach. The butterfly is dependent upon coast buckwheat which grows within the coastal dune scrub. The pelican feeds offshore and may occasionally rest upon the beach. A population of the black legless lizard, an uncommon species, is also found within this unit.

Marine Life

The Monterey Bay marine environment off Marina 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 environment is the open water from the surface to the sea floor. Benthic environments are on the ocean floor and are defined on the basis of depth, substrate, and tidal influences. There are two significant benthic environments at Marina Beach, intertidal and subtidal.

Intertidal benthic environment 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. Scavangers 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 environments extend from the lowest tide line to a depth of 30 feet and are primarily composed of unconsolidated sand. The dominant species that dwells within the substrate is the polychaete tube worm. Species that 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 environment includes floating and swimming organisms. Floating organisms include 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 Marina 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 from the unit as it migrates between kelp beds, its preferred habitat. Many of the fish and birds that inhabit the marine environment off Marina Beach are of ecological, recreational, and commercial importance.

Ecology

Ecologically interdependent relationships between the physical and biological components of the coastal dune environment are evident at Marina State Beach. Sediment carried down rivers is moved along the shore by littoral processes. The ocean surf moves sand particles onto the beach where the predominant westerly winds carry sand inland and upward, forming the dunes. Vegetation, adapted to the highly permeable sand and salt spray conditions, stabilizes the sand with root and stem systems which retard sand movement. Stabilized dunes provide habitat for animal species and allow for diverse plant associations.

The dune vegetation at the unit is not adapted to withstand extensive disturbance. Human activity has trampled and destroyed vegetation. The bare dunes then are rapidly eroded by the wind. Once the dunes are destabilized, natural revegetation is slow to occur and is virtually impossible while disturbances continue.

Most coastal dune areas of California have lost their natural qualities due to urban developments and intensive recreation use. The remaining areas provide the only habitat for the many plant and animal species that are specifically adapted to and dependent upon coastal dune environments. The limited habitat is the reason many of these species are rare or endangered. The survival of these species depends on the restoration and preservation of the coastal dunes.

At Marina State Beach, vegetated stable dunes and unvegetated active dunes exist side by side. In some cases, the active dunes are covering and destroying vegetation. Despite the active dune areas, Marina Beach provides critical plant and animal life habitat. The potential for revegetating disturbed areas and limiting human disturbances at Marina Beach increases the area's importance for the preservation of threatened species.

Cultural Resources

Archeological Sites

One historic trash dump, with an estimated date of 1890 to 1920, was discovered in the Marina State Beach dunes and recorded as archeological site MNT-1287H. There are moderate quantities of small artifact fragments, shell, and bone on a small and unobtrusive beach terrace. The integrity is poor due to wind erosion and its accessibility to relic collectors. The site has very little historical or interpretive value.

Standing Structures

There are no historic standing structures at Marina State Beach. There are some cement foundations and trash dumps in the southeastern corner of the unit that appear to date from the 1940s. These buildings had no historic significance and were removed in 1975.

In the northwest corner of the unit there is a concrete slab that is reputed to be the remains of a bait shop.

Ethnographic Background

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 terms 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 about Marina downcoast to the Sur River.

Political organization was limited to a tribelet level consisting of one or more villages, served by a chief and council of elders. Each of the approximately 50 tribelets was like an autonomous nation. Tribelet territories were apparently well defined and defended, with warfare commonly mentioned in historical accounts. Marine resources provided items for trade to inland neighbors, primarily mussels, salt, abalone shells, and dried abalone. Pinon pine nuts and obsidian were obtained as imports.

Prayers, offerings, dreams, dances, and shamanism were important in Ohlone religious life. Musical instruments included whistles, flutes, rattles, and bow. Several types of games and gambling were popular. Most houses were dome-shaped, using thatch to cover a pole framework, and large enough for 10 to 15 persons. Animal skins were used for robes (on cold days), blankets, and bedding, along with tule mats. Baskets were used for storing household items, and especially for collecting, processing, and storing food.

Acorns provided the bulk of the diet, supplemented by a variety of other nuts, seeds, berries, roots, and shoots. Animals were hunted, trapped, and fished, including most of the mammals and reptiles in the area, waterfowl and other birds, and insects. Extensive burning of brush and grasslands helped to improve the hunting and gathering potential of the lands while reducing the danger of wildfires. 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 traditional culture. The Indians living around Monterey Bay were drawn into missions at Santa Cruz, San Juan Bautista, and San Carlos.

Historic Background

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. This missionization activity proved disastrous for the Native Americans. Mexican secularization of the mission system in 1834 further dispersed the remaining Costanoan peoples. Simultaneously with orders for mission secularization came requests for Mexican land grants. For the most part, however, the land encompassing the present-day beach units in Monterey County retained its status as the pueblo lands of Monterey prior to statehood. In 1853, the City of Monterey claimed these pueblo lands as city lands. These lands were divided into three tracts.

Prior to 1877, wealthy Monterey County loan broker David Jacks acquired Tract III, a 28,000-acre area which incorporated approximately 10 miles of beachfront below the southern boundary of Rancho Rincon de las Salinas. This vast beachfront tract included present-day Marina State Beach and Monterey State Beach.

Jacks' holdings were eventually subdivided and sold to various interests. During the latter part of the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries, the area in back of the Marina beachfront was devoted to agriculture. The World War II expansion of nearby Fort Ord as a major military training center altered that pattern, and the surrounding area rapidly became residential, serving both Fort Ord and the neighboring cities of Salinas and Monterey. Present-day Marina State Beach remained undeveloped, however.

A 1975 California Department of Transportation investigative report regarding acquisition of Marina Beach for the State Park System concluded that no developed business or occupational use had ever been made of this property. A concrete slab at the northern end of the unit, apparently a remnant of a bait shop, and the locations of demolished 1940s-era outbuildings in the southeastern area are the only minor exceptions to the report's conclusions.

In 1977, Jose E. Sala and Josephine B. Skancke sold 9.3 acres of Marina Beach to the State of California. Eight months later, the state acquired 118 acres from United California Bank and Richard E. Hayes.

In 1986, the state acquired six acres of land and improvements from Monterey County adjacent to the unit entrance. This included the existing park office and employee residence.

Esthetic Resources

The most striking scenic resource of Marina State Beach is the panoramic view of the blue waters of Monterey Bay. Other positive scenic resources include the large dune formation, with its pleasant variation in shape, texture, and hue, and the colorful wildflowers scattered throughout the dunes. Brightly colored hang gliders and people fishing in the surf are pleasant human esthetic influences.

Negative scenic features include the hang gliding concession building, the unit administrative/office area, and the areas of highly disturbed bare sand adjacent to the parking lot. Negative scenic features adjacent to the unit include the Marina City Water District's office and sewage treatment plant and the sand mining structures to the north, and the City of Marina corporation yard adjacent to the unit's southeast corner.

Positive auditory features include the sound of the surf, the cry of seabirds, and the sound of wind among the dunes. Disruptive auditory features include noise from freeway traffic and low-flying aircraft. Sounds of gunfire and explosives from Fort Ord are also frequently heard.

Strong odors from the adjacent sewage treatment plant are frequently noticeable within the unit.

Recreation Resources

The primary recreation resources of Marina State Beach are the waters of Monterey Bay, the sandy beach fronting the bay, the large dune formation between the beach and State Highway 1, and the wind.

Marina State Beach is a popular unit of the State Park System, with an attendance of over 300,000 day users. Summer, the most popular season, accounted for 44% of this use, spring and fall 23% each, and winter, 10%.

Recreation activities are primarily resource oriented: surf fishing, beachcombing, birdwatching, picnicking, and sunbathing along the beach; photography, nature study, and hiking in the dunes; and over the dunes, hang gliding, radio-controlled glider flying, and kite flying. The public parking area, with its panoramic overview of Monterey Bay and the seaward face of the dunes, provides an excellent location for landscape painting, esthetic enjoyment, and contemplation. It also provides a valuable opportunity for the elderly or disabled with limited mobility to enjoy nature without having to leave their vehicles. In the water, though, strong rip currents make water sports like swimming, surfing, skin diving, and scuba diving extremely hazardous.

Facilities consist of a paved entry road and public parking area, a small public restroom, a hang gliding platform, and an office and storage building, all located at the north end of the unit. There is also an access point at the south end, with limited parking along the unpaved shoulder of a city street.

There is relatively little scuba and snorkel diving adjacent to this state beach because the uniform sandy substrate does not provide habitat for the diverse and colorful assemblages of marine plants and animals that attract recreational divers to other areas in the Monterey Bay region.

Resource Policy Formulation

Classification

Marina State Beach has been a unit of the State Park System since 1977. The unit was classified as a state beach by the State Park and Recreation Commission on May 10, 1985. 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 Marina State Beach is to protect, perpetuate, and make available to the people, for their benefit and enjoyment forever, the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the ocean beach and the adjacent coastal dunes.

The function of the California Department of Parks and Recreation at Marina State Beach shall be to preserve and protect the coastal dunes and the related native vegetation and to make opportunities for ocean beach oriented recreation available to the public.

The purpose of the proposed Marina Dunes Natural Preserve is to protect and perpetuate the unit's prime resource values: the coastal dunes, the federally-listed (endangered) Smith's blue butterfly, the state-listed (endangered) Menzie's wallflower, other rare or endangered plant species, the many species of native plants which help stabilize the dunes, the uncommon black legless lizard, and other wildlife species.

The long-range objectives of the department shall be to manage the prime resource values of the state beach in such a manner that the ecological processes function as closely as possible to what they would have been without human disturbances. Revegetation of areas that are currently bare due to past disturbances is essential to meet this goal.

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest is that area outside the unit where land use changes could adversely affect the operation of Marina State Beach. This zone includes the State Highway 1 freeway, the sewage treatment plant, the sand mining operation, the RV park northeast of the unit, Fort Ord, and the city corporation yard and private property on the southern boundary of the unit. The department is generally concerned about any activity in the adjacent City of Marina that could affect the state beach.

In addition, the department is interested in all lands, no matter how far away, that through their use and development adversely affect the unit's resources and features. The damming of rivers and building of breakwaters and other structures along the coast, which disrupt littoral sand movement and may increase coastal erosion, is another problem affecting this 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 existing or potential problems related to the management of resources within Marina 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 the planning issues of 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 intent of the policy is to avoid construction of new permanent facilities in areas subject to coastal erosion, and to promote the use of expendable or movable facilities where the expected useful life is limited due to their location 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, seacliff 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, seacliff 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 the policies, directives, and laws that apply statewide, the following resource policies have been developed for Marina State Beach:

Monitoring Erosion and Sand Loss

Beach erosion and seacliff retreat have been recognized as serious threats to facilities and the use of coastal units of the State Park System. Better baseline information on erosion rates is needed to plan for appropriate land use, resource management, and visitor safety.

Policy: A monitoring program shall be established to document: 1) seacliff retreat, 2) landslides, 3) beach elevation, and 4) beach width. The program should include the comparison of historical and recent aerial photographs, ground photos with explanations, and installation of permanent monuments, if necessary. The program should be coordinated with the 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.

Shoreline Protective Devices

Suggestions could be made to install riprap, revetments, seawalls, or other structures at segments of Marina State Beach to protect public or private developments. Pressure to allow the proliferation of such devices can be expected, as the beach erodes and potential hazards increase. Structural protection measures are not consistent with the general objectives for resource management within the State Park System. In certain circumstances, however, when the public facility is of greater necessity and importance than the natural and recreational resources that may be negatively affected, structural protective measures may be appropriate.

Policy: Structural protective measures shall be undertaken only if nonstructural measures (relocation of facility, setback, redesign, or beach replenishment) are not feasible. If a protective structure is constructed (riprap, rock revetment, seawall, etc.), 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 vegetation, wildlife, or fish habitats;
5) Be placed further than necessary from the development requiring protection; or
6) Create a significant visual intrusion.

Sand Replenishment

The beach at Marina State Beach has narrowed in recent years, as severe storms have removed some of the buffering sand wedge below the dunes, carrying the beach sand to deep water and possibly into the Monterey submarine canyon. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Boating and Waterways are embarking on a Monterey Bay erosion study, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation, U.C. Santa Cruz, and the U.S. Geological Survey. These studies are primarily data collection efforts; however, they will be oriented to developing solutions to perceived problems. One potentially beneficial solution to increased erosion and loss of land base and valuable structures would be to supplement the wave-buffering beach with appropriately-sized materials from offshore or inland sources.

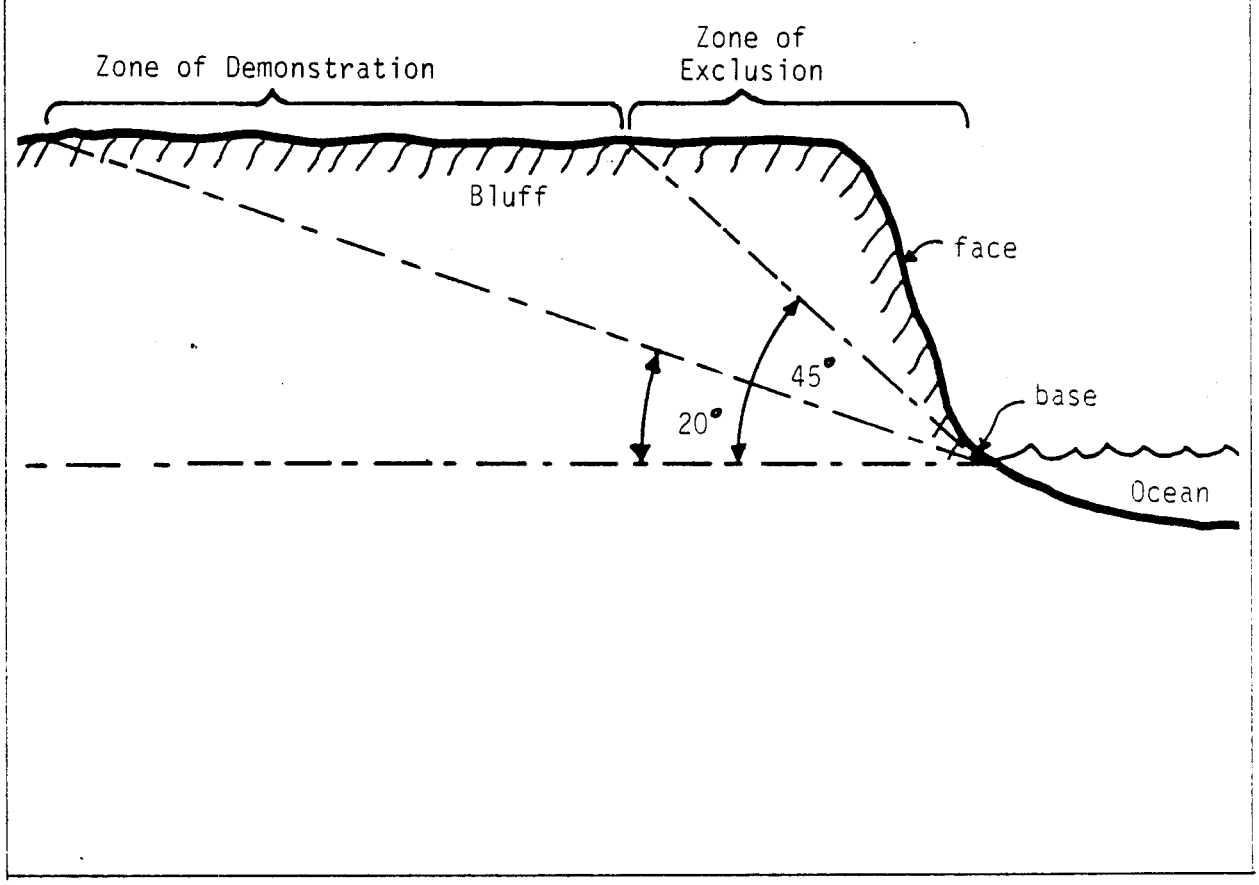
Policy: The department shall coordinate with the various agencies studying storm damage and beach erosion problems of Monterey Bay to develop regional nonstructural solutions to erosion problems. Beach replenishment shall receive serious consideration as an ongoing, nondestructive solution that will also result in a more substantial recreational land base.

Bluff Setbacks

Seacliff retreat is an ongoing process that should be taken into consideration when designing and placing facilities near bluff edges. To protect investments in facilities and assure public safety, it is a sound principle to establish setback zones -- both "zones of exclusion," where facility development is precluded, and "zones of demonstration," where 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.

Zones of Demonstration and Exclusion



General Vegetation Management

It is the goal of the department to preserve and perpetuate representative examples of natural plant communities common to the unit and the region. The plant communities at Marina State Beach have been influenced by road and sewer plant development, off-road vehicle use, heavy recreational use, and invasion by exotic species. The net result of such impacts and alterations include the loss of vegetation and sand, unnatural community structures, alteration of the extent and distribution of many native species, and the deleterious competition of exotics with native species.

Policy: The primary objective of vegetation management shall be to manage toward a natural condition with minimum disruption to natural processes. The secondary objective shall be to restore and perpetuate the native plant communities that prevailed in the area prior to Euroamerican influences.

Dune Management

The coastal dune system within Marina State Beach is important habitat for plant and animal life. Several of the plant species have been designated rare or endangered by the California Native Plant Society. The population of one plant, the Menzie's wallflower, which has been designated by the State Fish and Game Commission as endangered, is morphologically and physiologically distinct from other populations of this species. This indicates that the Marina dunes population may eventually be designated as a subspecies, warranting even greater protection.

Marina State Beach also provides habitat for two rare animal species, the black legless lizard and the Smith's blue butterfly. The Smith's blue butterfly has been designated as a federal endangered species. The recovery plan for this butterfly identifies Marina State Beach as one of several areas that provides extremely important habitat for this endangered species.

Policy: In recognition of the Marina dunes' value to rare and endangered species, the dune system within Marina State Beach shall be considered for designation as a natural preserve.

The department shall work with other public agencies, private organizations, and individuals to assure that every effort is made to maintain suitable habitat for rare and endangered species within Marina State Beach.

Specific management action shall be undertaken to expand the local population of Menzie's wallflower. Collection of seed, propagation, and planting shall be undertaken if deemed necessary to assure the continued existence of this species within Marina State Beach.

Revegetation

Many years of human activities on the dunes have resulted in massive loss of vegetation and destabilization. Based on aerial photographs taken in 1984, 52% of the dunes within Marina State Beach were destabilized at that time. Continued visitor use and the harsh natural environment prevented the dunes from revegetating naturally. Large quantities of sand were carried eastward by the prevailing winds and were approaching Highway 1. A dune restoration project was undertaken in 1985 to stabilize these areas. Continued stabilization of the dunes is necessary within the state beach to prevent future problems along the freeway.

Policy: Destabilized dune areas within Marina State Beach shall be revegetated. In order to maintain the genetic integrity and diversity of the native California communities, seeding or transplanting will be done only with native plants from local populations.

Human activities within the dunes shall be regulated and controlled so as to prevent destruction and allow for rehabilitation of the natural dune environment. Hiking, horseback riding, hang gliding, and other recreational uses shall be restricted to designated areas and routes. Construction of walkways and/or sand ladders should be considered.

Rare and Endangered Plants

The Monterey Bay area is rich in rare, endangered, and endemic species. A high concentration of these species occurs in the dunes at Marina State Beach. Six plant species that have been listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare or endangered have been confirmed to occur in the unit. Two of the six, Erysimum menziesii and Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria, have been listed by the State of California as endangered species.

The present distribution of E. menziesii within the unit is only a portion of what once occurred in the dunes. Off-road vehicle use, hang gliding, and other forms of recreation have taken a toll on the population. The shifting of bare sand endangers the most vigorous stands.

Protection of rare and endangered species habitat is an important objective in the statewide management of the State Park System. Rare and endangered plants can be inadvertently destroyed by facilities development, maintenance programs, visitor use, or other activities, especially when the exact population locations, habitat requirements, and tolerances are not known.

Policy: Rare and endangered plants found within Marina State Beach boundaries shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation.

Systematic surveys for rare and endangered plants shall be made throughout the unit. When located, all populations shall be mapped and management plans developed for their protection and perpetuation.

Prior to any site-specific development or heavy use activities, additional surveys shall be made for rare or endangered plants in the areas that will be impacted.

The known locations for E. menziesii shall receive no more than the lowest intensity use. Population monitoring shall be done on an annual basis in order to detect any adverse factors affecting the plant. Enclosures should be considered as a means of protection for all existing E. menziesii within the unit.

Landscaping

Exotic species can detract from the natural appearance of the unit, naturalize and displace native species, have less habitat value for native wildlife, be more prone to insect attack and disease, and require permanent irrigation and greater maintenance costs.

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

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 law, unit classifications, and declarations of purpose, and by specific declarations of resource management policy presented in this Resource Element.

Resource constraints are factors that 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 Marina State Beach were determined and are shown on the Allowable Use Intensity Map. Four use intensity categories have been developed: very low, low, moderate, and high. The very low use intensity zone is the habitat area for the state-listed (endangered) Menzie's wallflower. The low use intensity zone is the dune system at Marina that provides habitat for several threatened or endangered species. The moderate use 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 includes rear dune areas and existing facility developments.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Existing Land Use and Facilities

Marina State Beach consists of a sandy beach backed by a biologically sensitive dune system. The vegetated dunes provide habitat for several rare and/or endangered plant and animal species, which require special protection to preserve their integrity.

Unit access is provided at the northern end from Reservation Road, a city street that terminates in the main parking lot, which also provides public access to the Marina City Water District office and sewage treatment plant. Unit access is also available at the southern end via Lake Court, a city street. People park informally along the side of this road to reach random dune trails, but beach access is difficult here due to the steep terrain and the distance from Highway 1. Vehicle and pedestrian access to the unit is restricted by the highway and dunes at most other locations.

Recreation is a big attraction at Marina State Beach. The beach is a very popular hang gliding area, both for experienced gliders and beginners. The current hang gliding concession has a launch ramp and a trailer used for registration, sales, and instructions. Specific launch and landing areas are also designated on the beach and foredunes for this activity. Surf fishing is another popular activity, easily accessible from the main parking lot.

A 43-acre dune revegetation project initiated during the 1985-1986 fiscal year included construction of a boardwalk extending from the parking lot 2,000 feet into the dunes. This boardwalk is accessible to disabled people along its total length and includes overlook points.

Other facilities at this unit include a 50-car day-use parking lot, restroom, park office, and employee residence. These structures were built by Monterey County for other purposes and later leased to the state in 1979. The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired this land and improvements from the county in 1986.

The existing office building has been modified to serve as the center for north beach sector administrative and visitor services, but it is considered inadequate for existing and future needs. Work space and material storage areas are provided there for smaller scale unit construction projects and ongoing resource management programs. Equipment and vehicle maintenance is provided at the Monterey District facility.

The lack of developed facilities at Salinas River SB, Moss Landing SB, and Zmudowski SB has increased the need for additional office, work space, and material and equipment storage areas at Marina State Beach. Also, the existing parking and restroom facilities at Marina State Beach are undersized and need improvement to adequately serve visitors and meet disabled access requirements.

Proposed Natural Preserve

Most of the dune system within Marina State Beach is proposed for classification as a natural preserve to recognize and protect the natural values associated with this area. Significant resources that require special protection include two state-listed endangered plants, Menzie's wallflower and slender-flowered gilia, and the federally listed endangered Smith's blue butterfly.

Recreational activities associated with this unit will be restricted to the beach and designated trails and hang gliding use areas. Areas to be excluded from the natural preserve include the beach and locations of existing and proposed support facilities.

Proposed Land Use and Facilities

Beach Access and Trails

Beach access will continue from the parking area near the unit entrance at Reservation Road. Interpretive trails will be designated through the dunes from Reservation Road and the Lake Court area. The existing boardwalk could be extended further south into the dunes and connect with a proposed nature trail and possible beach access. The southern end of the unit has limited beach access potential due to the steep dune slope facing the ocean.

Parking

The existing parking lot will be redesigned to increase capacity to 150 cars and to improve circulation and orientation to facilities and designated use areas. Considerations in development should include protection from shoreline erosion, a separate access to the water district facility, protection of ocean views, and special needs of the hang gliding center.

A small 15-car parking lot is proposed near the entrance for limited-term and disabled parking access to the boardwalk and new restroom facilities.

The Lake Court area has potential for limited parking and picnic facilities. The open area and adjacent dunes include sensitive natural resources requiring consideration in determining the size and location of developed facilities.

Proposed parking (50 spaces maximum) for the Lake Court area will serve visitors to the picnic area and dune trails. This development will include landscaping or other appropriate means of screening facilities from Highway 1 and natural areas. Day-use parking facilities proposed for this area may be considered for overnight use as part of our department's enroute camping program, provided that ranger surveillance is made available in this area.

Picnic Area

A backdunes picnic area is proposed for the Lake Court area to serve family and group use (25 picnic sites maximum). The site is located in the open area adjacent to the road and is protected from prevailing winds.

Comfort Station

Permanent restroom facilities are proposed near each parking lot. Meanwhile, existing parking and restroom facilities should be upgraded to acceptable standards until improved facilities are constructed. The existing restroom should be rehabilitated to make it accessible to disabled persons.

Interpretive Facilities

A free-standing exhibit shelter with interpretive panels should be located at the parking lots near trailheads and boardwalk locations. An additional exhibit panel is proposed at the hang gliding center. Interpretive signing should be installed along trails and the boardwalk to explain the resource sensitivity and significance of these areas.

Administrative and Maintenance Facilities

Existing structures should be rehabilitated and new facilities constructed to effectively serve the unit and north sector operational needs. Existing office, storage, and work areas should be improved at their present location.

Visitor contact, unit orientation, and dissemination of information can best be handled at a primary contact location. For these purposes, a contact station is proposed for the unit entrance at Reservation Road. Reservation Road is a city street, which will require coordination with the City of Marina for continued public access to the unit and the city water district office. Visitors will be directed from this main entrance to facilities proposed for the Lake Court area.

An employee residence (a trailer site) is also proposed in the Lake Court area. Visitor facilities proposed here will require ranger surveillance for user safety and resource protection. The actual location will be determined in the site development plan for this overall area. Site planning considerations include the availability of utilities, parking, visibility from Highway 1, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

During all new construction, existing overhead power lines should be installed underground.

Concession Facilities

The current hang gliding structures at the unit are temporary. This activity will be better served by a more appropriately placed facility. This should include a tower to observe the coastal area, which would double as a surveillance tool for other activities and also benefit park staff.

The hang gliding center will be reestablished in the vicinity of the main launch platform and existing parking lot. Site development should provide an adequate base of operations for hang gliding activities, organize use patterns to avoid conflicts between different recreational activities, and include provisions for visual surveillance over the launch and landing areas.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Interpretive Period

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

Interpretive Themes

Several themes are appropriate for interpretation at Marina State Beach. These themes cover the natural history of the beach and its present-day condition. The themes are as follows:

Building grain-by-grain
Living with the shifting sand
Rebuilding the natural garden
The invisible cushion of air
Rare beauties
Fluttering jewels
A journey for survival
Staying safe at the beach
A bill for every purpose

Expanded Themes

Building grain-by-grain: Sand dunes along Monterey Bay have formed over time by the combined forces of wind and waves. The sand deposited on the beaches by the waves is blown inland by the wind until it comes to rest against vegetation or other obstructions. The grains gradually build up to form dunes. Marina State Beach's dunes are very easily eroded. Over time, they have suffered from erosion by ocean wave attack and trails through the vegetation.

Living with the shifting sands: The seemingly barren sand dunes are home to several varieties of plants and animals. The adaptations these organisms have made to the constant wind and lack of moisture make them unique. Indeed, some of them live nowhere else, such as the Smith's blue butterfly. An understanding of these organisms will help the visitor to better appreciate the dunes.

Rebuilding the natural garden: Over time, the constant use of the dunes by visitors for recreation has caused erosion, as well as blowouts of sand onto the Coast Highway. Steps are now being taken to correct the damage. Seeds and seedlings of dune vegetation are being planted in barren areas, and foot traffic is restricted to specified areas and a boardwalk through the dunes. These measures, with public cooperation, will soon restore the dunes to their natural beauty.

The invisible cushion of air: Marina State Beach is a very popular hang gliding area for both experienced and beginning gliders. The wind dynamics at the beach are such that there is a consistent flow of air much of the year.

When the Salinas Valley heats up in the spring and summer, the air there rises and the ocean breeze moves inland to fill the vacuum. This steady pull, coupled with the lack of obstructions between the water and the dunes, creates a cushion of air for the hang gliders. Flying at heights of 50 to 300 feet above the bluffs, the glider pilots can soar for hours, traveling almost to Monterey if desired.

Rare beauties: Marina State Beach has several rare plants on its dunes, the most prominent of which is the Menzie's wallflower (Erysimum menziesii). The wallflower has a long taproot to stabilize it in the deep sand of the dunes. Its bright yellow flowers are fragrant and attractive. The prevalence of the wallflower near the parking and high use areas of Marina State Beach makes its identification to the visitors and their understanding of its role in stabilizing the dunes very important.

Fluttering jewels: The Smith's blue butterfly, a rare and endangered species, is often seen at Marina State Beach. The bright blue wings of the males make them easier to spot than the brown and red-orange wings of the female, but both can be found near coast buckwheat plants. The butterfly's life cycle is closely linked with that of the buckwheat growing on the dunes. The larval butterflies feed on the flower heads, while the adults ingest nectar at the flowers, and use the remainder of the plant for resting, sunning, and mating. Without this plant, the Smith's blue butterfly would soon die out. The strong link between the host buckwheat and the dependent butterfly can serve as an example of the interconnectedness of living organisms in the dunes.

A journey for survival: Frequently, during the months from December through February, visitors to the beaches around Monterey Bay can see California gray whales or blue whales passing by the shore on their journey south to Baja California. This is a journey for survival. The coming of winter storms and icy water effectively deprives the whales of their food source in the Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean, and Aleutians Island area. Another impetus to the whales' trip to warmer waters is the pending birth of their young. The young whales are born without the all-important layer of fat to insulate them against the cold water, and they need time in the warm southern waters to develop it. After reaching Baja California, the whales rest and eat until March, when they begin the 6,000-mile return to the northern seas. The return trip is usually farther offshore, and the whales are not visible from the beaches.

Staying safe at the beach: Marina State Beach is a popular recreation beach for sports other than hang gliding. Wind surfing, swimming, and other ocean-oriented sports occur as well. However, the seemingly quiet waters of the ocean off Marina State Beach hide rip currents and undertows that can turn an afternoon at the beach into a tragedy.

A bill for every purpose: An understanding of the kinds of food the shorebirds eat at Marina State Beach 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.

Proposed Interpretation

Facilities

Two exhibit shelters are currently present at Marina State Beach. The shelter at the ranger headquarters contains a panel on the State Park System. The second shelter is adjacent to the concessionaire's trailer in the parking lot. This shelter accommodates two panels, and three are used in rotation as the season requires: "Gulls," "Birds of the Seashore," and a panel on gray whale migration. An additional exhibit shelter of the same size is proposed to accommodate interpretive panels on the themes outlined in this element. This shelter should be located in the concession area, perhaps with some small benches added to create a vista point and resting area.

Exhibit shelters should also be included at future parking areas and beach/dune access points.

The new boardwalk through the dunes provides an excellent facility for interpretation. The vista point at the end of the boardwalk and wide areas with benches for resting are excellent interpretive opportunities. Low-profile vista point panels interpreting the dune themes would be useful here. Brochures could also be prepared to utilize the boardwalk as a nature walk through the dunes.

At such a time as a trail is formalized through the dunes to connect with the Lake Court parking area, the entire length of it could be used as a nature trail.

Visitor Activities

Visitor involvement in interpretation at present consists of reading the existing interpretive panels and personal contact with the visitor services staff. Guided walks are provided by advance arrangement. A Junior Ranger program is conducted in cooperation with the City of Marina Recreation Department during the summer. These forms of interpretation will, of course, continue. Supplementary activities would include more frequent guided walks on the beach or through the dunes, perhaps two or three times per week.

Interpretive Concessions

The present concessionaire in the park, Kitty Hawk Kites, does not provide formal interpretation of hang gliding to visitors. Any interpretation of hang gliding should be prepared with the cooperation of Kitty Hawk Kites, perhaps utilizing their photo collection and certainly their expertise.

Interpretive Associations

There are no interpretive associations associated with Marina State Beach. The hang gliding group, the Coastal Condors, may have some interest in providing interpretive information about hang gliding.

Interpretive Collections

There are no interpretive collections associated with Marina State Beach.

Recommendations

Interpretive Priorities:

1. Develop a series of low-profile interpretive panels for the boardwalk.

2. Develop a series of interpretive panels and a suitable seasonal rotation program for them.

3. Construct exhibit shelters.

4. Institute a series of guided interpretive walks on the themes listed in this element.

5. Prepare an interpretive brochure for use in conjunction with the boardwalk through the dunes.

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

This element consists of an evaluation of existing concession activities, the potential for additional visitor services and revenues, and appropriate concession policies and guidelines consistent with the unit's classification and the provisions of all elements of this General Plan.

A concession is a general term for a grant of authority by the department to another party, permitting that party to make specific use of parklands and/or facilities for a specified period of time.

It is the department's policy to enter into concession contracts for provision of products, facilities programs, and management and visitor services that will enhance visitor use and enjoyment as well as visitor safety and convenience. Such concessions should not create added financial burden on the state and, wherever possible, shall either reduce costs or generate revenues that aid in maintaining and expanding the State Park System. In carrying out this policy, the department must adhere to the provisions of the Public Resources Code that forbid commercial exploitation of resources in units of the State Park System and that limit the kinds of improvements and activities that are allowed.

Current Concessions

At this time, there is a concession that provides equipment, lessons, and general surveillance for the hang gliding activities at Marina State Beach.

Potential Concession Activities

Marina State Beach is close to necessary retail services. Proposed improvements at this state beach, which include parking, restrooms, and additional boardwalks, may increase the demand on local retailers but are not expected to require the provision of additional commercial services within the unit. However, special event activities compatible with the unit's environment can be approved by the district superintendent.

Because of the above situation, and because of the lack of available sites for additional commercial facilities, no new concessions are being proposed by this General Plan. This approach will encourage private efforts when and where they are needed, in a manner that is still advantageous to the public without adversely affecting park values.

Although no new concessions are proposed, the current hang gliding activities will be reestablished in a more appropriately placed facility in the vicinity of the existing parking lot (see Land Use and Facilities Element).

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

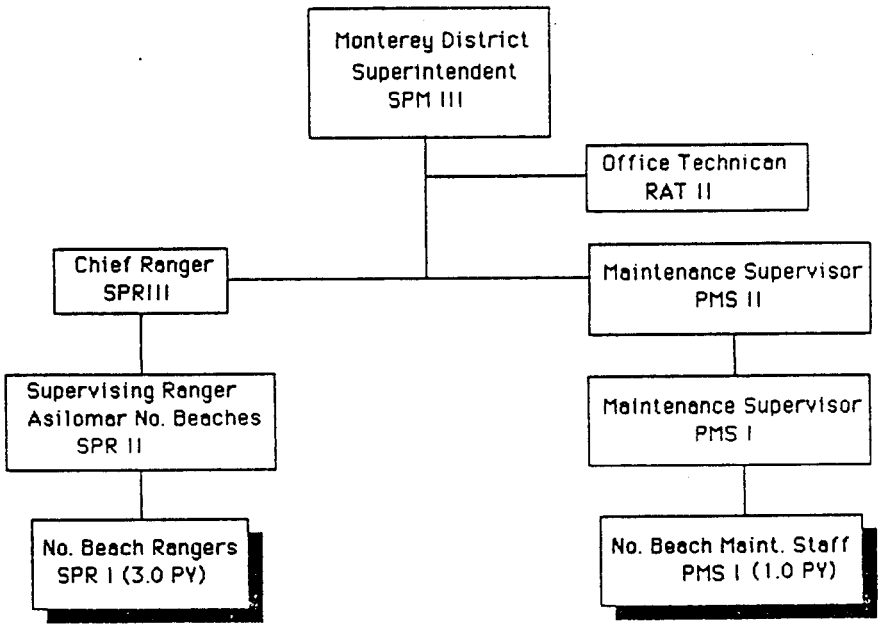
This element outlines broad goals for unit operations in view of the other elements within the General Plan, and it also identifies existing or potential operational problems and strategies for solving them.

Existing Situation

Operations responsibilities are carried out under the on-site guidance of the first line supervisor as directed by a district superintendent. The district reports to the regional director. At the district level, operations are divided into three functions: administration, maintenance, and visitor services.

The maintenance and operations staff directly responsible for this unit, as well as Zmudowski State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, and Monterey State Beach, are centered at Marina under the direction of the Monterey District.

The organizational structure of the Monterey District staff associated with North Sector Beach units (Monterey State Beach, Marina State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, Zmudowski State Beach) is as follows:



Law Enforcement

Law enforcement at this unit has increased with the recent programs that have closed the dune areas for restoration. The closure requires a greater education of the public and a closer observation of their whereabouts in the dune areas. A recently built dune boardwalk that extends 2,000 feet into the dunes, parallel with the ocean, has provided an easy access for many visitors who would otherwise not have had this opportunity. They include the disabled, aged, and those who prefer not to walk in the sand itself. This boardwalk requires continual monitoring and increased litter cleanup. Drug use and alcohol-related driving offenses are a continuous problem in the beach parking lot.

Visitor Safety

Signs on Highway 1 indicating that Marina State Beach is just on the other side of the major dunes encourage use of the unit by enroute travelers. Several recently built hotels and a private campground in the immediate vicinity have also increased day-use activity on this beach. In addition, Army personnel and their families who live in the community of Marina are frequent beach visitors. The enroute travelers and Army personnel are not as familiar with the area's weather patterns and the undertow hazard of the ocean, which adds an additional workload for department staff and requires more frequent public contact with beach users.

At Marina State Beach, hang-gliding is a major activity that has an impact on visitor safety. The beach is one of the few areas where the conditions of the wind, ocean, beach slope, and access are right. The sport is is also an attraction to others. Local hotels advertise it as a recreation activity for visitors to go and see, drawing a large number of people. Although the concession facility that operates the hang-gliding program is of assistance to the staff in monitoring the activity, there is still a need for substantial patrol contact.

Glider pilots find the sport most enjoyable when the winds are between 15 and 25 miles per hour. But when the winds reach 15 miles per hour, the sand starts to blow, and the other beach users leave. Therefore, the wind helps to distribute beach use and eliminate some of the conflict between activities that might otherwise occur. However, there is an overlap of various activities in the transition time between different wind patterns, and during those periods extra staff monitoring and control are required.

Resource Management

Initial sand dune restoration and stabilization takes approximately three to five years to bring an area back to a point of natural equilibrium. However, following that, it requires an ongoing program to contain and reestablish blowouts, remove sand from paved areas, and replace boardwalks and fences. Continued monitoring, quick repair of hot spots, and the lowering or removal of stabilization devices are part of the program.

The recent restoration work in the Marina dunes has substantially prevented beach users from moving back into the dune area when the wind is up. This has required closer visitor surveillance by the staff. The development of picnicking facilities in the Lake Court area of Marina State Beach will satisfy some of the need for picnicking protected from the wind.

Maintenance

Besides the typical functions of litter cleanup, garbage collection, toilet cleaning, and the repair and replacement of boardwalks and fencing, the protection and stabilization of sand dunes is a sizable maintenance program.

To help meet its maintenance goals, the department participates in a Monterey County program to use court referrals for maintenance work at this unit and at other north county beach units. The program requires administration, coordination, and crew supervision by department staff. This major activity takes place at Marina State Beach, which acts as the center for maintenance coordination for north county state beaches. A senior park aid supervises this program. The administration of these workers by the department requires close coordination with the county and continual weekend management of the crews. The program has substantially improved the visual quality of the entry, parking area, beach, and dunes, and has demonstrated a department presence in the unit, which acts as a silent monitor to discourage negative use. But the program has also increased the need for maintenance supervision and operation staffing, which, in turn, requires appropriate administrative and maintenance facilities.

Because of the no-fee access to the unit and the close proximity of fast-food outlets in the area, the Marina parking lot has become a convenient location for lunch-hour observation of the ocean, which has increased the litter problem. The department will need to evaluate in the future whether it is better to continue the free access and to allocate additional staff time for the maintenance problems or to implement a user fee, which would probably eliminate this particular activity.

General Plan Implementation

Proposals of the General Plan set a direction for improved visitor services and resource protection through improved facilities, public contact, and resource policies. This will require a complement of appropriate operations programs to implement the goals of the plan, including an expansion of user contact and ongoing dune maintenance.

As a result, department activities will improve protection of the resources, general law enforcement, visitor contact, and response to emergencies. Visitor awareness of the department's presence at the unit will also assist in these improvements.

Certain concerns must be taken into account, however. The proposed expansion of the existing parking lot at Reservation Road and the development of the Lake Court area for day use or enroute camping will increase operational activities. There will also be a need for more seasonal funding for dune restoration, stabilization, and general maintenance.

There is a possibility that Monterey Peninsula regional transit will be able to develop disabled access to this facility in the future. While it is the department's intent to encourage disabled as well as general public use of the boardwalks, this will require added staff time to expand this use and yet protect the resources.

The volume of airborne dirt and sand blowing off the beach is considerable. Residents of the city of Marina remark about the frequency with which they must clean their residences. Additional dune restoration efforts will be effective in reducing this airborne dust and sand.

Future staffing and support budgets must consider the fact that Marina State Beach, along with other north county beaches, needs extensive sand removal, which requires specialized equipment. Future operations plans will likely require rapid use of such equipment because the public demand for access to this unit cannot tolerate lengthy unit closures.

The fact that the unit lies within the city limits of Marina makes additional coordination with city activities and city staff a necessity. Department staff also participate on the Marina Coastal Zone Task Force, which reviews planning proposals for the Marina dune area. A substantial amount of park staff time will be spent on the task force on a short-term basis, including meetings every two weeks for at least two years.

The department will closely monitor the status of aquatic and other safety measures to determine whether some form of lifeguarding may be required.

Volunteer Programs

The Native Plant Society may be of assistance in interpreting the unit's natural resources and helping to guide the public through the area. This society is currently involved in assisting the department in native seed collection.

Hang-glider pilots at Marina have volunteered for various facility development projects.

The Monterey District has a school outreach program which goes to the schools and invites students to the unit. In the future, a cooperative association could be developed to provide additional interpretation and assistance in this program for all the north county beaches.

Estimated Visitation, Staffing, and Equipment

North sector beach unit staff operate the north county state beaches (Monterey, Marina, Salinas River, Moss Landing, Zmudowski). The following chart shows figures collected in 1986 and projects them to the complete implementation of the plans for these units.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

MARINA STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Preface and Summary

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 be composed of "adequate" discussion of the seven topics usually discussed in an EIR. When a point has been adequately discussed in another part of the General Plan, it is covered in this element by a reference to that discussion, to avoid redundancy.

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

In general, the proposed project will have beneficial effects upon the resources and for the public. The proposed natural preserve will help to protect two state-listed endangered species, the Menzie's wallflower and Smith's blue butterfly, as well as several threatened species and other endemic species of plants and animals.

The California Native Plant Society lists as rare and endangered the slender flowered gilia, Monterey paintbrush, Monterey spine flower, branching beach aster, and coast wallflower. The coast buckwheat will also be protected, since it serves as habitat for the Smith's blue butterfly.

Project Description

The Resource Element, the Land Use and Facilities Element, and to a lesser degree the other elements 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

Please refer to the Resource Element in particular for a description of the natural and cultural environment of this state beach. 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 these descriptions of the local environmental setting, the following has been added.

Air Quality

Air quality along the Monterey Bay coast is good because of the influx of clean air off the Pacific Ocean. The Salinas II Monitoring Station records for 1985 indicate that gaseous and particulate pollutants were below state and national standards on all recorded days. Available records from other central coast monitoring stations substantiate these findings.

Circulation

Reservation Road, which interchanges with State Highway 1, provides access to the main parking area located at the north end of Marina State Beach. Parking is available for approximately 50 cars. Lake Court, at the south end of Marina State Beach, has limited roadside parking. The Land Use and Facilities Element discusses the parking and other facilities available at Marina State Beach.

Public Services

Facilities at this State Park System unit are served by full utility hookups, including flush toilets and running water in the restrooms.

Fire and rescue protection are handled by department staff and are also provided by the City of Marina Police and Fire Departments. Typical problems needing a response include capsized boats, accidents, fights, and drug and alcohol use.

Hospitals in the area are Natividad Medical Center and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas, Fort Ord Hospital for military personnel, and Community Hospital between Monterey and Carmel on the Monterey Peninsula.

The Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

Most of the proposals described in the Land Use and Facilities Element and the Resource Element will ameliorate existing adverse conditions at the unit. The following are several possible significant effects to the environment that presently exist or may be caused by the project.

Soils and Geology: Proposed expansion of the existing parking lot and other construction of facilities and trails in the dune area would denude and disturb some sandy soil.

Sand dune destabilization could blow sand, causing sand dunes to move into nearby wetland areas and roads, including the freeway. The sand dunes contain many native plant and wildlife species and act as a "warehouse" for sand to be supplied to beaches. (See the Resource Element.)

Energy: Construction equipment used for the project will use energy. This is a short-term effect. Long-term energy use includes beach maintenance, emergency and patrol vehicles, and the use of cars by the public to reach their destinations.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Some native vegetation and wildlife may be affected inadvertently by proposed project construction and intentionally or unintentionally by the public. The six native plant species listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare and endangered that occur at Marina State Beach -- Menzie's wallflower, slender flowered gilia, Monterey paintbrush, Monterey spine flower, branching beach aster, and coast wallflower -- are mentioned in the Resource Element. Menzie's wallflower and slender flowered gilia are also listed by the state as endangered species. Menzie's wallflower is under review by the federal government for similar listing.

The state-listed (threatened) Guadalupe fur seal has been seen in Monterey Bay, and the federally-listed (threatened) southern sea otter has been seen offshore. The beach is rich in wildlife. Two listed, endangered animal species, the Smith's blue butterfly (federal) and the California brown pelican (state and federal), are known to occur within Marina State Beach. The black legless lizard, a DFG species of special concern, may occur at Marina State Beach.

Esthetics: The parking lot, some of the buildings, and the overhead power lines are unattractive, as are the Marina City Water District's office and the sewage treatment plant to the north. The proposed project will improve esthetics as well as other conditions. This will be discussed further under Mitigation Measures in this element. (See the Resource Element for a more complete discussion of esthetics.)

Traffic Circulation: An enlarged and refurbished parking lot, improved surveillance by state personnel, and other amenities may increase visitor attendance to the unit and put a strain on city streets. On the other hand, some people may not wish to use the unit if a fee is collected at the entrance station and surveillance is increased. There will probably be a decrease in the numbers of visitors who stop briefly to eat lunch or use the restrooms and then move on.

Lake Court and Lake Drive will experience heavier use when facilities for public use are developed at that end of Marina State Beach.

During peak-use periods, there may be times when the supply of parking spaces will be inadequate for the number of people wanting to use the unit. This may cause people to park along the access roads, leading to frustration and traffic congestion.

Recreation Safety: Certain hazards exist for the unwary recreationist, including riptides, high tides, and unexpected high waves. Winter storms and rare tsunami conditions are also dangerous.

Mitigation Measures

Soils and Geology: The Resource Element describes how revegetation will help stabilize the dunes. Areas that have been denuded by past use and project development will be replanted with native vegetation.

Trails will be signed and marked. Boardwalks will be extended from the end of the existing boardwalk to Lake Court, to help protect the dunes and make it easier for the public to reach the beach.

Sand will be removed from the parking lot and roadway and replaced in the dunes or on the beach.

Beach erosion is a regional and statewide problem. Our 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 in order to conserve energy.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Resource policies for plants and animals as presented in the Resource Element will be followed. Site-specific plant surveys will be made prior to development of trails and facilities. Based on these surveys, facilities and trails will be sited so that all sensitive resources are avoided.

The boardwalks and marked trail through the dunes will help protect dune vegetation and wildlife and prevent sand erosion. Interpretive displays will also educate the public and make them more aware of the biota of this state beach.

Esthetics: The proposed project will improve the esthetics. Revegetation of bare sand dune areas will enhance the beauty of the dunes. The new entrance and parking areas will improve the appearance of the unit. The new restroom and other facilities will be more attractive. Improvements to the maintenance and administration buildings will also be more esthetically pleasing. The recommendation in the Land Use and Facilities Element that overhead utility lines be buried, if followed, would eliminate an eyesore. Additional personnel will help control vandalism and litter. The end result will be a more attractive, safer, and cleaner area for visitors to this State Park System unit.

Traffic: Newly paved parking, a new entrance, and turn-around area will benefit the state beach. The City of Marina will need to be consulted on how to handle vehicles during periods when the beach parking reaches capacity at both the Reservation Road and Lake Court access points.

Beach Safety: Unit personnel, with backup help from the city, will help visitors who are in any difficulty. Signs will be prominently displayed warning visitors about surf conditions.

Interpretive displays and unit personnel will assist the public with information.

Any Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided if the Proposal Is Implemented

Most environmental problems can be effectively mitigated, as described in this plan. One that cannot be mitigated is the limited available parking, which may cause traffic problems on peak-use days. However, these occasions would be infrequent and not cause a significant effect.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

No other alternatives were considered that significantly differ from the proposed plan. Environmental impacts would be essentially the same if land was added to the unit for greater parking and administrative use.

The No Project alternative was also assessed. All of the existing problems described in the Resource Element would probably be exacerbated by this alternative.

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

Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved if the Proposed Project Should Be Implemented

There would be the commitment of nonrenewable resources such as oil, gasoline, and gravel to construct roads, parking areas, and other facilities.

Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Action

This project will not increase human population in the area. The number of parking spaces being proposed in the existing area is about the same as the number of cars that now park in the parking lot and along the entrance road on a weekend day. Occasions when parking capacity is exceeded would be infrequent and would not cause a significant effect.

Comments and Responses
General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report
Monterey Bay State Beaches in Monterey County
SCH #86011401

Review copies were provided to the following on or subsequent to May 19, 1987. The review period ended July 3, 1987.

State Clearinghouse (10 copies)
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
The Honorable Henry J. Mello, Member of the Senate
The Honorable Sam Farr, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, House of Representatives
Honorable Karin Strasser Kauffman, Chairman, Monterey Co. Board of Supervisors
California Coastal Conservancy, Peter Grenell
California Highway Patrol, J. R. Munson
California Coastal Commission, Edward Brown
Monterey Regional Park District, Board of Directors,
Monterey County Planning Director, Salinas
Monterey North County Fire District, Mark Perira, Castroville
Monterey County Sheriff, Salinas
Monterey County Park and Recreation Director, Richard Brandan, Salinas
Monterey, Fred Cohn, City Manager
Monterey, Manager, City Planning
Seaside, City Manager
Seaside, Ernest Franco, City Planning and Inspection
Marina, City Manager
Marina, Recreation and Park Commission
Marina, Planning Director
Marina, City Water District, Manager
Moss Landing Harbor District, Manager
Moss Landing Marine Lab, Gary Greene
Sand City, Planning Department, Peter Chamberlain
Pacific Grove, Natural History Museum, Vern Yadon
Santa Cruz, Bill Ferral, Resource Planning and Management
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, Tom Kendall
U. S. Army, Fort Ord, Environmental Office Director
U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Debora Waxer
U. S. Coast Guard, Monterey, Nick Casara CWO 4
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species, Sacramento
Sierra Club State Park System Task Force, Robert Mark, Palo Alto
Sierra Club State Park System Task Force, Murray Rosenthal, Los Angeles
Sierra Club Local Task Force, Carl Larson, Monterey
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Gary Page, Stinson Beach
California Native Plant Society, Bruce Cowan, Pacific Grove
Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Wayne Yamagina, Salinas
Marina Chamber of Commerce
Elkhorn Slough (NES), Mark Silberstein, Watsonville
Kitty Hawk Sports, James Johns, Marina

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
211 MAIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105 - 1905

June 15, 1987

Environmental Branch

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

Subject: General Plan and DEIR Monterey State Beaches in Monterey County

Your request for comments from this office was received on 21 May 1987 by your letter dated 19 May 1987.

1 The proposed construction project may require Department of the Army Authorization under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and/or under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A copy of our pamphlet "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Program, A Guide for Applicants" is enclosed. For additional information please contact our Regulatory Functions Branch at 415-974-0418.

Any impacts on wetlands, threatened or endangered species, other valuable fish and wildlife resources, or on cultural resources are among the important environmental considerations for all Corps permit applicants. Other areas of environmental concern specific to this project are: We encourage the proposed coordination with the Corps on erosion monitoring.

Questions concerning our AB 884 review can be referred to the undersigned at 415-974-0443. Thank you for including us in your review process.

Roderick A. Chisholm, II
Environmental Branch
Planning/Engineering Division

Enclosure

7-3824

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SACRAMENTO ENDANGERED SPECIES OFFICE
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

JUN 19 1987

In Reply Refer To:
JAB/1-1-87-TA-471

Mr. James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
California Department of Parks
and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 942296-0001

Subject: Preliminary General Plans for Five State Beaches along the Shore of Monterey Bay, Monterey County, California

Dear Mr. Doyle:

In response to your letter of May 19, 1987, we are providing comments on the preliminary general plans for five State Beaches found along the southeastern shore of Monterey Bay in Monterey County. The beaches from north to south are Zmudowski, Moss Landing, Salinas River, Marina, and Monterey.

We generally concur with the resource management policies contained in these plans, especially those relating to the restoration of native flora and the removal or suppression of exotic plants. Moreover, we agree that thorough and systematic surveys for the "rare and endangered" flora should be completed prior to any activities potentially affecting candidate plants. We urge you to incorporate into these plans similar policies for the protection of rare and endangered animal species. If your Department has comparable policies for conserving rare and endangered fauna, they are not stated in the preliminary general plans.

2 — Two rare or endangered animal species that occur within State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline are the Smith's blue butterfly and black legless lizard. The Smith's blue butterfly, a federally-listed endangered species, occurs at Marina and Salinas River State Beaches and may occur at Monterey State Beach. The black legless lizard (Anniella pulchra nigra), a Category 2 candidate species, is known to occur at Marina and Monterey State Beaches. The preliminary general plans address

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many of the issues related to protecting the Smith's blue butterfly and its habitat. However, they do not adequately consider the needs of the black legless lizard, or accurately describe its distribution within State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline.

2 cont. The black legless lizard has a limited historic range that has been subject to habitat fragmentation and loss from a variety of developments and introduction of exotic "weedy" vegetation such as iceplant. Legless lizards with intermediate characteristics between the black legless lizard and more common silvery legless lizard (A. p. pulchra) have been recorded from Salinas River and Zmudowski State Beaches. Although the black legless lizard does not enjoy the legal protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we recommend that your agency develop and implement policies that perpetuate this fossorial species and its associated habitat. A copy of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inventory report, providing specific locality records for the State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline, is enclosed to assist your environmental planning process.

3 Some of the proposed land uses and facilities discussed in the five plans seem to conflict with the resource management policies mentioned above. For example, visitor use likely will increase at all five beaches as a result of the proposed addition, expansion, or redesign of parking lots to accommodate additional cars and visitors. Other new facilities (i.e., comfort stations, picnic areas) also encourage additional visitor use. Aside from the apparent conflict generally with resource management policies, the intensive use of these five State beaches likely will increase the "people problems" in the dunes, as evidenced by the need to close trails at Moss Landing and Zmudowski, and restrict foot travel to designated routes.

4 Another similar contradiction in the preliminary general plan for Marina State Beach is the designation of a hang glider use area within the proposed "natural preserve". Although we support preserve designation to provide needed protection for the candidate plants [Menzies' wallflower (Erysimum menziesii) and slender-flowered gilia (Gilia tenuiflora subsp. arenaria)] and federally-listed endangered Smith's blue butterfly (Euphilotes enoptes smithi), the proposed "natural preserve" evidently will permit rather intensive use of the northern dune area at Marina

5 State Beach. Heavy recreational use within this area may result in the "incidental take" of the butterfly. If such "take" is likely, a permit to "take" the butterfly must be obtained pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. Development of a conservation plan, a necessary component of a Section 10(a) permit application process, must detail the impacts of the proposed taking on the butterfly. Moreover, the

conservation plan should specify the mitigation measures the permit applicant (e.g., Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Marina) will undertake and funding mechanisms made available to implement such mitigation, and alternatives to the proposed project that were considered and the reasons why these alternatives were not implemented by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

5 cont. Currently, the Marina Coastal Zone Planning Task Force (Task Force) of the City of Marina is developing a conservation plan to ultimately accompany a Section 10(a) permit application. The permit, if granted, would allow for the "incidental take" of Smith's blue butterfly within identified portions of the Marina Dunes largely to the north of Marina State Beach. Although the Marina State Beach is represented on the Task Force, "incidental take" relating to ongoing or proposed activities at the State beach has not been considered as part of this conservation plan and permit application. Perhaps, the Department of Parks and Recreation would like to include activities on their lands potentially affecting "take" by expanding the scope of this process to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Similar conflicts may occur at Salinas River State Beach if development activities or intensive human uses are allowed in areas where the Smith's blue butterfly occurs. Questions relating to these comments should be addressed to either Jim Bartel or Ed Lorentzen at 916/978-4866. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these plans.

Sincerely,

Gail C. Kobetich

Gail C. Kobetich
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: David Shonman, City of Marina, Marina Coastal Zone Planning Task Force, 211 Hillcrest Avenue, Marina, CA 93933
Chief, Endangered Species, Portland, OR (AFWE-SE)
Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Sacramento, CA (ES-S)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

July 3, 1987

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

Subject: General Plans for Monterey Bay State Beaches
SCH# 86011401

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and the comments of the individual agency(ies) is(are) enclosed. Also, on the enclosed Notice of Completion, the Clearinghouse has checked which agencies have commented. Please review the Notice of Completion to ensure that your comment package is complete. If the package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Your eight-digit State Clearinghouse number should be used so that we may reply promptly.

Please note that recent legislation requires that a responsible agency or other public agency shall only make substantive comments on a project which are within the area of the agency's expertise or which relate to activities which that agency must carry out or approve. (AB 2583, Ch. 1514, Stats. 1984.)

These comments are forwarded for your use in preparing your final EIR. If you need more information or clarification, we suggest you contact the commenting agency at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Norma Wood at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

David C. Nunenkamp
Chief
Office of Permit Assistance

cc: Resources Agency

Enclosures

RECEIVED
JUL 6 1987
RPD

7-4153

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT
701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 310
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(408) 426-7390

June 23, 1987

James Doyle
California Department
of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: Marina State Beach Preliminary General Plan and Monterey State Beach Preliminary General Plan; State Clearinghouse Notice of Completion 86011401

Dear Mr. Doyle:

We have reviewed referenced plans and have the following comments:

Marina State Beach

We support the State Park proposal to designate the major part of the dune area at Marina State Beach as a Natural Preserve to protect and perpetuate the resource values of the park. Since federally and state listed endangered species have been located in the dunes and since the dunes ecosystem itself is a fragile and easily disrupted habitat, Coastal Act policy 30240 would apply to the area. This policy protects environmentally sensitive habitat against disruption and allows only uses dependent on resources within the area, and in areas adjacent to sensitive habitat areas, development is to be sited and designed to prevent degradation and to be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas.

There appear to be some discrepancies between the area identified as a proposed Natural Preserve and the kinds of uses considered appropriate (Allowable Use Intensity Map) and the the Land Use Map designations. The following points should be considered in your planning:

6 (1) In addition to the hang glide area shown at the main parking lot, the Land Use Map shows an indentation into the area of the Natural Preserve and indicates the area to be used for hang gliding. This would appear to conflict with the Category II "Low" use intensity of the Allowable Use Intensity Map which indicates that hiking and picnicking in designated areas are the only appropriate uses in this category. If your agency determines that this area is not category II, it should justify the change in

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6 cont. designation and should provide for minimizing disruption of the dune, e.g., providing boardwalks and platforms for the recreationalists to reduce destruction of the plant life that anchors the dune. There is insufficient discussion in the text as to the development of the hang glide facilities to fully understand what is being proposed.

7 (2) Regarding the hiking and picnicking designations the areas indicated for picnicking on the Land Use Map are appropriately located. However, in the area adjacent to Lake Court previous field surveys had indicated a significant back dune habitat. There may be sections of this area that should be preserved.

8 (3) Regarding hiking trails in the preserve, the use of boardwalks is recommended. Boardwalks are shown at either end of the reserve but it appears that trails will then continue into the dunes. The existing boardwalk greatly facilitates access and discourages random walking over the dunes. We suggest additional boardwalks and that unguided walks be restricted to boardwalks to protect the restoration and preservation program being undertaken by your department.

9 (4) We also suggest that in addition to the excellent policies provided on shoreline erosion and protective structures that the General Plan's Bluff Setback Policy correlate development setback with erosion rate and life span of project, that is, identify a target erosion time span (e.g. 100 year erosion setback) that must be met for new permanent development.

Monterey State Beach - Sand Dunes Drive area

10 (1) No allowable use intensity map was included as the text indicated (p.20). The two allowable uses proposed, (a) high use - highly disturbed sand dunes and (b) moderate use - sandy beach, do not appear appropriate to the higher dune area coterminous with the adjacent Ponderosa property. The federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly has been surveyed in this area. Though the Land Use Map proposes restoration of this area, it is not clear that there is a long term commitment to manage this area for habitat protection.

11 (2) En route camping would provide for a critical public need consistent with the Coastal Act if appropriate protection of dune habitat is provided.

12 (3) To the degree feasible under General Plan procedural regulations we would recommend clarification of the status of the Seaside and Sand City parcels and additional information on future plans for these and other properties for potential inclusion in the Monterey State Park units.

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

Sincerely,

Joy Chase
Coastal Planner

cc: Mary Gunter
Norma Wood, OPR Clearinghouse
1913A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. BOX 8114
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93403-8114
Telephone: (805) 549-3111
TDD (805) 549-3259

Date: June 29, 1987

Mr. James M. Doyle
Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 942896-0001

File: MON-001-var.
G.P. for Mon. Bay
State Beaches
SCH#: 86011401

Subject: Intergovernmental Review

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Caltrans District 5 staff has reviewed the above-referenced document. The following comments were generated as a result of the review:

13 Caltrans has no particular concerns other than the fact that expanded and improved parking at the various state beaches will cause incremental increases in traffic turning moves on Route 1. As you are no doubt aware, Route 1 already operates at a very low level of service (F). Additional traffic just exacerbates the existing problems.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 549-3139.

A. C. Carlton
District 5
Intergovernmental Review Coordinator

cc: Terry Roberts, State Clearinghouse
JMA,VLN,CSW

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1987
RPD

7-4089

State of California — The Resources Agency of California

Memorandum

To : State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date: June 11, 1987

From : William R. Leonard, Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region—1122 Laurel Lane
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Subject: MONTEREY STATE BEACHES - PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN REVIEW

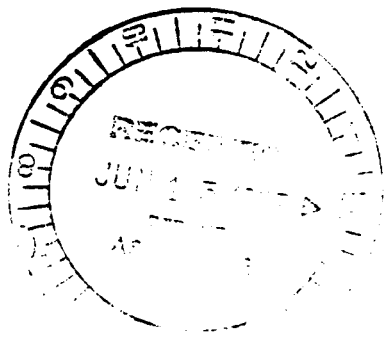
14 We reviewed preliminary general plans for California State Beaches located in Monterey County (Zmindowski, Moss Landing, Salinas River, Marina, and Monterey). At each facility we note there is discussion of restroom facilities "proposed", but no discussion of where the wastewater goes. Restroom facilities should be sewered wherever sewers are available. If restrooms are constructed using on-site septic tank-leachfield systems, they should be built in accordance with specifications in the Board's Resolution No. 83-12 and applicable county criteria.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM R. LEONARD
Executive Officer

JFC/se

stclearhs.ltr2



MONTEREY COUNTY

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

(408) 422-9018 - P.O. BOX 1208 - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93902

ROBERT SLIMMON, JR.
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

July 1, 1987

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Department has reviewed the preliminary General Plans for the following State Beaches located in the unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County: Zmudowski, Moss Landing and Salinas River. These documents were analysed with respect to the proposed land uses and facilties planned for each park unit and the certified North County Land Use Plan (LUP) of Monterey County's Local Coastal Program. The LUP is the controlling land use document upon which all State Park General Plans and proposed projects will be evaluated for consistency. Some of the detail comments which follow later address consistency issues. Resolvement of issues will be facilitated through County and State Coastal Commission consideration of the General Plan Program as an amendment to the certified LUP.

The LUP contains a Public Access Component and provides policy for the protection of access opportunities, management plans and programs, priorities for improvements and management for access and recreational facilities, trails, public safety, habitat and resource protection, visual, land use compatibility, parking and facilities and signs and maps. The LUP identifies the Department of Parks and Recreation as the responsible agency for the development of access and recreational facilities for these three State Park units.

In general, we find the preliminary General Plans consistent with the Public Access Component contained in the LUP. However, we note an absence of reference to this controlling land use document and policies (with the exception of its citation as a selected reference) in any of the three plans. The coastal planning effort in Monterey County has, and continues to be a mutual effort among property owners, special interest groups and local, state and federal agencies. The Department of Parks and

Recreation contributed substantial background information to support various aspects of the LUP during its preparation and provided valuable input to assure your management concerns and objectives were included. Planning Department staff have met several times with your staff and have attended public hearings in this State Beach General Plan Program. We are therefore concerned that the preliminary General Plans contain no planning history or identification of the planning process in which this present Program evolved. We would recommend an addition section on the local planning effort and development of the LUP consistent with the Coastal Act of 1976; the Coastal Commission planning effort; as well as State Parks and Recreation General Plan Program and how that Program is part of the comprehensive coastal planning process. At present, the documents stand alone and are not reflective of the rich planning process which has occurred. The General Plan Program needs to be placed into the context of the entire coastal planning process. The following are specific comments to each of the three park units previously identified:

15

Zmudowski

1. p.2 Key Recommendations

16

- o Permanent restrooms requiring public sewer and water are not feasible due to lack of public services to the site. Expansion of such public utilities to this site is also not feasible. Permanent restrooms will require on-site water and septic systems.

17

2. o Equestrian use is not presently provided for in the LUP.

18

3. o Dune management plans will require County and State Coastal Commission review and approval.

19

4. o Signing should also include hazardous or restricted use warnings; if appropriate.

20

5. o Operation and maintenance facilities and overnight camping will require County and State Coastal Commission approval.

21

6. p.5 Unit Description, 2nd paragragh

- o This unit is bordered on the north by the Pajaro River, the east by agricultural fields...

7. p.12 Historic Background, 5th paragraph, 3rd line

22 — o "...in 1972, and a 20-acre use permit from the State Lands Commission." Please clarify, explain and/or correct.

8. p.14 Resources Management Policies

23 — o Resource Management in the State Park System in the Coastal Zone is governed by laws contained in the Public Resources Code and the California Administrative Code. Additional state agencies, such as the Coastal Commission, State Land Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Boating and Waterways all have laws and regulations for resource management that must be considered in the development of State Park General Plans along the coast.

9. p.16 Shoreline Protective Devices

24 — o Application of this policy assumes some level of facility (i.e. structure, etc.) exists at Zmudowski. Since no facility exists warranting structural protection, this section can be deleted.

10. p.22 Parking

25 — o Expanded parking will require County review and approval.

11. p.22 Comfort Station

26 — o See Comment #1

12. p.22 Interpretive Facilities

o Signage will require County review and approval consistent with LUP Policy 6.4.J.

13. p.22 Operations and Maintenance

27 — o Any facilities will require County review and approval.

14. p.23 Employee Housing

o Any housing or equipment storage will require County review and approval

15. p.27 Proposed Interpretation

- o If the second sentence under "Facilities" is correct "...the lack of buildable land precludes any extensive interpretive structures," How can improvements such as: Employee housing, operations and maintenance facilities and parking be proposed in this General Plan?

28

16. p.33 General Plan Implementation

- o Upon Parks and Recreation Commission approval of the General Plan, the Department of Parks and Recreation should submit an amendment application to the LUP for County and State Coastal Commission consideration.

29

17. Mapping

- o Land Use and Facilities and Allowable Use Intensity Maps should be amended into the LUP.

18. p.35 EIR

30

- o Air Quality. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution District is presently non-attainment for ozone.

MOSS LANDING

19. p.12 Recreation Resources

- o Substantial public testimony regarding the use of Moss Landing State Beach by a significant number of surfers was given at the May 28, 1986 public hearing in Marina. This section should include a discussion of this highly popular form of recreation at Moss Landing.

31

20. p.14 Resource Management Policies

- o See Comment #8.

21. p.15 Shoreline Protective Devices

32

- o See Comment #9 as it relates to Moss Landing State Beach

22. p.23 Existing Land Use and Facilities, 2nd para.

33 - o Add Monterey County, State Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission, Department of Boating and Waterways and the Coastal Commission to the list of responsible agencies having a role in land and water management around Moss Landing State Beach.

23. p.35 General Plan Implementation

34 - o See Comment #16
o See Comment #22 for agencies involved in land and water management responsibilities

35 - 24. Mapping, see comment #17 regarding Land Use and Use Intensity Maps

25. p.37 EIR

36 - o Air Quality, see comment #18

SALINAS RIVER

26. p.11 Animal Life

37 - o The City of Marina and State Coastal Conservancy have funded a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Smith's blue butterfly consistent with the Engangered Species Act. The study area includes the coastal dunes south of Salinas River Wildlife Management Area to Marina State Beach. Information regarding rare and endangered plants and animals developed from the HCP should be included in this document.

27. p.19 Shoreline Protective Devices

38 - o See comment #9 as it relates to Salinas River State Beach

28. p.21 Rare and Endangered Plants

39 - o The previously cited HCP (in preparation) has located Chorizanthe pungens Benth. Var. pungens and Erysimum Menziesii in the study area to the south. It is therefore probable these species also occur at Salinas River State Beach.

29. p.26 Parking

40 - o See comment #10

41 30. p.27 Comfort Station

o See comment #1

42 31. p.28 Employee Housing

o See comment #14

43 32. p.38 General Plan Implementation

o See comment #16

33. Mapping, see comment #17 regarding Land Use and Use Intensity Maps

44 34. p.42 EIR

Air Quality, see comment #18

45 35. p.43 Vegetation and Wildlife

o See comment #27

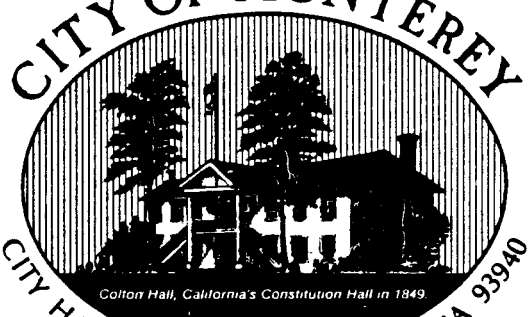
Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the preliminary General Plans for Zmudowski, Moss Landing and Salinas River State Beaches. We look forward to your responses and inclusion of our comments in the final General Plans. Further, we look forward to participation in the public hearing process at Asilomar this August.

Sincerely,

Robert Slimmon, Jr.
Director of Planning

cc: Supervisor Strasser Kauffman
Supervisor Del Piero
Edward Y. Brown, Coastal Commission

CITY OF MONTEREY



CITY HALL, MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940

June 19, 1987

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

Re: Monterey State Beach Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle:

On behalf of the City of Monterey, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the Preliminary General Plan for Monterey State Beach.

The Preliminary General Plan has been reviewed by the Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting of June 2, 1987, and by the Monterey City Council at their meeting of June 16, 1987. Each found the document consistent with existing City policy and policy documents, and endorsed its passage by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Our staff has compiled the following technical comments related to the document:

46 1. Page 20. The allowable use intensity maps were not included in the City's copies of the Preliminary General Plan.

47 2. Page 21. In the second paragraph under Existing Conditions, it is suggested that the wording be changed to read, "Obstruction of views to the Bay from Del Monte Avenue affect the unit's current recreational values."

3. Page 22. The first sentence under Access should read, "There is no legal vehicle access to this unit." In the next sentence the word "primarily" should be inserted before "within the old railroad right-of-way."

7-3887

47 cont. The illegal accesses discussed in the second paragraph will be remedied with the installation of additional barriers, which is scheduled for July, 1987.

4. Page 23. It is suggested that the sentence, "The City of Monterey perceives the open space as a more urban park space" be deleted. Although there has been some preliminary discussion regarding the future use and design of this open space area, no decisions or policy direction have been set.

48 5. Page 25. A water line and a cable TV line run concurrently with the sewage collection line discussed in the document. It is the water line and not the sewage line that is visible. It should be noted that the City is budgeting funds to relocate these lines because of the potential for future loss. The relocation of these lines will lessen the City's need for Sand Dunes Drive for utility access.

49 6. Page 26. With the relocation of the sewer line, alternate service for the proposed comfort station may be required.

50 7. Pages 25 and 26. The improvements discussed for the Sand Dunes Drive area are consistent with the Del Monte Beach LUP, but the LUP does not mention the possibility of overnight camping. We feel that en-route camping would be consistent with the Coastal Act, and appropriate for this location if security concerns can be addressed.

51 8. Page 27. It may be desirable to discuss a potential relationship between the underwater recreation area suggested in the Plan, and a similar area proposed for the Cannery Row region.

52 9. Page 39. Any effort to preserve the habitat for the Smith's Blue Butterfly should be coordinated with other efforts that have occurred, are ongoing, or may be implemented in surrounding areas.

53 10. Page 40. The Public Services section should mention the City's sewer and water lines running through the property, and their potential for damage or loss from ocean forces.

53 cont.

11. Fold-out map. On sheet 1 of the Land Use and Facilities map, the Recreation Trail is shown incorrectly as passing through the Southern Pacific property adjacent to the City beach. The Trail presently follows an interim alignment adjacent to Del Monte Avenue. It also may be appropriate to show the future improvements proposed for the City beach in the Harbor LUP, such as the beach craft launch area in the area of Wharf #2.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fred Cohn of my office at (408) 646-3760.

Sincerely,

Lee Riordan
City Manager (Interim)

dt

c Community Development Director
Parks and Recreation Director
Senior Administrative Analyst
City Clerk
Ms. Mary Gunter, District Superintendent,
Monterey District

(408) 384-3715

July 2, 1987

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

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The City Council of the City of Marina had an opportunity to review the Marina State Beach Preliminary General Plan. One of our Councilmembers, Joan Blake, made the following comments after her careful review of it.

54 — Page 15 Zone of Prime Interest

Don't care for all the "concern" about Water District, and why the concern over Corp Yard? Gas Hazard? This isn't clear at all. Also, fail to see how the rest is of so much concern, as Parks primary job is for visitor serving reasons, and RV and Motels bring in what Parks is about.

55 — Page 28 Staying Safe

Swimming? This needs to be striken from para.

56 — Page 35 Maintenance - Para III

Dislike user fee - fines for littering should first be tried - funds should be used only for improvements.

57 — Land Use Plan

One hand says erosion, then Plan shows parking and restrooms in what could be considered near danger zone.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Plan.

Sincerely,

LARRY W. BAGLEY
City Manager

LWB/frc

RECEIVED
JUL 6 1987
RPD

7-4/52

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, California 94970
Telephone (415) 868-1221

June 17, 1987

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

Dear Mr. Doyle:

58

This letter (responding to the preliminary general plans for Zmudowski and Salinas River state beaches) addresses only protection to nesting Snowy Plovers through the proposed Natural Preserves. I think the steps taken in both plans are excellent. A particularly valuable approach has been to limit access at Zmudowski Beach to the existing entry points. Since the Natural Preserve at Salinas River State Beach requires the same kind of protection, the park system should not open access to the south end of the beach in the future (see page 27). Access at the south end will make it much more difficult to limit human disturbance to the Natural Preserve. It will also increase public access to the Salinas River Wildlife Refuge, another important plover breeding site. Access to sensitive areas should be restricted to walk-in traffic only.

Snowy Plovers breed along the entire length of Salinas State Beach. As beach use increases by the public, breeding plovers will become more and more restricted to the preserves. The total number of plovers using state beaches will decrease with the loss of nesting sites in heavily used areas, thus the preserves will become essential to protecting this species. I believe it is particularly important not to allow access to the south end of Salinas River State Beach.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Page

Gary W. Page
Director Coastal and Estuarine Program

7-3891

Response to Comments

1. It does not appear that any of our actions will require a permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. We wish to continue to coordinate with the Corps on erosion monitoring.

2. Existing State and Federal laws and DPR policies provide for protection of rare and endangered fauna. One of our objectives for all of these units is to protect and restore native dune ecosystems. Meeting this objective should benefit the native flora and fauna including rare, threatened, and endangered species. Specific management actions to benefit the black legless lizard and the Smith's blue butterfly will be undertaken as specific needs and funding are identified. DPR funded a study of the Smith's blue butterfly at Marina SB in 1986. A copy of the report was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Office in Sacramento.

3. The Department believes that if carefully designed and regulated the land use and facility proposals can be implemented without conflicting with resource management policies. If conflicts develop, the resource management policies will take precedent over land use and facilities proposals.

4. Hang gliding within the proposed Natural Preserve will be severely limited to a relatively few experienced pilots operating from a small launch area. No significant impact is predicted.

5. The relatively intense visitor use of the northern area at Marina State Beach will be limited to the ocean beach and the immediate vicinity of the parking area. Access to the dunes in this area is currently limited to a designated boardwalk trail. The surrounding dune area is fenced and officially closed to all public use. These restrictions will continue as long as needed to protect the listed species which occur in this area. We do not believe that incidental take of Smith's blue butterfly is likely through the implementation of these plans. We will keep the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) informed about DPR activities which may affect sensitive species in this and the other units.

6. Please refer to response #4.

7. The land use and facilities map is schematically drawn. Sections of significant back dune habitat near Lake Court could be included in the Natural Preserve. Also see response #3.

8. We agree that boardwalks greatly facilitate access and discourage random walking over the dunes. The Department is studying the construction and maintenance costs of the boardwalks and their effectiveness. The trail connecting the two terminuses of the boardwalk would be posted and at some time in the future a boardwalk may be constructed. All use would be restricted to boardwalks and designated trails in the preserve.

9. Pages 18 and 19 in the Marina State Beach General Plan discuss the Department's bluff setback policy. We haven't identified a target erosion timespan, but we believe that permanent facilities setback in the zone of demonstration would not be threatened for many years. The many factors that involve shoreline bluff erosion make a target date prediction extremely difficult.

10. The allowable use intensity map for Monterey State Beach was inadvertently omitted. The federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly and other endangered and threatened species will be protected here as well as in other State Beaches. (See responses #2 and 3.)

11. We agree that en route camping would provide a critical public need in the Sand Dunes Drive area of Monterey State Beach. The Department has a commitment to protect the dunes habitat. State Park Rangers will enforce rules and regulations concerning restrictive use in certain designated areas. (Also see response #3.)

12. The status of parcels that may be acquired cannot be discussed in this General Plan because of the sensitive nature of the proposals.

13. This comment is noted. The Department supports possible solutions to the traffic problems.

14. We agree. Restrooms will be sewered whenever sewer lines are available now or in the future. Septic tanks and leach lines will be used if conditions permit this. A pumpout system will be used otherwise. We will work at having water and sewer lines to as many restrooms as possible in the future.

15. The general plans for these State Beaches were coordinated with local, State and Federal agencies. We believe the plans are consistent with the Local Coastal Plan (LCP), even though the text may not include a large volume of background material on that subject.

16. See response #14.

17. Equestrian use has been authorized at Zmudowski, Moss Landing, and Salinas River State Beaches. The County LCP should be amended.

18. Comment noted and we will seek approval.

19. Comment noted.

20. See response #18.

21. Corrections, deletions and additions noted.

22. The Department has a lease from the State Lands Commission for a 20-acre parcel at the mouth of the Pajaro River. This parcel is operated as part of Zmudowski State Beach. The lease enables the Department to protect resources, enforce rules and regulations and allow public use.

23. See resonse #21.

24. This policy was included because shoreline protective devices have been or may be suggested. Residents of the development to the north of Zmudowski have built a seawall on their property. We feel that this policy needs to be included and should not be deleted from any of the General Plans.

25. See response #18.

26. See response #14.

27. See response #18.

28. Please see pages 22 and 23 in the Zmudowski S.B. General Plan. These proposals are conditional to additional land and other requirements.

29. When the Department proceeds with planning for implementation, we will submit plans and maps for approval. (See response #18.)

30. See response #19.

31. See response #21.

32. See response #24.

33. See response #21.

34. See response #29.

35. See response #21.

36. See response #19.

37. See response #19.

38. See response #24.

39. See response #19.

40. See response #18.

41. See response #14.

42. See response #18.

43. See response #29.

44. See response #19.

45. See response #24.

46. See responses #10 and 21.

47. See response #21.

48. See responses #21 and 19.

49. See responses #19 and 14.

50. See response #11.

51. See response #21.

52. See response #10.

53. See response #21.

54. We disagree. The Department is very concerned about surrounding properties and local activities that could affect State Park System units. For example, traffic to the corporation yard and water district affect traffic and congestion on Reservation Road and access to Marina State Beach. Likewise, the mining of sand affects the sand replenishment to State Beaches. The sewer operation could affect visitor health. Many more examples could be given.

55. We disagree. Swimming, while not a major activity, is a valid recreation activity.

56. See response #19.

57. See response #9. The drawings are schematic and the permanent facilities appear closer to the edge of the bluff than in fact they will be.

58. We agree that the nesting areas for the snowy plover need as much protection as possible. The proposed future access point at the south end of Salinas River State Beach is still a preliminary consideration. This would be an interpretive area for visitors and an observation point. Access would be prohibited during sensitive periods.

SELECTED REFERENCES

City of Marina, Local Coastal Program, Land Use Plan, April 1982.

Gray, Kenneth L., Resource Ecologist, Marina State Beach Dune Revegetation Plan, Natural Heritage Section, Resource Protection Division, Department of Parks and Recreation, Resources Agency, State of California, August 1985.

Griggs, Gary and Savoy, Laurent, ed., Living with the California Coast, Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, 1985.

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Munz, Philip A., Shore Wildflowers of California, Oregon, and Washington, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1964.

Niehaus, Theodore F., and Ripper, Charles L., A Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers, Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1976.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Smith's Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan, Portland, Oregon, no date.

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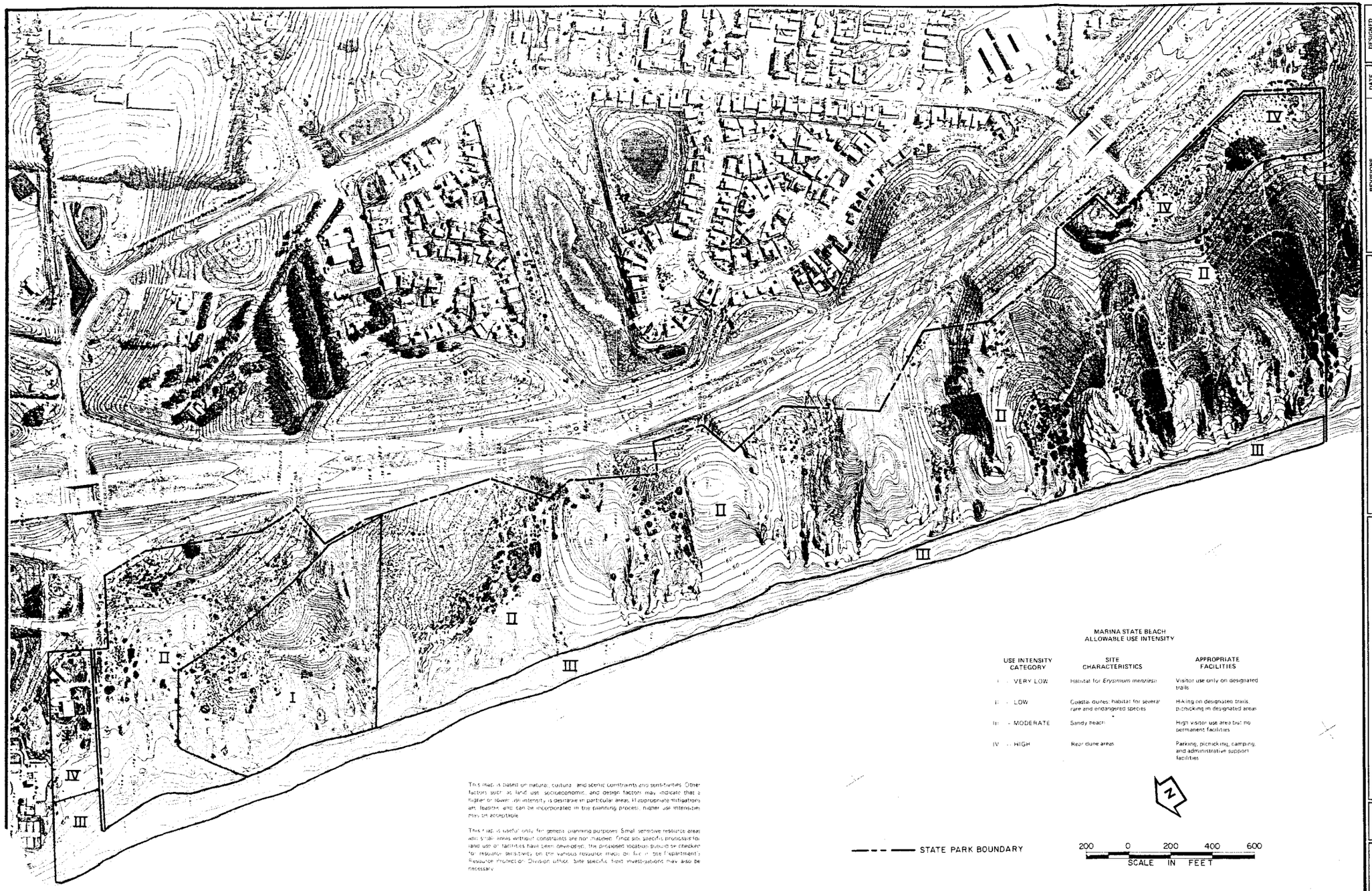

MARINA STATE BEACH
ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

USE INTENSITY CATEGORY	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	APPROPRIATE FACILITIES
I - VERY LOW	Habitat for *Eryonium menziesii*	Visitor use only on designated trails
II - LOW	Coastal dunes, habitat for several rare and endangered species	Hiking on designated trails, picnicking in designated areas
III - MODERATE	Sandy beach	High visitor use area but no permanent facilities
IV - HIGH	Rear dune areas	Parking, picnicking, camping, and administrative support facilities

This map is based on natural, cultural and scenic constraints and sensitivities. Other factors such as land use, socioeconomic, and design factors may indicate that a higher or lower use intensity is desirable in particular areas. If appropriate mitigations are feasible, and can be incorporated in the planning process, higher use intensities may be acceptable.

This map is useful only for general planning purposes. Small sensitive resource areas and small areas without constraints are not mapped. Once site specific proposals for land use or facilities have been developed, the proposed location should be checked for resource sensitivity on the various resource maps on file in the Department's Resource Protection Division office. Site specific field investigations may also be necessary.

DESIGNED
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CHECKED

REVISIONS
DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED _____ DATE 8-14-87

MARINA STATE BEACH
ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY MAP
RESOURCE ELEMENT

DRAWING NO.
21392

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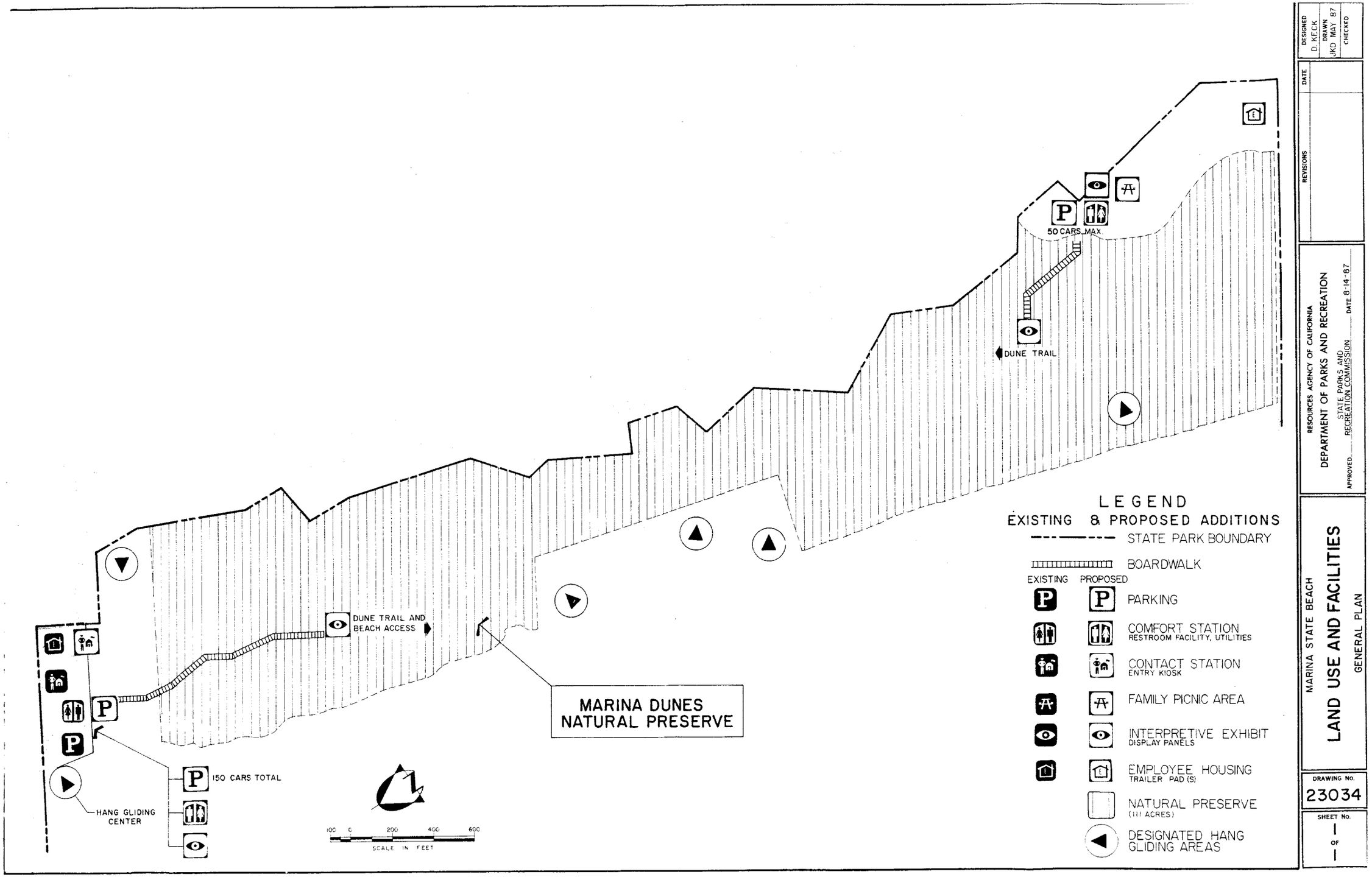
OF
1



DESIGNED D. KECK
DRAWN JKD MAY 87
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DATE

REVISIONS

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED _____ DATE 8-14-87

MARINA STATE BEACH

LAND USE AND FACILITIES

GENERAL PLAN

DRAWING No. 23034

SHEET No. 1 OF 1

This report was prepared by:

David Keck, Associate Landscape Architect
Kenneth Gray, Associate Resource Ecologist
Eileen Hook, State Park Interpreter II
Kenneth Pierce, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Paula Jones, State Park Ranger IV
Jeff Cohen, Research Writer

Under the Supervision of:

Robert Acrea, Senior Landscape Architect
Kerry Gates, Supervising Landscape Architect
Mary Wright, Monterey District Superintendent
Richard G. Rayburn, Chief, Resource Protection Division
Robert D. Cates, Chief, Development Division
Keith L. Demetrak, Chief, Office of Interpretive Services