

## RECREATION RESOURCES

### *RECREATION ACTIVITIES*

The activities that are most common in the park include walking and jogging, picnicking, and play. The limited walking trails provided in the area are not comprehensive enough to accommodate the majority of users in the area. Park adjacent streets such as La Brea Avenue, Stocker Street and Overhill Drive are regularly in use by pedestrians as exercise routes to and from the park and its five miles of trails. Most of this exercise-related activity takes place in the mornings and evenings. Throughout the year visitors take advantage of the park and its passive recreation amenities. Several local schools regularly schedule bus trips to visit the park, providing area students with the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities. Fishing is a very popular year round activity. The lake is stocked with approximately 370 pounds of fish each month and is patronized at all times of the day.

### *RECREATION FACILITIES*

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is the most significant park space in the region and accounts for over 40% of the existing park acreage in the planning area inventory. This regional facility is owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) and is operated to the County of Los Angeles for management of the park. One of the most actively used features is the park's variety of footpaths and trails. The Burke Roche Trail and the Rim Trail are the most recent trails created. More than 7 miles of trails exist at KHSRA and include the Burke Roche trail which is 2.2 miles, the Bowl Loop at 0.8 miles, the Ridge trail at 2.6 miles, the Waterfall Trail at one mile and the Ballfield Walking Path at one half-mile.

Active recreation and facilities in KHSRA include the following:

- Four playgrounds;
- One half basketball court;
- One fishing lake;
- One lit multi-purpose field;
- One sand volleyball court; and,
- One administrative building with a meeting room.

Passive recreation includes:

- Eight picnic rental shelters;
- 100 picnic tables (throughout the park);
- eight large barbecue pits; and,
- 60 small barbecue pits (dispersed throughout the park).

### ***PATTERNS AND LEVEL OF USE***

During weekends in the summer months, nearly 20,000 visitors fill the park enjoying the open space and natural surroundings of the passive areas in the park. A variety of groups use KHSRA on a fee reservation basis. Groups of approximately 100 people or less reserve picnic and recreation areas for the following general activities:

- Church events and weddings;
- Small corporate gatherings;
- Family reunions;
- Graduations; and,
- Birthday celebrations.

Special activities include an annual overnight campout for 300 youth sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Interpretive and nature walks for school groups and small public groups are conducted on a semi-weekly basis.

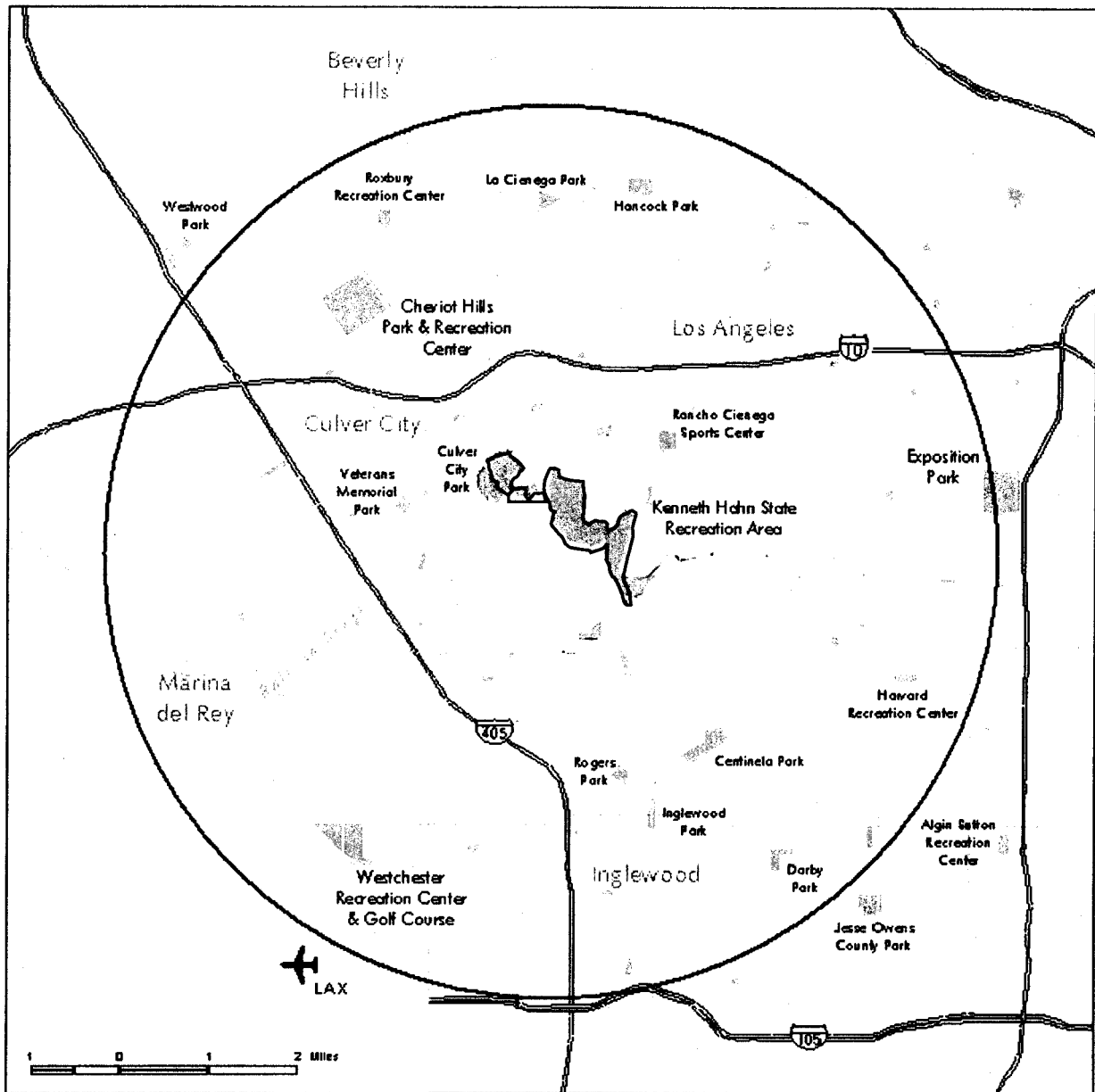
### ***RECREATION POTENTIAL***

An inventory of open space, parks and recreation facilities within a five-mile radius of the park was conducted by CCI. The County of Los Angeles, and the cities of Culver City, Inglewood and Los Angeles were each surveyed on the types and quantity of facilities in their park systems. The results of the inventory underscored the need for a significant increase in the quantity and quality of open space and recreation opportunities for the nearly three million park poor residents who use the park system.

### **Regional Open Space Deficit**

The Baldwin Hills area is one of the most park-poor in California, with barely one acre of park space per 1,000 people, it falls far below the nationally recommended standard of six to ten acres per 1000 people (Figure 16). KHSRA serves as a recreation nucleus for residents who live in this highly under-served area. With a Population of 1 million The ratio of Park Acres Per 1,000 People is 0.91. The park acreage breakdown within a five-mile radius of the Baldwin Hills is as follows:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
City of Inglewood Parks	90 acres
City of Culver City Parks	88 acres
L A. County Parks	371 acres
City of L.A. Parks	362 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>911 acres</b>



Number & Facility Type	Facility per Potential Park User
22 Lit Ball Diamonds	1 per 45,000 people
17 Unlit Ball Diamonds	1 per 58,000 people
29 Multi-Use Fields (soccer & football)	1 per 34,000 people
33 Basketball Courts	1 per 30,000 people
61 Tennis Courts	1 per 16,000 people
10 Gym/Auditoriums	1 per 100,000 people
13 Community Buildings	1 per 77,000 people
43 Playgrounds	1 per 23,000 people
107 Picnic Areas	1 per 10,000 people

- Existing Parks and Open Space
- 5-Mile radius around Site
- Proposed Park

SOURCE: Community Conservancy International, GreenInfo Network Kenneth Hahn SRA Recirculated General Plan Amendment and EIR / 202310 ■

**Figure 16**  
Open Space Deficit in the Baldwin Hills

Simple amenities such as a science education center or a senior center have not been provided for the growing number of youth and seniors in the area. The park currently lacks a comprehensive trail system to connect existing park areas and regional trails. The only regional trail in the vicinity is the bicycle trail along Ballona Creek, which has very poor public access, no landscaping and no trailheads. An effective network of regional activities and amenities radiating from the park could revitalize the areas park system maximizing the open space and recreational opportunities for millions of park users.

There are a total of 36 parks in the Baldwin Hills area ranging from less than one acre to the 300+ acre Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Small pocket parks were not included in this inventory. There are 11 recreation centers in the Baldwin Hills that have community and game rooms, which offer senior and youth programs or activities. The following table represents the quantity of facilities discovered in our inventory. The numbers illustrate the severe lack of amenities available to service the people within a five-mile radius of the park site.

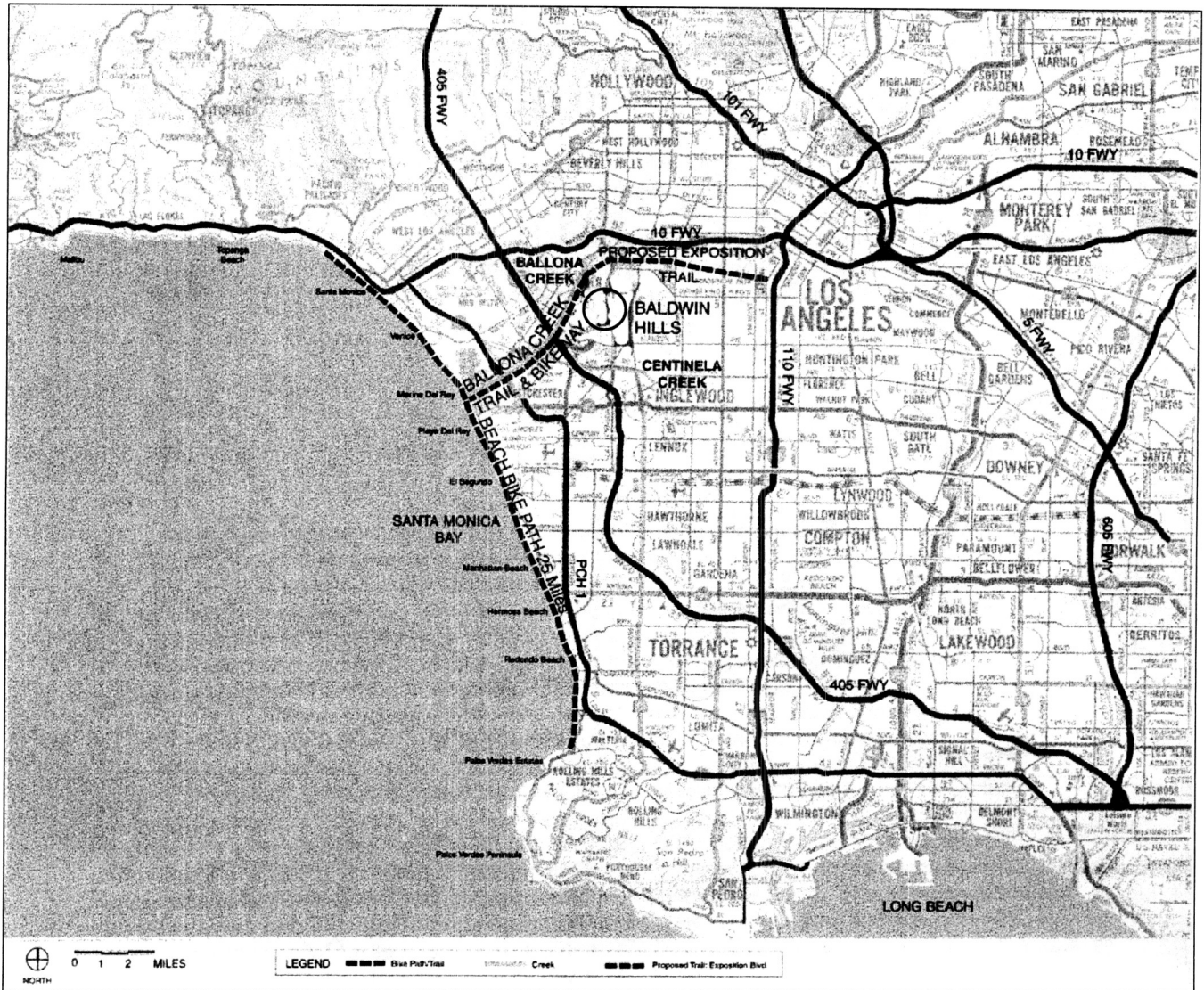
<b>Quantity and Facility Type</b>	<b>Facility Per Potential Park User</b>
22-Lit Ball Diamonds	1 lit ballfield for 45,000 people
17-Unlit Ball Diamonds	1 unlit ballfield for 58,000 people
29-Multit-use Fields (soccer & football)	1 multi-use field for 34,000 people
33-Basketball Courts	1 basketball court for 30,000 people
61-Tennis Courts	1 tennis court for 16,000 people
10-Gym/Auditorium	1 gym and auditorium for 100,000 people
13-Community Buildings	1 community building for 77,000 people
43-Playgrounds	1 playground for 23,000 children
107-Picnic Areas	1 picnic table for 10,000 people

### **Nearby Parks**

Nearby neighborhood parks found along the main thoroughfares surrounding the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation area include Jim Gilliam Park, Norman O. Houston Park, Culver City Park and Ladera Park. Amenities in these parks include tennis and basketball courts, multi-use playing fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

### **Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway**

The only non-street walking and bicycle trail that exists in this part of Los Angeles County is the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway. Located approximately 200 yards from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway extends to the Ballona Wetlands, southern beaches and the Pacific Ocean (Figure 17). It provides the only trail access to the 25-mile Beach Bike Trail, connecting to Dockweiler State Beach, to Will Rogers State Beach to the north in Santa Monica, and to the Palos Verdes Peninsula past Torrance to the south. This critical



SOURCE: Community Conservancy International

Kenneth Hahn SRA Recirculated General Plan Amendment and EIR / 202310 ■

**Figure 17**  
Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway Connections

connection can provide a unique recreational resource to millions of residents in urban Los Angeles County.

## EXISTING FACILITIES

### ***BUILDINGS***

The built environment of the park includes the following:

#### **Recreation Facilities**

- Four playgrounds;
- One half basketball court;
- One fishing lake;
- One lit multi-purpose field;
- One sand volleyball court;
- Eight picnic rental shelters;
- Benches;
- 100 picnic tables (throughout the park)
- eight large barbecue pits;
- 60 small barbecue pits (dispersed throughout the park); and,
- Three artificial ponds.

#### **Community and Administrative Facilities**

- One community center with four administrative offices and a meeting room;
- One maintenance yard and native plant storage area; and,
- Entrance kiosk.

### ***TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION***

#### **Overview**

The park consists of two distinct areas including the existing KHSRA, which is located in the cities of Culver City and Los Angeles, as well as unincorporated Los Angeles County, and the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This existing KHSRA is generally bounded by Rodeo Drive to the north, Stocker Street to the south, La Brea Avenue to the east, and La Cienega Boulevard to the west.

The second area, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, is located on the west side of La Cienega Boulevard with Jefferson Boulevard forming the northern and eastern boundaries, privately owned land (i.e., existing oil production / extraction areas) to the south, and Jefferson Road to the west. These two areas would not be physically connected in this General Plan Amendment, and would therefore require separate access locations for each area.

Regional access is provided one mile north by Santa Monica Freeway (I-10), an east-west regional facility, and by the north-south San Diego Freeway (I-405) approximately two and three-quarter miles to the west. The major roadways in this area are described below within their respective management area.

### **Existing KHSRA – La Cienega Boulevard Park Entrance, Community Center, and North Central Valley Management Area**

**Santa Monica Freeway.** The Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) is located approximately one mile north of the park. This east-west regional facility connects the City of Santa Monica with central Los Angeles and east to San Bernadino County (the closest alternative east-west freeway is the Century Freeway, I-105, approximately five miles south of Culver City). Within the study area, the Santa Monica Freeway provides four to five travel lanes in each direction, depending on location. As with all State freeways and highways in Los Angeles County, the 2002 Draft Congestion Management Program (CMP) identifies I-10 as a component of the CMP roadway system.

Freeway ramps are metered during peak periods to manage recurring congestion caused by travel demands associated with employment travel to central Los Angeles, Century City and Santa Monica. Despite ramp metering, travel speeds on the freeway are often lower than 35 miles per hour in each direction during peak commute periods. Access to the Santa Monica Freeway is provided at Washington Boulevard, La Cienega Boulevard, Robertson Boulevard and National/Overland Boulevards.

**San Diego Freeway.** The San Diego Freeway (I-405) is the closest north-south freeway to the park, located approximately two and three-quarter miles to the west. Four to five travel lanes in each direction, with auxiliary lanes at some freeway interchanges, are provided along the San Diego Freeway, depending on location. Freeway access from surface streets is provided at Sepulveda Boulevard, Jefferson Boulevard, Sawtelle Boulevard/Braddock Drive, Culver Boulevard, Washington Boulevard/Venice Boulevard, National Boulevard, and La Cienega Boulevard (south of the project site). Access to this freeway is also metered during both peak commute periods. I-405 is a Los Angeles County CMP facility.

The closest alternative north-south freeway is the Harbor Freeway (I-110) six miles east of Culver City. The San Diego Freeway supports the north-south travel demands along the Westside between the San Fernando Valley, West Los Angeles, Los Angeles International Airport and the City of Long Beach.

**La Cienega Boulevard.** La Cienega Boulevard is classified as a major north-south highway in Los Angeles and an arterial in Culver City. North of Venice Boulevard, La Cienega is a six-lane, 80-foot wide roadway with three through lanes in each direction. South of Venice Boulevard, La Cienega Boulevard varies in width from 66 feet wide immediately north of Washington Boulevard to 92 feet in width at Rodeo Road. Throughout most segments of La Cienega Boulevard, three through lanes are provided in each direction with left-turn channelization. The 2002 Draft Congestion Management Program (CMP) identifies La Cienega Boulevard as a component of the CMP roadway system:

**La Brea Avenue.** La Brea Avenue is classified as a major north-south highway in Los Angeles, with a width of approximately 72 feet near Rodeo Road. In the vicinity of the park, La Brea

Avenue is three through lanes in each direction. Left-turn channelization is also provided at all major cross-streets.

**Stocker Street.** Stocker Street is a four lane arterial roadway that provides east-west travel in the southern portion of the La Cienega Boulevard Management Area. Stocker Street provides local access to Crenshaw Boulevard to the east. Crenshaw Boulevard provided regional access to I-10 and I-405.

**Slauson Avenue.** Slauson Avenue is classified as a major arterial route that also provides east-west travel for vehicles destined south of KHSRA. Slauson Avenue provides regional access to I-405 and the Marina Del Rey Freeway (SR-90).

**Venice Boulevard.** Venice Boulevard is classified as a divided east-west major highway in Los Angeles, and an arterial in Culver City. West of Interstate 10, this roadway is State Route 187, under the jurisdiction of Caltrans; this portion of Venice Boulevard is a part of the Congestion Management Plan Roadway System. The entire segment of Venice Boulevard in the project vicinity has been developed to standards exceeding the City of Los Angeles standards for a typical divided major highway facility and is approximately 104 feet wide, curb-to-curb. Venice Boulevard is striped to provide a six-lane facility with bike lanes in both directions, media islands and intersectional left-turn channelization at major cross streets. Along most sections of Venice Boulevard on-street parking is permitted with some time restrictions during the period from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Robertson Boulevard.** Robertson Boulevard is classified as a north-south secondary highway in Los Angeles (a primary collector/secondary arterial within Culver City). South of Venice Boulevard, Robertson Boulevard becomes Higuera Street and is 74 feet wide, providing two lanes in each direction. North of Venice Boulevard, a short segment of Robertson is divided and provides access to and from the Santa Monica Freeway.

### **Existing Public Trails**

One of the most actively used features in KHSRA is the park's variety of footpaths and trails. The Burke Roche Trail and the Rim Trial are the most recent trails created. More than seven miles of trails exist at KHSRA and include the 2.2 mile Burke Roche trail, the Bowl Loop at 0.8 miles, the Ridge trail at 2.6 miles, the Waterfall Trial at one mile, and the Ballfield Walking Path at one half-mile.

### **Vista Pacifica Scenic Site Management Area**

**Jefferson Boulevard.** Jefferson Boulevard is classified as a major highway in the City of Los Angeles and an arterial in the City of Culver City, running east-west in Los Angeles and the project area, and curving north-south to the south of the project site within Culver City. Adjacent to the project site, Jefferson Boulevard is an 80-82 foot wide roadway and provides two lanes in each direction with two-way left-turn channelization. Intersectional left-turn channelization is also provided along Jefferson Boulevard at all major cross streets. The "Y" intersection of



Jefferson and Sepulveda Boulevards is currently being improved with the inclusion of the Sepulveda/Jefferson connector road, which will enhance the capacity of the intersection.

**Higuera Street.** Culver City designates Higuera Street as a secondary arterial east of Hayden Avenue and a collector street west of Hayden Avenue. For most of its length, a single through lane is provided in each direction. Higuera Street currently provides two northbound traffic lanes and one southbound lane immediately south of Washington Boulevard, and curves to become an east-west street. The eastbound approach of Higuera Street to Jefferson Boulevard provides two eastbound through lanes, one southbound right-turn lane and one northbound lane. East of Jefferson Boulevard, Higuera Street becomes Rodeo Road.

**Rodeo Road.** Rodeo Road is designated a major highway within the City of Los Angeles. Rodeo Road carries in width from 70 feet east of La Cienega Boulevard to 82 feet east of Lenawee Avenue. Rodeo Road provides three lanes in each direction throughout the study area.

**Washington Boulevard.** Washington Boulevard, a designated major highway within Los Angeles and an arterial within Culver City, is 72 feet wide east of Overland Avenue and 78 feet wide west of Overland Avenue. In the study area, Washington Boulevard is a four-lane facility with left-turn channelization.

**Sepulveda Boulevard.** Sepulveda Boulevard is designated a major highway within Los Angeles and an arterial within Culver City. North of Jefferson Boulevard (at Playa Street), this 95-foot wide, north-south oriented roadway provides three lanes in each direction, with full left-turn channelization. North of the northern Jefferson Boulevard intersection, Sepulveda Boulevard provides two travel lanes in each direction plus left-turn channelization.

**Overland Avenue.** Overland Avenue, designated a major highway within Los Angeles and an arterial within Culver City, varies in width from 56 feet wide north of Washington Boulevard to 80 feet wide on the north leg of the Jefferson Boulevard intersection. Overland Avenue provides two lanes in each direction at Jefferson Boulevard and at Culver Boulevard.

**National Boulevard.** National Boulevard is designated as a secondary highway within Los Angeles and a primary collector/secondary arterial within Culver City. National Boulevard is 64 feet wide at Washington Boulevard and provides two through lanes in each direction. Left-turn channelization is also provided at all cross streets.

**Duquesne Avenue.** Duquesne Avenue is designated a primary collector/secondary arterial in the City of Culver City. East of Jefferson Boulevard, Duquesne Avenue terminates and becomes a 64-foot wide roadway that serves Culver City Park. West of Jefferson Boulevard, Duquesne Avenue is 46 feet wide and provides one lane in each direction with on-street parking along both sides within the residential area. Left-turn channelization is provided at all major cross streets.

**Holdrege Avenue.** Holdrege Avenue is a local street and is located approximately 1,085 feet north of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This 40 foot wide street provides one lane in each direction.

### Existing Traffic Volumes and Levels of Service

Year 2001 a.m. and p.m. peak hour traffic volumes were available for the CMP arterials (La Cienega Boulevard, I-10 and I-405) in the study area as reported in the Draft 2002 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County (CMP). Traffic volumes for other arterials in the project vicinity are either not available, or are outdated for more than one year. CMP requirements indicate that peak hour traffic volumes used for traffic impact analyses shall not be more than one year old at the date of analysis.

The methodology used in the CMP for the analysis and evaluation of traffic operations at each CMP facility is based on the roadway segment volume-to-capacity (v/c) analysis methodology. Briefly, a roadway segment is given a capacity based on its number of travel lanes. Morning and evening peak hour traffic volumes for each segment are divided by the capacity to derive a v/c ratio. Procedures have been developed for determining operating characteristics of an arterial segment and intersection in terms of "Level of Service" (LOS) for different levels of traffic v/c ratios. The term LOS describes the quality of traffic flow. LOS ranges from A to F, A being free-flow and F being congested, force-flow. Descriptions of levels of service and their respective v/c ratios are shown in the following table (Table 2-1). The existing (2001) peak hour traffic volumes and levels of service for the CMP facilities in the project vicinity are presented in Table 2-2. As seen in the table, all CMP facilities in the project vicinity currently operate at poor levels of service (LOS F) in both peak hours.

### Public Transit Service

Two bus routes operated by the Culver City Municipal Bus Lines (CCMBL) serve the project area. Currently, the CCMBL routes that provide the closest service to the proposed project site are described below.

**CCMBL Line 4.** Line 4 operates exclusively within Culver City, with the exception of service provided at West Los Angeles College in Los Angeles. This route operates primarily along Washington Boulevard, Duquesne Avenue, Jefferson Boulevard, Overland Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard. Service along this line is provided by one bus per hour in both directions throughout daylight hours of operation. The closest bus stop to the project site along this route is located on Duquesne Avenue at Jefferson Boulevard, approximately 0.5 miles from the proposed office component. **CCMBL Line 5.** Line 5 operates between Mar Vista on the west and Blair Hills on the east. Primary route segments include Inglewood Boulevard, Braddock Drive, Washington Boulevard, Higuera Street and Rodeo Road. Similar to Line 4, this line provides service with one bus per hour in both directions during daylight operations. The closest bus stop to the project site along this route is located on Holdrege Avenue at Jefferson Boulevard, approximately 0.2 miles from the commercial office complex.

As indicated by the above information, the proposed development is not directly served by the CCMBL because the existing transit stops are located too far from the proposed project.

**TABLE 2-1  
LEVEL OF SERVICE DEFINITIONS**

Level of Service	Arterial/Intersection Operations	Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (v/c)
<b>Arterial/Intersection Levels of Service</b>		
A	At LOS A, there are no cycles that are fully loaded, and few are even close to loaded. No approach phase is fully utilized by traffic and no vehicle waits longer than one red indication. Typically, the approach appears quite open, turning movements are easily made, and nearly all drivers find freedom of operation.	0.00 v/c to 0.60 v/c
B	LOS B represents stable operation. An occasional approach phase is fully utilized and a substantial number are approaching full use. Many drivers begin to feel somewhat restricted with platoons of vehicles.	>0.60 v/c to 0.70 v/c
C	In LOS C stable operation continues. Full signal cycle loading is still intermittent, but more frequent. Occasionally drivers may have to wait through more than one red signal indication, and back-ups may develop behind turning vehicles.	>0.70 v/c to 0.80 v/c
D	LOS D encompasses a zone of increasing restriction, approaching instability. Delays to approaching vehicles may be substantial during short peaks within the peak period, but enough cycles with lower demand occur to permit periodic clearance of developing queues, thus preventing excessive back-ups.	>0.80 v/c to 0.90 v/c
E	LOS E represents the most vehicles that any particular intersection approach can accommodate. At capacity (v/c=1.00) there may be long queues of vehicles waiting upstream of the intersection and delays may be great (up to several signal cycles).	>0.90 v/c to 1.00 v/c
F	LOS F represents jammed conditions. Back-ups from locations downstream or on the cross street may restrict or prevent movement of vehicles out of the approach under consideration; hence, volumes carried are not predictable. V/C values are highly variable, because full utilization of the approach may be prevented by outside conditions.	>1.00 v/c

SOURCE: Draft 2002 Congestion Management Plan for Los Angeles County, LACMTA, April 2002.

**TABLE 2-2  
2001 CMP ARTERIAL AND FREEWAY MAINLINE  
PEAK HOUR LEVELS OF SERVICE**

CMP Route	Cross Street	Agency	AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
			V/C	LOS	V/C	LOS
La Cienega Boulevard	Jefferson Boulevard	Los Angeles City	1.12	F	1.13	F
	Centinela Boulevard	Los Angeles City	1.14	F	1.10	F
	Stocker Street	LA County	1.18	F	1.06	F
Interstate 10	e/o Overland St	Caltrans	1.26	F(1)	1.36	F(2)
	e/o La Brea Ave	Caltrans	1.36	F(2)	1.46	F(3)
Interstate 405	n/o Inglewood Blvd	Caltrans	1.36	F(2)	1.01	F(0)
	n/o La Tijera Blvd	Caltrans	1.36	F(2)	1.26	F(2)

SOURCE: Draft 2002 Congestion Management Program for Los Angeles County, MTA.

Notes: Volume-to-capacity ratios for the mainline segments are based on the worst performing direction of traffic.

## **UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

### **Wastewater Treatment Services**

The park is in the area served by the Hyperion Treatment plant (HTP), located directly southwest of the Los Angeles International Airport. The HTP treats wastewater from almost all of the City of Los Angeles, as well as other cities, including Culver City. The City of Culver City is under contract to the City of Los Angeles to participate in the cost of having its wastewater treated at the Los Angeles facilities. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board governs wastewater produced in the Park.

### **Stormwater Facilities**

Few storm drains currently exist in the park. Storm water currently is absorbed into the ground. Ballona Creek, a channelized waterway, runs along Jefferson Boulevard on the west side of the park.

### **Water Supply**

Water service to the park is presently supplied by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Approximately 75 percent of Los Angeles' water is from the Los Angeles-Owens River

Aqueduct, 15 percent from local groundwater sources and 10 percent purchased from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). These proportions are not typical during drought periods, when MWD water makes up the majority of water supplies. MWD's ability to deliver water to Southern California has the potential to be severely affected by an extended drought, and more stringent water conservation measures during drought periods are anticipated. A small amount of well water is also used on site.

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

Solid waste from the park is currently collected by the County. Landfills likely serving the park include Calabasas, Bradley West, Lopez Canyon, Chiquita Canyon, and North Valley-Sunshine Canyon. These landfills are classified as major landfills, which are defined as those facilities that receive more than 50,000 tons of solid waste per year.

### **Police Protection Services**

Police and protection services in the park are presently provided by three different departments, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Culver City Police Department, and the Los Angeles County Police Department. The Culver City Police Department is the primary service provider for the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site and the County of Los Angeles Police Department is the primary service provider for the eastern portion of the park. The station that serves KHSRA is at 360 W. El Segundo Ave, about 13 miles from the park. Although no formal mutual aid agreement exists between the two departments, they cooperate as part of a regional approach in response to a large-scale event or natural catastrophe.

### **Fire Protection Services**

Fire protection of the park is provided under two different jurisdictions. The Culver City Fire Department is the primary service provider for the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site and the City of Los Angeles Fire Department is the primary service provider for the eastern portion of the park. In addition, under the Statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement, each Fire Department is available to assist the other upon request. In the event these departments cannot respond, assistance could be made available from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

### **Existing Community Infrastructure**

There are over 75 religious institutions in and around the Baldwin Hills planning area with a total estimated membership of 80,000. The churches range in membership from 100 to 20,000 per institution. In the African American and Latino communities, religious institutions represent a large cross section of the people who live in neighborhoods surrounding the Baldwin Hills. Several of these churches have started their own community development centers (CDCs) that are focused on creating economic and education enhancing infrastructures within the neighborhoods they serve.

There are 55 schools within the planning area representing elementary, middle, and high schools. Over 30,000 area students will be impacted by the development of the park site which has the potential for recreation and education based programs to supplement their current curriculum. West L.A. Community College serves area youth and adults. The campus is situated on the western edge of the Baldwin Hills and is positioned to be an important nexus for development of environmental based park management curriculum. With parking for approximately 8,000 commuter students, the school will also serve as a prime public access point on weekends.

There are six public libraries serving the communities surrounding the Baldwin Hills. Active youth organizations include the Crenshaw YMCA, Culver City-Palms YMCA and the Angles Mesa YWCA. At least four local Boy and Girl Scout districts are represented in Inglewood, Culver City and Los Angeles. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has one of the largest organized youth sports programs in Los Angeles. AYSO has a major role in family-based activities and has an extensive network of local members throughout the planning area.

Business and city service organizations in the planning area include three large chamber of commerce groups representing Inglewood, Culver City, and Greater Los Angeles and three specific chambers representing African American, Latino and Crenshaw area business interests. There are two city hall buildings, one in Culver City and one in Inglewood, each hosting a variety of city service departments and their respective city council representatives. The Los Angeles Urban League, the South Los Angeles Economic Alliance, and Leimert Park Merchants Association along with three local Economic Development Corporations, are all integral components of the Crenshaw community infrastructure.

## PARK SUPPORT

The park is currently managed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. The County currently employs 16 full-time staff on-site and between 12-20 part-time staff, depending on season.

## PLANNING INFLUENCES

### SYSTEM-WIDE PLANNING

The Department performs some planning that addresses issues that cross park and regional boundaries. Any system-wide plans developed in the future that contain specific recommendations pertaining to the use, operation, or management of the State Park System may also effect future planning decisions at KHSRA. The following are existing statewide or system-wide planning influences that may affect planning decisions at KHSRA.

- Public Resources Code (PRC);
- California Code of Regulations;
- California Environmental Quality Act;
- Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the California State Park and Recreation;

- Commission and California Department of Parks and Recreation;
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Operation Manual (DOM);
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Administration Manual (DAM);
- California State Park System Plan;
- California State Park Mission Statement;
- California State Parks Access to Parks Guidelines; and,
- Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. These directives amplify the legal codes contained in the PRC, the California Code of Regulations, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statements of Policy and Rules of Order. The text of the following directives which are particularly pertinent to existing or potential issues at KHSRA are listed below:
  - Directive Number 5 State Park Development;
  - Directive Number 9 Natural Preserve Integrity;
  - Directive Number 26 Consideration of Ecological Factors;
  - Directive Number 27 Natural Preserve Establishment;
  - Directive Number 28 Visitor Use Impacts;
  - Directive Number 29 Vegetation Management;
  - Directive Number 34 Exotic Plant Elimination;
  - Directive Number 35 Wildlife Habitat;
  - Directive Number 36 Wildlife Population Balance;
  - Directive Number 37 Erosion Control;
  - Directive Number 43 Water Quality Control;
  - Directive Number 46 Environmental Quality;
  - Directive Number 63 Cultural Resource Management Plan; and,
  - Directive Number 74 Recreation Development/Use.

## REGIONAL PLANNING

Consideration of regional context is important in any discussion about the land use and facilities at KHSRA. When planning for KHSRA, it is important to understand the intrinsic values within the park as well as the relationship with the surrounding areas. The following summarizes the current public lands management agencies and land uses surrounding the park.

### ***REGIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES***

#### **Baldwin Hills Master Plan**

Community Conservancy International (CCI) is prepared a Master Plan for the larger "Baldwin Hills Park" which includes KHSRA, existing local parks, and other private lands within its boundaries. This General Plan Amendment is consistent with the concepts and goals of the larger Baldwin Hills Park Master Planning effort. This effort represents an extraordinary challenge and unprecedented opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art, community responsive, large-scale urban park where sensitive natural habitat co-exists in a balanced environment with substantial active recreation, cultural and educational facilities. Baldwin Hills Park is envisioned as an evolution over time from a privately owned industrial area into a rich regional public resource. In addition to preserving and restoring the regionally unique landforms and sensitive natural habitat areas of

the Baldwin Hills, the Baldwin Hills Park would provide active and passive recreation facilities, educational and cultural facilities, job training and employment opportunities.

Baldwin Hills Park employs the "One Big Park" concept to create an over two square mile zone within Los Angeles' urban core which allows natural habitat areas to coexist with recreational, educational, and cultural resources. The creation of one large land area would be achieved through the construction of a 1/2-mile long land bridge spanning La Cienega Boulevard to connect the east and west ridges over the existing six-lane roadway, creating one unified land area, restoring the historic landscape and establishing effective mitigation of visual and noise impacts from La Cienega Boulevard. An internal park road, footpaths and bicycle trails would provide access between the two currently bisected portions of the site. Wildlife will also be able to use the land bridge as an important connection between habitat areas, which will help the long-term sustainability of wildlife populations and natural habitat in the Baldwin Hills.

The expanded park would extend into adjacent park-poor communities with greenways, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and will connect to important existing and planned regional trail systems, including the Ballona Creek Trail, the Stocker Street Trail and the La Brea Avenue Trail. Park visitor facilities might include interpretive resources concerning the natural, cultural and industrial history of the site. Science and educational facilities planned for the park will create a living laboratory that, with the support of institutions like the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center and West Los Angeles College could become a model urban learning resource. Facilities and activities for all ages have been included in the preliminary park design from playgrounds to playing fields, skate park to golf course and senior center to botanical gardens.

The park design concept preserves the existing east and west ridgelines as natural habitat lands and passive, landscaped open space areas. No active recreation, intensive uses, facilities or roadways would be planned on the ridgelines or on the steep slopes below them in order to protect spectacular view sites and sensitive habitat areas and to avoid expensive and impractical earth moving on steep unstable slopes. The lower central valley portion of the site, which is relatively flat and which has been significantly disturbed over time, has been designed to accommodate most of the proposed active recreational uses, structures and other facilities in the park. Visitor serving facilities are planned for the northwestern portion of the site to provide important public access and educational opportunities and to take advantage of one of the most spectacular views in all Los Angeles of the Pacific Ocean, Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles Basin and the surrounding mountains.

### **General Plan Designation**

The existing portion of KHSRA is designated Open Space by the County of Los Angeles. The Vista Pacifica Scenic Site and adjacent County owned lands, located in the City of Culver City,



are designated Low Density Multiple Family Residential<sup>7</sup> and Open Space and are zoned HR – Hillside Residential and R1a – One Family Dwelling.

### **Air Quality Management Plan**

The park is located in the South Coast Air Basin. The purpose of the Air Quality Management Plan is to establish a comprehensive program that will result in the achievement of Federal and state air quality standards. Individual Air Quality Management Plan's from all California air quality districts are incorporated into a State Implementation Plan, which outlines the state's effort to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments. Project consistency with the Air Quality Management Plan is determined by the local air quality control district.

### **Regional Water Quality Plan**

The Water Quality Control Plan for the South Coast Basin (Basin Plan) was developed by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Southern Coast Region. The Basin Plan is intended to show how the quality of the surface and ground waters in the Southern Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible. Specifically, the Basin Plan lists the various water uses in the Region; describes the water quality that must be maintained to allow those uses; and describes the programs, projects, and other actions that are necessary to achieve the standards established in the plan. The Basin Plan implements a number of state and federal laws, the most important of which are the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the Federal Clean Water Act. The U.S. EPA has delegated responsibility for implementation of portions of the Clean Water Act to the State and Regional Boards, including water quality planning and control board programs, such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The proposed General Plan Amendment would comply with all state and federal regulations governing water quality. Given the expected compliance with applicable standards and regulations, together with the setbacks the project would provide from creeks, the proposed General Plan Amendment would be consistent with the Basin Plan.

### **Air Quality Management Plan**

The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD adopted its first Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in 1979, which intended to meet federal air quality standards by December 31, 1987. Using better data and modeling tools, the 1982 revision of the AQMP concluded that the basin could not demonstrate attainment by the 1987 deadline required by the Federal Clean Air Act. Therefore, the 1982 Revision of the AQMP proposed a long-range strategy that could result in attainment in 20 years. In 1987, a federal court ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to

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<sup>7</sup> **Low Density Multiple Family** (up to 15 dwelling units per net acre). Low Density Multiple Family allows multiple family dwellings, as well as single family, two family and three family dwellings. This designation is intended to preserve existing and encourage future developments of quality large-scale reasonably affordable low density housing on individual development parcels of 15,000 square feet or more. Typically, these parcels are suitable for large-scale development in terms of compatible adjacent uses, environmental constraints and location on or near major streets.

disapprove the 1982 AQMP revision because it did not demonstrate attainment of the federal standards by the 1987 deadline (South Coast Air Quality Management District and Southern California Association of Governments, 1989).

The 1989 AQMP was adopted locally by the SCAQMD in March 1989, and was approved by the ARB in August 1989. This plan was forwarded to the EPA for review. However, prior to its planned review, the California legislature passed the California Clean Air Act, which caused the district and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to immediately begin updating the 1989 plan and the EPA to delay the review process. Since March 1989, the 1989 AQMP has become the framework for all future air pollution control efforts in the South Coast Air Basin (South Coast Air Quality Management District and Southern California Association of Governments, 1989). The AQMP is updated every three years.

### **Noise Regulations, Plans, and Policies**

Noise is regulated in the project area through implementation of local general plan policies and noise ordinance standards. Local general plans identify general principles intended to guide and influence development plans, and noise ordinances set forth specific standards and procedures for addressing particular noise sources and activities. Portions of the park are situated within the City of Culver City, the City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County; each of these jurisdictions has its own general plan and noise ordinance standards that contain guidelines for determining the compatibility of various land uses within different noise environments. The noise/land use compatibility standards in the *Noise Element of the Los Angeles City General* are consistent with the standards included in the *Noise Element of the City of Culver City Revised General Plan*. The *Noise Element of the Los Angeles City General Plan* also includes noise contours for nearby airports (City of Los Angeles, 1999). The park does not fall in the 65 dBA Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) of any of the region's major airports, though aircraft from Los Angeles International Airport may fly over the park.

Construction activities within the City of Culver City are required to comply with the Culver City Municipal Code Section 9.07.035, which regulates hours of operation and noise levels from mechanical equipment used. In addition, Municipal Code Section 9.04.020.(D).(2) prohibits all construction activity that causes any loud or unusual noise or sound disturbing the peace of residents of a residentially zoned neighborhood, except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sundays.

The City of Los Angeles Noise Regulation (Section Municipal Code 112.01) controls any disturbing, excessive or offensive noise which causes discomfort or annoyance to any receptor of normal sensitivity in the area and applies to all noise sources including construction noise and project-induced noise affecting the surrounding area. Section 112.04, in particular, prohibits the use of lawn mowers, backpack blowers, lawn edgers, tractors, and other machinery within 500 feet of a residence between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Section 41.40 prohibits the use of construction equipment between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

While the southern portion of the park is located on unincorporated land in the County of Los Angeles, the nearest residences and other sensitive receptors are separated by Norman O. Houston Park, Ruben Ingold Park, and the intersection of Stocker Street and La Brea Street (the Five Points area). A school is situated at the Southeast corner of the intersection on County land.

## ZONE OF PRIMARY INTEREST

The Department's concern for any environmental changes or ongoing impacts outside the unit that could jeopardize or degrade State Park System values are thought of as zone(s) of primary interest. At KHSRA, the Department is generally concerned with the following: traffic and circulation; vegetation management; bio-corridors; lands that may ultimately connect the park to other open space<sup>8</sup> or that may help provide for additional public parking and access.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

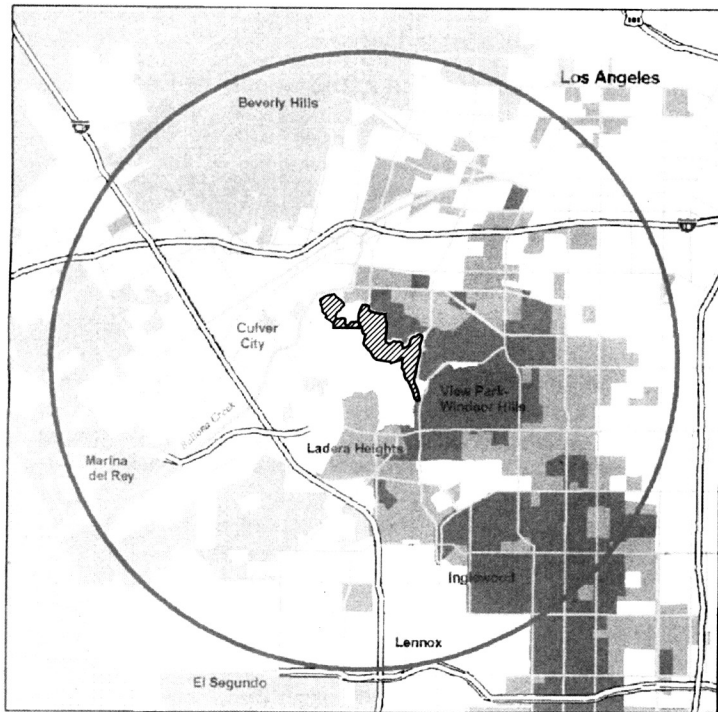
The Baldwin Hills area is extremely diverse, encompassing a wide range of ethnic groups and income levels (Figures 18 and 19). Within a five mile radius of the park site, ethnic representation is approximately 29% African American, 33% Latino, and 38% White; within a three-mile radius, the African American population rises to over 50%. Within the five-mile planning area, annual household income levels range from \$13,000 to over \$100,000, with 19% below the national poverty line and 66% below Los Angeles County's median household income of \$37,940. Nearly one in every four households in this area has children under 18. Higher

income single-family households with larger concentrations of white residents are in Culver City and the western edge of the Baldwin Hills. The eastside of the Baldwin Hills is predominantly African American with the majority of hillside, park-adjacent single-family households representing the oldest and most affluent segments of the population. In surrounding flatter areas, there is a marked increase in high-density apartment complexes and lower income families. Although many of these areas are still primarily African American, the Latino population is growing, with highest concentrations in Inglewood to the south and Jefferson Park to the northeast.

## PUBLIC CONCERN

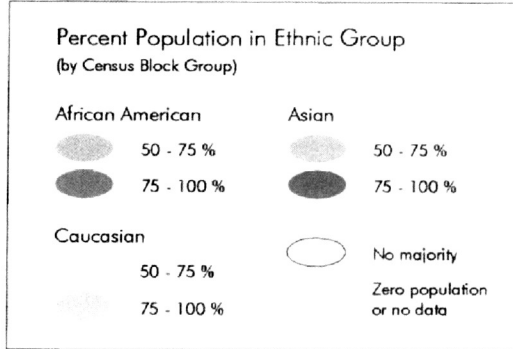
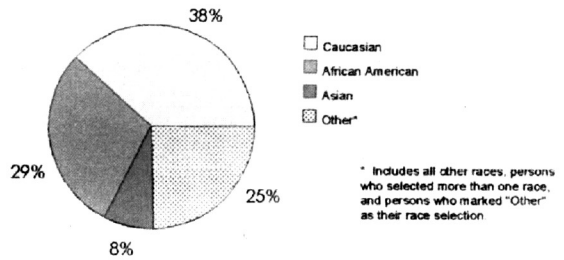
One of the most important issues raised by the public that has influenced the design of the park site is the protection of natural areas with the greatest potential for sustaining native wildlife and plant habitat. This coincides with the overall public goal of preserving the natural character of the area for education opportunities and community enjoyment. It is also important to note these protected zones would need to be accessible by a carefully designed system of trails.

<sup>8</sup> Discussion and all other comments regarding land acquisition are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and do not represent any intent or commitment for acquisition. Acquisition of any land depends on many factors, including the availability of funds and the willingness of the owner to sell. In most areas, through proper enforcement of existing county planning and zoning regulations, private lands can be privately managed in harmony with the neighboring state park lands.

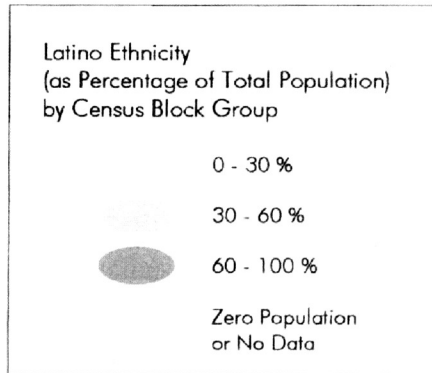
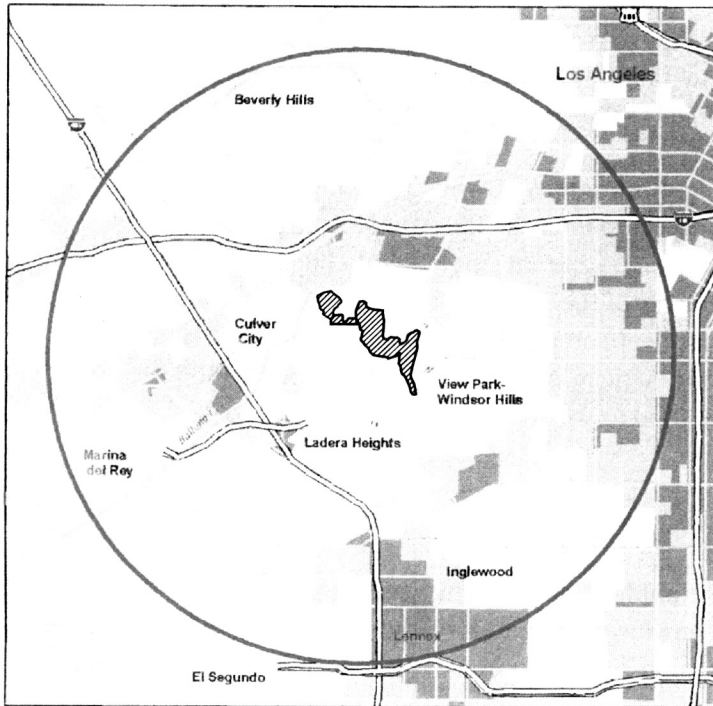


### Ethnicity within 5-Mile Radius

(Percentages calculated for a 5-mile radius around the park site.)



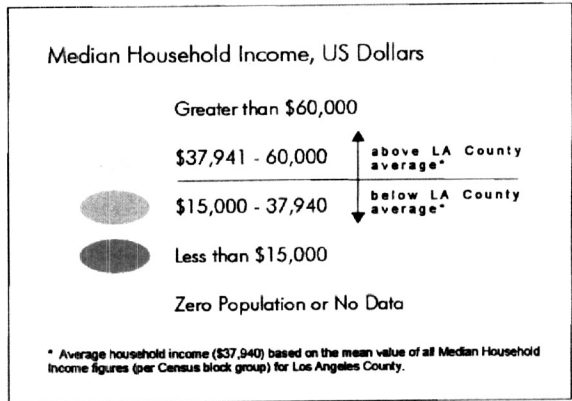
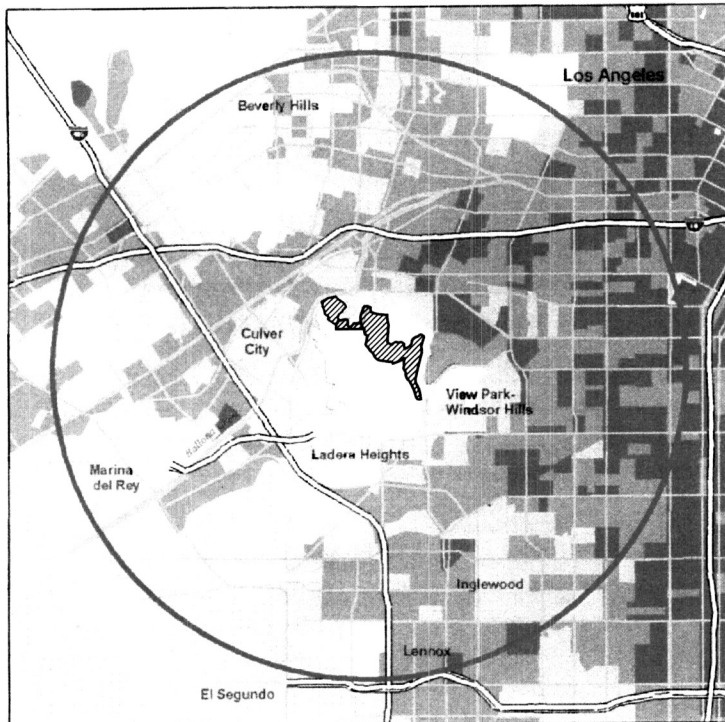
Source: 2000 United States Census Data



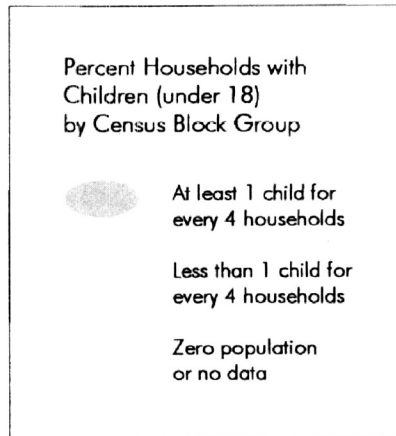
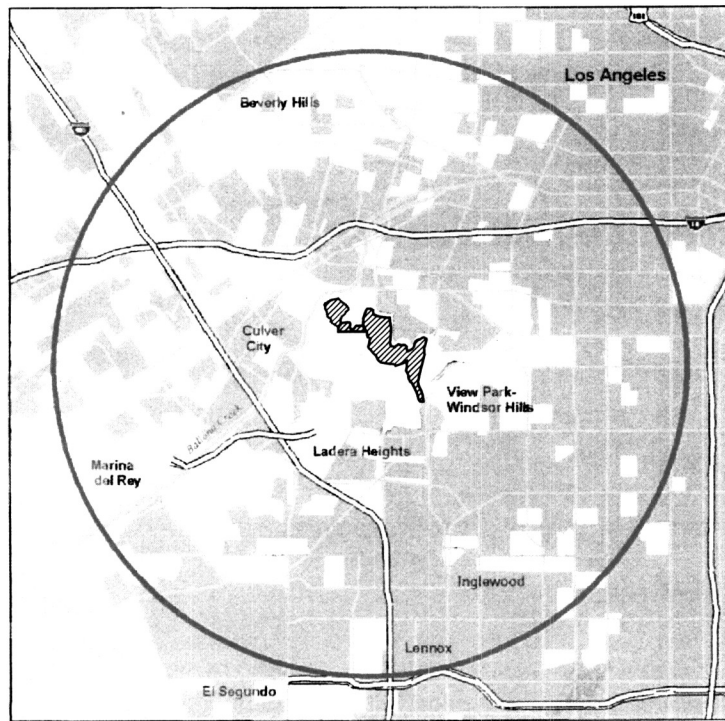
Source: 2000 United States Census Data



- 5-Mile Radius
- Project Boundary
- Highway
- Major Road
- Coastal Water
- River



Source: 1990 United States Census Data



Source: 1990 United States Census Data



SOURCE: Community Conservancy International; GreenInfo Network

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**Figure 19**  
Demographics-Income Level, Households with Children

Public safety and security were among the highest concerns raised by the public. Designing the park as a safe environment for recreational, educational and cultural activities included limiting construction of activities and facilities in areas of steep and unstable slopes, and conducting a thorough environmental health review of all public activity areas. Maintaining a secure environment should be considered a top priority for the park plan. In addition to existing county police in the park on site security provided by State Rangers, additional county park police or other local law enforcement personnel should be included in the park plan to address concerns about illegal activities taking place in the park site. In the event of an emergency, easy access for public safety and first aid vehicles was also deemed critical to making the park safe.

Adjacent residential areas expressed concerns regarding the proximity of entrances and recreation activities to their homes. Of particular concern was the impact of noise, lights and crime typically associated with urban parks. In an effort to create a park that a compatible to the surrounding neighborhoods, the design team addressed these issues by creating wide buffer zones of natural habitat around the park and strategically placing active recreation areas away from nearby homes.

## **ISSUES AND ANALYSIS**

All aspects of the proposed park site were thoroughly researched, analyzed and mapped to determine site constraints and limitations as well as site opportunities and potential. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping based on a current aerial survey was used. Diagrams of key elements posing constraints or potentials were prepared to assess optimum placement of park, recreation, habitat and other related uses (Figures 20 and 21).

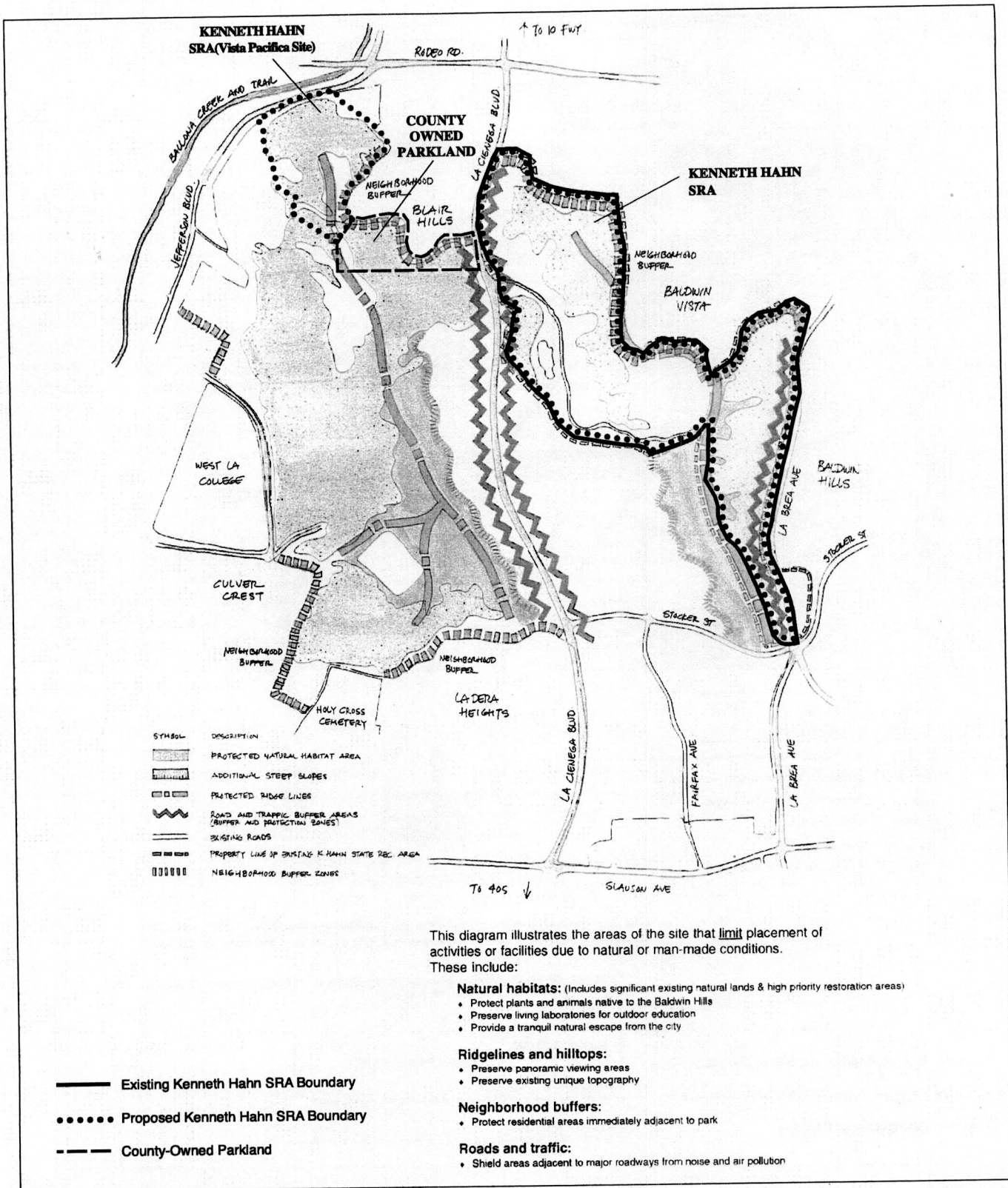
## **SITE CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

### ***CONNECTING EAST AND WEST RIDGELINES***

The site currently consists of two areas divided by La Cienega Boulevard: the existing KHSRA and the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. Well preserved natural habitat and areas with good potential for restoration are located on both sides of the park but are separated by oil and gas extraction activities and the roadway. The Department and the County of Los Angeles are working cooperatively to acquire properties that would connect these two distinct parcels.

### ***TOPOGRAPHY***

As part of the Newport Inglewood Structural Zone, a series of northwesterly trending hills extending from Cheviot Hills in the North to Newport Mesa in the south, the Baldwin Hills are characterized by two ridges rising up to 500 feet above sea level. Steep slopes and canyons dominate the site on the east and west sides of both ridges. The interior of the site is characterized by similar steep slopes in the northeastern portion of the site KHSRA. Industrial operations in the central part of the site have produced considerable alteration of the natural topography. Areas graded for roadways and oil and gas extraction operations are characterized by steep and often unvegetated earthen slopes. A slope analysis performed with GIS software



This diagram illustrates the areas of the site that limit placement of activities or facilities due to natural or man-made conditions. These include:

**Natural habitats:** (Includes significant existing natural lands & high priority restoration areas)

- Protect plants and animals native to the Baldwin Hills
- Preserve living laboratories for outdoor education
- Provide a tranquil natural escape from the city

**Ridgelines and hilltops:**

- Preserve panoramic viewing areas
- Preserve existing unique topography

**Neighborhood buffers:**

- Protect residential areas immediately adjacent to park

**Roads and traffic:**

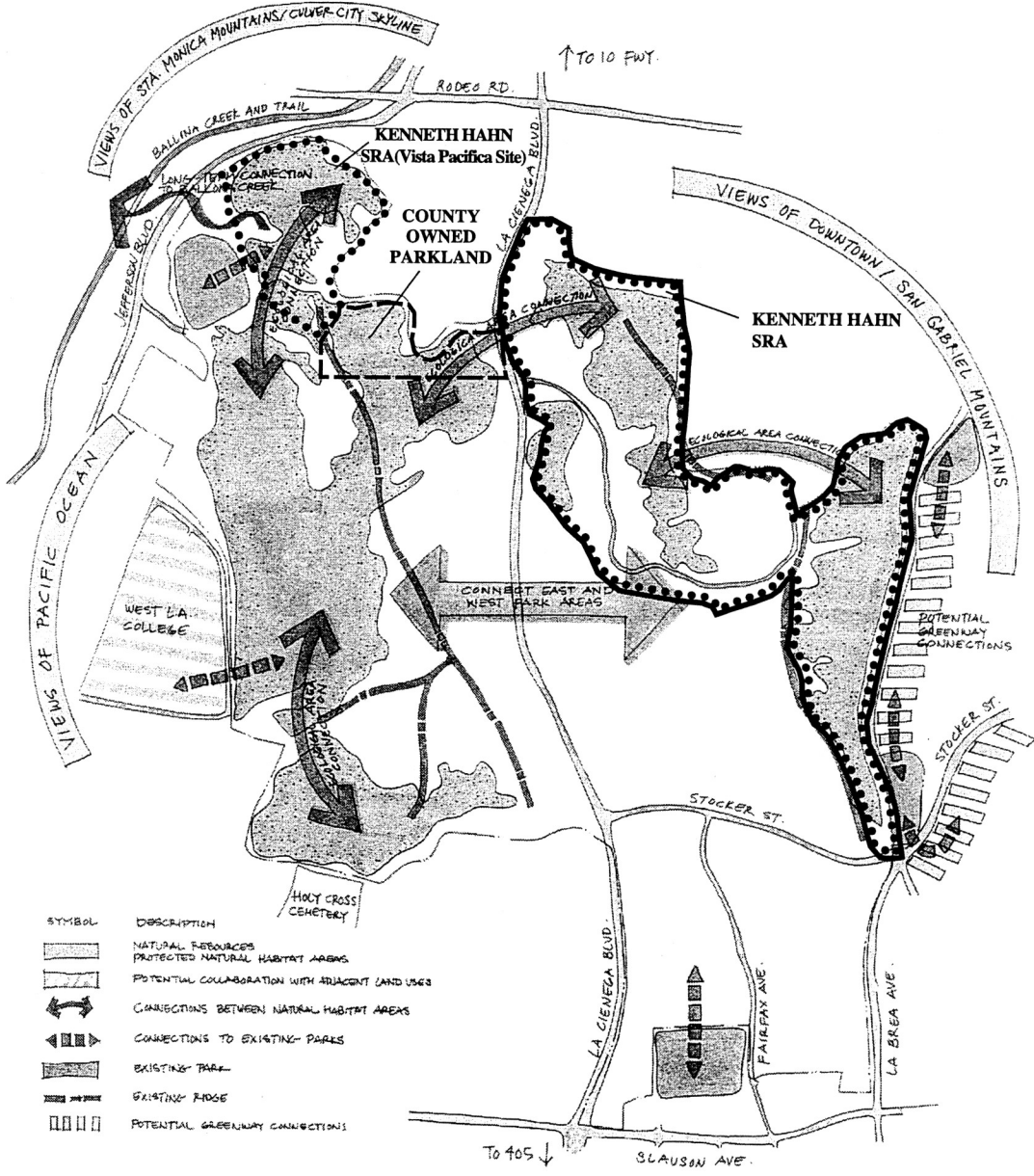
- Shield areas adjacent to major roadways from noise and air pollution

**NOTE:** Data presented on other public or private lands is for informational purposes only.

**SOURCE:** Community Conservancy International; Mia Lehrer + Associates; Hood Design

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**Figure 20**  
**Site Limitations Diagram**



This diagram illustrates the areas of the site that have greatest potential for placement of activities, facilities or other park elements due to natural or man-made conditions. These include:

- Natural habitats:** (Includes significant existing natural lands and high priority restoration areas)
  - Protect plants and animals native to the Baldwin Hills
  - Preserve living laboratory
  - Provide a tranquil escape from the city

- Park connections:**
  - Connect local parks through footpaths and multi-use trails

- Panoramic vista points:**
  - Protect ridgelines and hilltops to provide panoramic viewing areas

- West L.A. College:**
  - Link to West L.A. College for math and science education in the Baldwin Hills.

- Existing Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary
- Proposed Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary
- - - County-Owned Parkland

NOTE: Data presented on other public or private lands is for informational purposes only.

SOURCE: Community Conservancy International; Mia Lehrer + Associates; Hood Design

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**Figure 21**  
Site Potential Diagram



identified much of the site as having slopes of 20% or greater. These areas are considered largely unsuitable for structures or recreational facilities due to instability of slopes, numerous public safety hazards and the cost of grading and construction of retaining structures required to create viable construction sites.

### ***ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS***

The site is bounded on the north, west and southwest by single and multi-family residential neighborhoods. Visual impact and noise from park activities have the potential to create disturbances to adjacent residences. Residents in homes adjacent to KHSRA have experienced impacts from the park. Planning of future facilities should include effective mitigation measures including adequate setbacks from adjacent neighborhoods and the use of earthforms and existing topography to separate park activities from adjacent residents. Restored ecological areas without recreational access can also serve as buffers between the park and adjacent homes. Activities requiring night lighting should utilize efficient, shielded lighting equipment that eliminates light spillage or overflow. Activities generating high levels of sound should be located far enough from adjacent residential areas to avoid conflicts.

### ***NATURAL HABITAT***

Natural habitat areas will have limited recreational and trail use in order to protect sensitive wildlife and plant species. The location of existing habitat areas and those with restoration potential were identified by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History's ecological assessment and then incorporated into the GIS database for mapping. These areas were evaluated based on the quality of existing habitat and their potential for successful restoration. In the proposed park plan, areas of existing natural habitat or areas with high potential for restoration have been excluded from consideration for structures or facilities that would have significant negative impacts on wildlife and vegetation. Where natural habitat areas are located in close proximity to active recreation or other facilities planned to have frequent use, landscape buffer areas with limited access will be used to prevent negative impacts from noise, lighting or irrigation and stormwater runoff.

### ***ROADS AND TRAFFIC***

Two streets and one intersection act as major constraints to development on the park site; La Cienega Boulevard, Stocker Street, and the Five Points intersection. La Cienega Boulevard is a six-lane limited access street that bisects the site, dividing it into east and west portions; this road is also a major north-south thoroughfare and a significant commuter route. The many vehicles that travel La Cienega Boulevard at high speeds generate significant levels of noise, and are a serious safety hazard for adjacent uses.

The only existing vehicular access to KHSRA is from exit lanes on La Cienega Boulevard from the north and southbound directions. This access includes deceleration and acceleration lanes in order to maintain vehicle travel speeds on the main part of the roadway. Even with this separation

of park visitors from commuters, traffic can be affected and visitors do encounter delays entering the park on heavy use days.

The Five Points intersection includes La Brea Avenue, Stocker Street and Overhill Drive. Its location at a high point where the three streets intersect severely limits visibility. A complex signal pattern accommodating through traffic and turning lanes makes pedestrian crossings very difficult and raises serious safety issues. This intersection was identified early in the design process as a particularly difficult intersection unsuitable for vehicular park access, posing serious safety issues, and in need of a bridge to provide safe pedestrian access.

Stocker Street provides a popular east/west route connecting La Cienega Boulevard to Fairfax Avenue, La Brea Avenue and to points further east. Stocker Street is the main access for the oil and gas extraction activities and currently does not have sidewalks. La Brea Avenue, on the east edge of the site, is a four-lane street with a posted speed limit of 40 mph. Vehicles on this street also generate high levels of noise that could be disruptive to adjacent activities. This street also lacks continuous sidewalks.

### ***ADJACENT USES REQUIRING MASKING***

Screening of ongoing oil production and related industrial uses will help to create the sense of a natural and recreational environment. While the most objectionable views may be the oil production facilities, there are some other adjacent uses that will also benefit from screening. Screening views of adjacent office buildings and retail properties will also assist in creating a more park-like atmosphere. Views of some residential areas on the northeastern edge of the park could benefit from screening as well.

## **SITE OPPORTUNITIES AND POTENTIAL**

### ***RIDGELINES AND VIEWS***

The ridgelines of the park range in elevation from 370 feet to over 500 feet and provide extraordinary views of the Los Angeles Basin, all of Santa Monica Bay, the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains and the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. These ridgelines present excellent opportunities for unparalleled scenic viewing areas, scenic trails connecting the north and south areas of the park and for a very high quality natural park experience in the heart of the city.

### ***NATURAL HABITAT***

One of the greatest assets of the park will be the opportunity to experience high quality natural habitat areas in close proximity to densely urbanized neighborhoods. Three plant communities native to Southern California are found in the park: coastal scrub, riparian woodlands and grasslands. Native wildlife species in the hills include over 166 birds, hundreds of insects, 12 reptiles and amphibians and 21 mammals. Existing natural habitat areas in good condition are

located on the steep slopes and canyons on the exterior faces of the east and west ridgelines. These existing areas are presently separated, creating habitat islands. Opportunities to create connections can produce much larger habitat areas, protect populations of native plants and animals unique to Southern California, establish large natural preserve areas, increase the diversity of plant and animal communities and preserve the overall environmental health of the region. To protect habitat areas, public access would need to be limited to footpaths and interpretive facilities. These limited-access habitat areas could provide excellent opportunities for buffer zones adjacent to residential developments.

### ***GREENWAY CONNECTIONS***

The creation of greenways along streets and roads leading to the park could connect KHSRA to adjacent urban areas, connecting the park itself to the surrounding areas and providing important pedestrian and bicycle access to the park apart from the high speed, high volume adjacent streets. Existing undeveloped corridors are located along La Brea Boulevard from Five Points to Jim Gilliam Park, along Stocker Street from Five Points to Presidio Boulevard and along Overhill Drive from Five Points to Slauson Avenue. Additional perimeter streets such as Slauson Avenue, Jefferson Boulevard, La Cienega Boulevard and Rodeo Road could also be developed as urban greenways to extend the park into adjacent neighborhoods and commercial areas, creating a larger park district. Greenway elements on these streets should include consistent street tree plantings, planted medians, landscaping, signage and other park district identification elements.

### ***PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS***

There are several excellent opportunities for creating new pedestrian walkways and bicycle trails and pedestrian bridges over busy streets to provide important public access and pedestrian connections between surrounding areas and the park. Building pedestrian bridges at key public access points would allow easy connections to major public trails and access into the park. Pedestrian bridges will be particularly important for trail connections and to provide safe pedestrian access at Five Points, where the Stocker Street and La Brea Avenue Trails intersect with the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and at the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site across Jefferson Boulevard, connecting to the Ballona Creek Trail. Landscaped walking trails could be created along Stocker Street, La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive, connecting to local parks and public transportation. The Ballona Creek Trail connects to the 25-mile Beach Bike Path, presenting an opportunity to link the entire Baldwin Hills Park and surrounding areas to this regional trail network, to provide a contiguous bicycle and pedestrian trail network and to re-connect natural habitat and native wildlife species in the Baldwin Hills with those of the Ballona Wetlands downstream.

# **THE PLAN**

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## **OVERVIEW**

The purpose of The Plan section is to portray the desired resource conditions of the park and desired visitor experience, and to provide goals and guidelines that will direct future management efforts toward achieving those desires. The Plan section, however, does not designate detailed facilities with specific size, design, and locations. During the expected life of this General Plan Amendment, it is recognized that new technologies, different recreational needs, and new opportunities may arise that cannot be foreseen as of the writing of this document. Therefore, different methods can be used in the future to achieve the desired conditions within the parameters provided by this General Plan Amendment. The Plan section includes the Declaration of Purpose and Unit Vision, which sets the purpose for park management and the image(s) of what it could ultimately be like in the future. This section includes a discussion of carrying capacity and allowable use intensities designated for specific areas of the park.

A further discussion of Management Zones is also provided, including their significant values and constraints, management approaches, and management objectives. Unitwide area goals and guidelines are prescribed, which state the management intentions and provide general guidance supportive of the park's natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. Collectively, the contents of The Plan section will provide the direction for the future management, development, and use of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA or the park).

The following Plan is designed to direct future activities on lands owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) and the two County-owned parcels that connect the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site to La Cieniga Boulevard. No portion of this Plan is intended to direct management of private or other public properties within the boundary of KHSRA or in close proximity to the park.

## **UNIT PURPOSE AND VISION**

The park continues to recover from its history of oil production and other land uses. Despite the impacts of earthquakes, landslides, and human activity, the park includes scenic vistas, open space, and remnant natural areas. Protection and preservation are necessary to sustain and enhance the park's natural state and its enjoyment by visitors. Most importantly, adoption and implementation of this plan will ensure that the park maintains its unique character.

In order for the Department to recognize increased visitation and future needs, management actions will be created for compatibility between visitor impacts and the protection of natural and

cultural resources. In achieving this balance, the park will be a setting that provides for a range of recreational activities. Achieving compatibility between park uses and protection is the result of public appreciation of the park's inherent resources. Interpretation of cultural and natural resources will guide the acts of preservation and protection. Appropriate public facilities will, whenever possible, be incorporated into the setting, remaining unobtrusive, low impact, and respectful of the scenic characteristics and resource values of the park and surrounding area.

Coordination and collaboration between the Department and other agencies, groups and individuals who support the park and regional planning efforts will enable the identification of resources within the park as well as beyond park boundaries. This working relationship will also create another avenue for public education and responsibility.

## DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Declaration of Purpose is the "mission statement" for each unit of the State park system. It is the general guiding statement that provides direction for the development of the General Plan. The existing Declaration of Purpose for KHSRA is stated below.

The primary purpose of KHSRA is to preserve the last open space resource in this area of Los Angeles County capable of meeting the present and future outdoor recreation needs of the public. To preserve this open space, major portions will need to be restored and revegetated. The purpose of this restoration is to repair the damage that has occurred to the vegetation and land forms resulting from the past and present uses of the area.

The prime resources of the park are:

- The large open space quality in direct contrast to the heavily developed character of the surrounding urban community;
- The many scenic vista points from which most of the Los Angeles Basin, Pacific Ocean and local mountains can be viewed; and,
- The potential for the unit to provide regional recreation opportunities for millions of people in the Los Angeles area.

In addition, there are natural and cultural values in the unit that can provide other recreational and interpretive opportunities.

## UNIT VISION

The park will retain its rugged character and spectacular natural and scenic beauty. The coastal scrub vegetation community will continue its recovery and the upper watersheds will preserve their sense of solitude and remoteness. Historic sites within the park will be protected and interpreted.

The entrance to the park will be well signed and landscaped to create an appropriate sense of entering a special place. Families arriving by vehicle will be directed to the visitor center. Here they will have an opportunity to orient themselves to the park and discover its distinctive natural and cultural resources. Those wishing to experience these resources may avail themselves of several passive use trails that immediately immerse them in the special qualities of the park. Opportunities for partnerships, joint interpretation, and research will be encouraged. Where feasible, trails and parking for disabled access will be developed. Access to vista points and other points of interest will be maintained. Interpretive nodes will be established at significant points of interest.

Sensitive plant and animal communities and habitats will be protected, as well as the sense of remoteness and solitude unique to the area. Watershed protection will remain a priority. Biological corridors will be maintained and enhanced, as will regional trail connections. Opportunity purchases of appropriate lands will enhance these regional connections, as well as reduce in-holdings.

## **GENERAL UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

### **UNIT CLASSIFICATION**

Classification establishes broad management guidelines and direction for public use. It provides certain resource protections under the California Public Resources Code (PRC 5019.50), California Parks and Recreation Commission policies, and resource management directives of the Department. The park was classified as a State Recreation Area (SRA) in February 1983 by the State Park and Recreation Commission on land purchased with federal, state and county funds, with the intention of creating a wilderness park in the heart of Los Angeles. The following definition of a State Recreation Area, as described in the Public Resources Code (PRC), division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7, Section 501956a, includes references pertinent to plan formulation for resource management and recreation development.

“State recreation areas consist of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. Such areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreation resources such as man-made or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant values shall be preserved within state wilderness, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, water-skiing, diving, water sports, fishing and hunting. Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be taken within state recreation areas.”

## MANAGEMENT ZONES

In this General Plan Amendment, areas known as Management Zones were established after evaluating the natural, cultural, and recreational features. These zones are not land-use designations but discrete areas of the park for which specific strategies steer the development of resource management objectives and guidelines have been developed.

This section defines the Management Zones for KHSRA, which are used to classify areas and prescribe future desired resource conditions, visitor activities, and facilities and provide guidance on how individual areas will be managed. Management Zones are applied to a geographical area for which management directions or prescriptions have been developed to determine what can and cannot occur in terms of resource management, visitor use, access, facilities or development, and operations. Each Management Zone has a unique combination of resource and social conditions, and a consistent management prescription. Different actions will be taken in different areas with regard to the type and levels of use and facilities. The Management Zones for KHSRA delineated after an analysis of the natural conditions, cultural features, and current and desired future human use patterns of the park are shown on Figure 22.

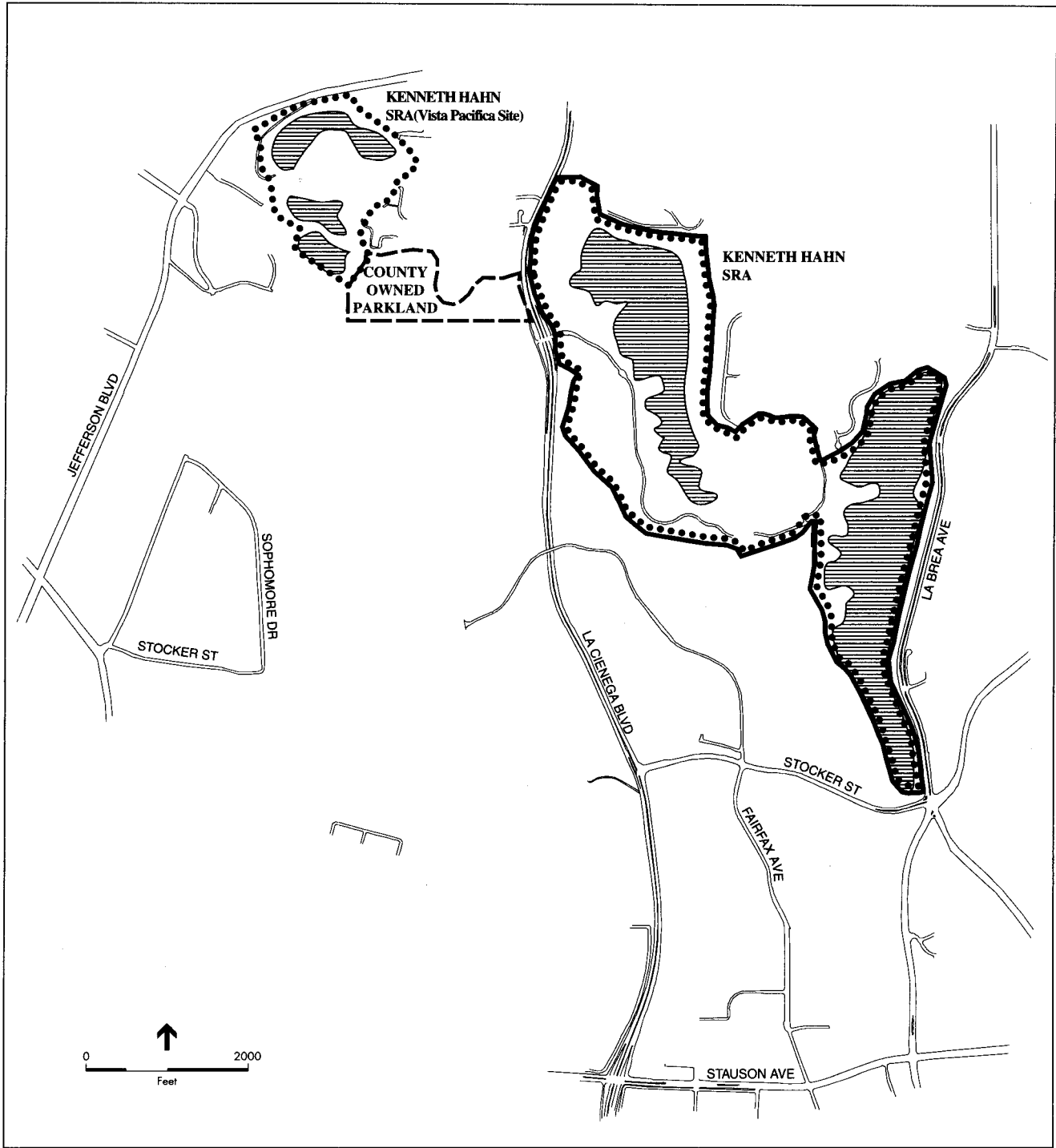
Management Zones are established to protect and enhance resources of the park. Management Zones prescribe certain uses and facilities that are not allowed in an area. In the absence of the Management Zones, additional development and higher-intensity uses could impact resources over the long term. Management Zones also provide opportunities for restoration of resources in areas where lower use and facility levels are prescribed. Management Zones protect the spectrum of recreational opportunities by allowing for visitor access and use of facilities in more resilient locations and different intensities of use within the park.



This section defines the Management Zones used for the Park.




### ***MANAGEMENT ZONE CATEGORIES***

The Management Zones for the park fall into two general categories: (1) Resource Protection Management Zone and (2) Beneficial Use Management Zone. The Resource Protection Management Zone generally prescribes the least amount and intensity of visitor use and facility development, leaving the landscape mostly natural and protecting the intrinsic values reflected. The Beneficial Use Management Zone allows for a low to high range of visitor use and low to moderate range of facility development. While emphasizing protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources, they provide diverse recreational opportunities. The developed areas encourage concentration of higher-impact activities in areas better able to withstand heavy use and at locations that are already developed, enabling better protection of resources in more sensitive areas.

Management Zone prescriptions list typical activities, allowed facilities, and examples of facilities not allowed in each zone. These lists are not exhaustive. In general, the more intensive facilities allowed for in higher category zones would not be allowed in the lower category zones.



 Resource Protection Management Zone  
 Beneficial Use Management Zone

 Existing Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary  
 Proposed Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary  
 County-Owned Parkland

SOURCE: Environmental Science Associates

Kenneth Hahn SRA Recirculated General Plan Amendment and EIR / 202310 ■

**Figure 22**  
Proposed Management Zones



For example, a visitor center would be allowed under the Beneficial Use Management Emphasis, but not in the Resource Protection Management Zone. When determining whether a specific use or facility is appropriate to a management emphasis, park managers should consider the general character of development and desired resource and visitor experience conditions described for that area.

Management Zones generally allow for the repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of established facilities (such as structures, utilities, roads, and bridges) unless specifically noted. All zones also allow for scientific research and monitoring activities, particularly related to the analysis of management of the park.

### **Resource Protection Management Zone**

The overall management objectives for the Resource Protection Management Zone are as follows:

- Manage for protection of resources;
- Manage for ecosystem integrity;
- Preserve natural biodiversity;
- Allow natural processes to prevail;
- Mitigate, reduce, or eliminate human-caused impacts;
- Manage for a high-quality and rustic visitor experience; and,
- Protect all resource values (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical in nature).

Areas designated as a Resource Protection Management Zone will be managed to preserve and protect sensitive plant and animal species and their supporting habitats, as well as to protect the movement of plants and animals within the park. Resource protection will be the foremost consideration for all land use and management decision. The Resource Protection Management Zone will be managed with low tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use, and management action could be taken to change visitor use patterns if such degradation occurred. Visitor experience will be primarily based on hiking, walking, or nature study characterized by light to moderate use focused on marked and maintained trails. There will be some management presence to accommodate resource protection and visitor use. These areas will provide substantial opportunities for scientific study of natural processes in undisturbed conditions.

*Activities* – The following activities are typical in this zone:

- Hiking and biking;
- Photography and nature study; and,
- Interpretive programs.

*Facilities* – The following facilities are allowed in this zone:

- Vehicular roads or trails (where they do not adversely affect resources);
- Historic features;
- Occasional directional and regulatory signs, and safety signs;

- Footbridges;
- Appropriate visitor amenities (e.g., drinking water, comfort stations, rest areas, etc.)
- Interpretive signs to protect natural or cultural resources or to promote understanding of natural processes;
- Boardwalks, fencing, and other features to direct travel appropriately to avoid sensitive resources; and,
- Utilities (wells, utility lines, pump stations, and other facilities where they are screened from view).

The following are examples of facilities that will **not** be allowed in areas designated as a Resource Protection Management Zone:

- Visitor center;
- Group picnic facilities;
- Operations facilities or storage;
- Day-visitor parking;
- Food services; and,
- Campgrounds and lodging.

### **Beneficial Use Management Zone**

The park serves as an important recreational resource, providing opportunities for nature study, hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, and other activities. The overall management objectives for the Beneficial Use Management Zone are:

- Manage for protection, enhancement, and restoration of sensitive resources, and natural processes;
- Provide opportunities for varied levels of recreational use;
- Provide quality interpretive and educational programs;
- Direct visitors to locations able to withstand heavy use;
- Manage major attraction areas to allow visitors to enjoy the resource with minimal environmental damage; and,
- Manage for the protection and maintenance of cultural resources, including historical and archeological sites.

Areas designated as a Beneficial Use Management Zone will be managed to allow for more intensive recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, and large group gatherings. Visitors can spend significant periods of time enjoying park resources in a relatively accessible setting. There will be moderate tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use.

The Beneficial Use Management Zone is intended to be applied to popular destinations, where visitors can spend significant periods of time enjoying the park's resources in a relatively accessible setting. The Beneficial Use Management Zone enhances opportunities for visitors to enjoy more intensive recreational activities and can support a range of active recreational opportunities such as picnicking, and bicycling, which would contribute to the diversity of experiences. Visitors may expect moderate to high numbers of encounters with other users and crowding on peak days. Large groups may use these areas.

Resource protection activities in this zone will be comparable to those described above. However, due to the larger volume of visitors, the Beneficial Use Management Zone will be managed with moderate tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use in specified areas. To protect and enhance cultural, biological, and hydrologic resources, more extensive resource protection measures may be needed to direct visitor use away from sensitive resources. Examples include boardwalks adjacent to sensitive habitats or fencing to prevent trampling and overuse. By encouraging higher visitor use in the Beneficial Use Management Zone, adjacent and more resource sensitive areas will experience the desired lower visitor use for these areas.

*Activities* – The following activities are typical in this zone:

- Hiking and walking;
- Photography and nature study;
- Picnicking and social gathering;
- Bicycling;
- Fishing<sup>1</sup>; and,
- Interpretive programs.

*Facilities* – The following facilities are allowed in this zone:

- Roads and improved trails, including bike paths and interpretive trails;
- Day-visitor parking;
- Picnic facilities;
- Playgrounds;
- Interpretive and visitor centers;
- Food services;
- Administrative facilities;
- Turnouts for parking or scenic lookouts;
- Fences, boardwalks, walls, signs, and other features to direct travel appropriately around sensitive resources;
- Interpretive, directional, and safety signs and exhibits;
- Utilities such as well sites, utility lines, pump stations and other facilities; and,
- Bridges necessary for access, improved circulation, safety, and/or resource protection.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Presented below are general goals and guidelines that are unitwide in their application. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes – for example, maintain ecosystem health and productivity, or promote community stability. Guidelines describe the physical, natural, or social condition or degree of function a resource must meet in order to sustain certain principals or provide more specific direction for interpreting the goal – for example, land, health, or water quality standards. The goals and guidelines for the park are defined and expressed below:

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<sup>1</sup> Fishing is allowed subject to California Department of Fish and Game regulations in all Management Zones.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The following are unit-wide goals and management guidelines to perpetuate the park's important resource values. These goals state general resource management intentions and provide general guidance supportive of the park's natural resources.

### **Goal: Consider preparation of a Resource Management Plan for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**

#### *Guidelines:*

- The Department will consider preparation of a Resource Management Plan for KHSRA to specifically address management of Natural and Cultural Resources, including sensitive areas that may preclude or limit recreational uses.

### **Goal: Maintain and enhance the movement of native animals through the park and regional ecosystem**

#### *Guidelines:*

- Biocorridors will be recognized when there is enough information to indicate the importance or necessity of these connections to the exchange of plants and animals between the park and other wildland areas. The adequacy and effectiveness of these habitat linkages will be monitored by documentation of the presence, distribution, movement, and habitat associations of the representative species using them.
- Consider creation of a biocorridor connecting to the Ballona Creek and Ballona Wetlands.
- Preserve large areas of coastal scrub habitat still found in the park. Secondly, land in a degraded condition with some remaining native species that is strategically located adjacent to existing habitat should be restored to create larger areas of viable habitat that are more likely to be able to support populations of native animals. Those areas that serve to connect existing and potentially restored habitat areas are a very high priority for restoration, as these corridors will re-connect remnant habitats, creating what could become an extensive network of natural habitats within the park.
- There are a variety of management techniques that could be employed to restore and improve existing habitat. Efforts should be concentrated on:
  - re-establishment of habitat corridors;
  - removal of unnatural water sources;
  - introduction of a managed fire regime;
  - removal of non-native plant species;
  - control of superabundant or non-native predators (such as feral cats and dogs);
  - reintroduction of key species;

- creation of buffers between habitats and high-use areas, streets and other urban impacts; and,
  - educating the public about natural plant and animal communities.
- The Department, along with federal, state and local jurisdictions and councils, regulatory agencies, and private landowners, should coordinate efforts to preserve and manage interconnecting biocorridors at a regional level.

**Goal: Maintain, protect, and/or improve habitat for special status species**

*Guidelines:*

- All known or potential habitat for sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species will be evaluated prior to implementing actions that may affect the species or their habitat. Consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), will be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Protection or enhancement of coastal scrub areas will be required in planning and development considerations.

**Goal: Manage the park to protect and restore natural watershed functions**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider restoration of watershed function and reduction of human-caused soil erosion and sedimentation.
- Standards for siting, constructing, upgrading, maintaining, and decommissioning roads and trails, will be based on best management practices from all available sources.

**Goal: Prevent outside disturbances from having adverse impacts on park resources to the extent practicable**

*Guidelines:*

- The Department will continue to work with local jurisdictions, appropriate organizations and adjacent property owners to ensure long-term protection of park resources and ecosystems. The Department will review and comment on all projects proposed on lands adjacent to the park to determine if they could have a detrimental effect on park lands.

**Goal: Restore, protect, and maintain native ecosystems and indigenous flora and fauna through active resource management programs**

*Guidelines:*

- Restoration of coastal scrub and riparian habitats require long-term planning, a comprehensive approach to soils, hydrology and plant palette, and sustained, careful maintenance over many years. Management of natural habitat and restored natural habitat areas shall be science-based to the maximum degree possible, and shall address ecosystem components. Rehabilitation of key insect, reptile, amphibian, bird and mammal species shall be considered where feasible. Implementation of the plan shall prioritize protection of existing natural habitat and restoration of lands that re-connect these existing areas.
- Management of KHSRA will recognize the long-term nature of native habitat restoration efforts, and will design management strategies to accommodate long-term restoration needs. These include: the on-going removal of invasive non-native plants and their replacement with native plants; adjusting irrigation patterns and systems as necessary to favor native species; on-going biological monitoring; and, locating and designing all footpaths, trails and other public access infrastructure with attention to their effects on native habitat restoration efforts.
- Management of KHSRA shall maximize the viability of existing natural habitat and habitat being restored to a natural condition, protect areas in the process of restoration, and prioritize protecting the connectivity between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas shall be of highest priority. Where necessary, controlled burns may be used on a limited basis to eradicate and control non-native plant species and to encourage native plant regeneration. Location of park facilities, buildings, trailheads, footpaths, service and shuttle roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed and sited to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas and to protect natural habitat. On-site management facilities could include nurseries for native plants to facilitate restoration efforts and the supply of plants suitable for the Baldwin Hills, and facilities for wildlife care, rescue and rehabilitation to be released back into the wild. Natural habitat areas shall be managed to allow ample use of these areas as a living laboratory in coordination with area schools and park visitor education and science programs.
- Vegetation management will be directed toward establishing the natural ecological processes that are essential for the development of native plant communities, expansion of these native communities, and the removal or reduction of exotic plant taxa. This restoration will occur with a minimum disruption to natural processes.
- Management action will minimize and, where possible, prohibit activities that further the spread of non-native plants.
- Consider development of a long-term program to control and/or eradicate exotic plants to prevent the establishment and spread of non-native species that could displace native species and disrupt natural communities. Priority for control efforts should be given to those species most invasive and conspicuous within the park.

- Non-native animal species will be discouraged through appropriate habitat management and when necessary by direct control measures.
- The Department will actively work to restore native plant communities and the natural processes that ensure their perpetuation.
- All seedlings and saplings used in habitat restoration projects will originate from seed collected from native plant taxa within park boundaries or from a nearby area.

**Goal: Protect special plants and special plant communities within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area to ensure their sustainability in accordance with state law (PRC, Division 2, Chapter 10, Section 1900)**

*Guideline:*

- Prior to any site-specific development, heavy use activities, or prescribed burns, affected areas shall be surveyed for the presence of state or federally listed plants or plant communities. Impacts that cannot be avoided shall be minimized or mitigated.

**Goal: Protect, perpetuate, and restore native wildlife populations and native aquatic species at KHRRA**

*Guidelines:*

- All sensitive wildlife species and their habitats will be protected. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species), whether or not they appear on any endangerment list, as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. Management and protection of sensitive species is dependent upon adequate maps and other data regarding species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park.
- Specific management programs will be developed as necessary to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, the methods used will be based on sound principles of ecosystem management, will be consistent with Department Resource Management Directives and will avoid disturbance to other natural values of the park.
- Prior to any site development, heavy use activity, or prescribed burn, surveys for sensitive wildlife will be conducted during the appropriate season for detection in areas that will be affected. Programs or projects to be undertaken will be designed and scheduled so that sensitive wildlife and their requisite habitat will not be adversely affected. Development is to be located and designed to protect and enhance enjoyment of the primary resources. The primary purpose for development is to place visitors in an optimal relationship with the resources, for recreational enjoyment and understanding of those resources.

- Maintain the natural faunal habitat of the park wherever possible. The natural faunal habitat is defined as the wildlife species and habitat extant in each area prior to Euro-American modification.
- The Department shall balance recreation and access with protection of resources, favoring low-impact activities in areas with high wildlife use.
- Domestic dogs accompanying visitors to the park will be controlled in accordance with the terms of CCR Title 14, Division 3 §4312 (Control of Animals) or as otherwise permitted by the Department.

**Goal: Provide appropriate open space buffers**

*Guidelines:*

- Open space buffers will be included to protect natural habitat from active recreational or cultural facilities and to provide an overall planted park atmosphere. Irrigation will be managed to protect natural habitat areas and the native wildlife populations they support. Landscaping will be primarily with plants native to Southern California.

***CULTURAL RESOURCES***

**Goal: Identify and protect all significant cultural sites and features within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**

*Guideline:*

- Measures will be taken to identify, protect, or mitigate impacts to cultural historic sites and features. Historic resources will be preserved and protected through implementation of Department and professional standards.
- The park will be managed for the protection of cultural resources. More specifically, cultural resources shall be protected against damaging or degrading influences, including deterioration or adverse modification of their environments. Before implementation of surface-disturbing projects, the proposed project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be inventoried and evaluated for cultural resources by qualified personnel prior to undertaking any restoration, reconstruction or development activity. Consultation will be conducted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as necessary.

***AESTHETIC RESOURCES***

**Goal: Protect scenic features from man-made intrusions and preserve the visitor's experience of the natural landscape by minimizing adverse impacts to aesthetic resources**



*Guideline:*

- Park facilities will visually integrate into the environment through the use of appropriate siting techniques, building forms, scale, materials, and colors. The Department should work with adjoining jurisdictions regarding land use and development within the KHSRA viewshed that may affect the park and its scenic resources.
- Park management shall place a strong emphasis on consistency with the overall park vision and design elements and shall implement consistent design principles in all aspects of park management and development. Aesthetic considerations shall be integral to the design and siting of park components, buildings and facilities. The design of bridges, fencing, lighting, roads, signage and other park infrastructure shall also be consistent with the overall park aesthetic image and with the park vision and recreational, educational, and environmental objectives.

**RECREATIONAL USES**

**Goal: Provide for appropriate, sustainable visitor uses of the park and at the same time protect resources**

*Guideline:*

- Recreational uses will satisfy both user needs and resource protection requirements and for the most part be compatible with other visitor experiences. Recreational uses will generally occur where manageable with existing park staff or volunteers and where there is adequate, safe access to the recreation activity areas.
- Recreational facilities shall be operated to enable the public to see, enjoy, and understand the primary resources of the park. The primary resources may not be significantly impaired to create or enhance recreational opportunities.
- Unauthorized uses of the park shall be discouraged. Increased coordination will be made with local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies.
- It is a primary responsibility of The Plan to evaluate the ability of park environments to withstand the impact of visitor use. Developments in any unit of the park shall not be of such capacity, nor of such intensity, that significant ecological damage or deterioration of any environmental factor can reasonably be expected to occur.

**Goal: Provide appropriate access and opportunities for the visiting public to enjoy the park, while not degrading the natural/cultural features and ecological processes**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider preparation of a Unit Trails Plan that would create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the unique and diverse topography, geology, biotic communities, and scenic views of KHSRA. The actual location, distance, and use of future trails would be governed by this plan.
- Trailhead connections and signing for interpretive information and visitor safety will be improved throughout the park and at main points of entry.
- Trails will provide for public access within the park and to adjacent regional trail systems, with priority for achieving unitwide resource management goals and objectives. The Department will support regional trail objectives, coordinate with other land management agencies in the vicinity to evaluate and monitor resource conditions and share information to develop open space management programs and multiple use trail plans on a regional scale.
- Future trails planning and construction will include the Department's specifications and policies concerning trail construction and maintenance and be coordinated with soil erosion and sediment studies.
- Development of public access shall be consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All possible opportunities for ADA trails will be examined and given a high priority.
- Public access shall be a primary consideration for all park design and shall take into consideration coordination with public transit, on-site and off-site parking, connections to local parks, greenways, trails and trailheads. Pedestrian and bicycle access at key public access points will be a top priority, and all trails, trailheads, greenways, park entrances, park facilities and parking will incorporate pedestrian and bicycle needs. All park sites should be managed to maximize non-vehicular access, and safe and accessible connections to trails shall be emphasized.
- Public transportation will be accommodated at all entrances and trailheads to the park. A park shuttle system coordinated with public transportation systems in the area will be considered. Transit stops at park entrances and within the park will be located in conjunction with heavy use areas. Bus and shuttle stops can be located within the park boundaries to provide safe passenger transfer.

**Goal: Provide appropriate trails***Guidelines:*

- Footpaths and bicycle trail networks will be designed and possibly separated to avoid use conflicts. Trail crossings will be well signed. Handicapped accessible trails will be built where feasible.

- Footpaths will provide limited access to the natural areas of the park. They are intended to be a minimum width and will utilize low impact construction materials and methods to protect habitat areas. Routes will be designed to give walkers options of short loops or longer hikes through the entire park. Trailheads serving this system will be located at the eastern visitor center and the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site.
- Bicycle trails connecting to the Ballona Creek Bike Trail via a pedestrian bridge over Jefferson Boulevard from the vicinity of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, and via the Ballona Creek Trail to the 25-mile Beach Bike Path, will be considered.

**Goal: Provide appropriate education and interpretation**

*Guidelines:*

- Protecting and restoring natural habitat will be coordinated with education programs whenever possible, in conjunction with park-provided visitor interpretive programs, area schools, after-school and other youth programs and West Los Angeles College. Where feasible, management will include technological links between the park and park facilities to other science facilities and educational institutions, such as the California Science Center and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and non-profit organizations providing environmental or science education. Management of educational, laboratory and auditorium facilities will place the highest priority on education programming.
- Coordinated park signage and park information shall be a priority for all park entrances, parking areas, park shuttle systems, public transit connections, trail connections and for all park facilities.

**SOCIAL RESOURCES**

**Goal: Provide for appropriate public safety and law enforcement**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider installation of call boxes for contacting public safety officials in key locations throughout the park.
- Consider a full-time park ranger force trained in both law enforcement and park interpretation. Public safety services shall be coordinated to provide cooperation between state park rangers and all jurisdictions serving the park. An on-site substation and call box system will be evaluated to provide a location for such coordination. All agencies with jurisdiction in the area will need to cooperate to provide the highest quality service to park users.
- Consider installation of signage and lighting to facilitate night patrols of high-use areas. Park service roads and associated gating and signage shall be managed to allow easy and rapid

access to the park by public safety personnel. Fencing of the park perimeter and use of vegetation designed to prevent public access both at the perimeter and in other key areas may be used where necessary. Fire roads and hydrants will be installed where necessary to facilitate fire protection. Park hours will be limited to daytime only, except for scheduled events in controlled areas.

**Goal: Provide appropriate park administration and maintenance facilities**

*Guidelines:*

- Existing facilities will be retained until such time as new facilities become necessary and/or desirable. Existing facilities will be expanded or relocated within appropriate areas as needed and in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

**Goal: Provide appropriate neighborhood buffers**

*Guidelines:*

- Existing measures have been taken in KHSRA, including fencing and other barriers, to restrict park visitors from areas adjacent to neighborhoods. The Plan proposes a variety of methods to prevent physical and visual access to and reduce noise, light, and fire hazard from park areas near adjacent homes. Buffers of natural habitat or landscaped areas could be located adjacent to neighborhoods on the north and west edges of the park. Taller plantings may be used to screen views of adjacent houses. If necessary, fences or other barriers could be utilized to restrict access.

**Goal: Provide appropriate economic opportunities**

*Guidelines:*

- Potential economic opportunities within the park shall be designed and operated to fit within the park, shall be coordinated and consistent with park uses, and shall not intrude upon or detract from enjoyment of park resources. Ensuring that appropriate park and recreation-related economic opportunities within the park are balanced with overall park and natural lands needs is an important management goal of this Plan.

**Goal: Provide appropriate park maintenance**

*Guidelines:*

- Park management shall place an emphasis on quality maintenance, on location of support facilities needed for park maintenance and operation, and on screening maintenance yards and facilities from view. Maintenance shall be managed as an integral part of the park, with the goal of not intruding into park uses. Park service roads shall be designed so that maintenance vehicles and equipment can easily access all visitor-serving uses, recreation and

active use fields, the golf course, and all park buildings and restrooms. Management of all park facilities shall include appropriate accommodations for service vehicle parking, tree trimming and landscaping maintenance, and other related infrastructure maintenance.

- All park facilities, gardens, landscaped areas, picnic areas, parking lots, buildings and other visitor-serving uses will be equipped with recycling and trash bins. Service yards and garages for heavy equipment will be of adequate size and appropriately located to maximize convenience to high demand areas; these areas will be screened from park view and sited to be unavailable to park visitors. Green waste disposal shall be state-of-the-art and should be screened from park view.

**Goal: Use principles of sustainability in the design and implementation of all park facilities**

*Guidelines:*

- To the greatest degree possible, structures shall be designed and built, and all lands shall be managed to maximize, the long-term sustainability of all park resources. Implementation measures may include use of reclaimed water or stormwater captured on-site for all irrigation and other uses as possible, use of drought-resistant vegetation, design of all park facilities using materials that meet high energy efficiency and environmental standards, appropriate siting of facilities to maximize efficient use of park land and resources, recycling of green waste and recycling of other recyclable products and use of solar and other non-fuel dependent energy sources. Sustainability includes emphasizing non-vehicular public access to the park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. Sustainability also includes directing revenue from park-related economic uses specifically to park improvements and maintenance.

## UNITWIDE VISITOR USE & OPPORTUNITIES

### *UNITWIDE INTERPRETATION*

Interpretation and education are based on the premise that knowledge deepens the park experience and provides lasting benefits, not only to individuals but also to society in general. Interpretive themes define the point of view given to the presentation of the park's natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources. Interpretation and education assist in the preservation of these valuable resources by educating visitors to the impacts that they have on the resources and reducing crime.

The park contains some of the most significant natural, cultural features within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County. This plan calls for sustaining native wildlife and plant habitat, thereby preserving the natural character of the area, which provides important environmental educational opportunities. The park will provide an opportunity to work closely with all levels of education providers to enhance curricula in science and history-social science frameworks as well as other frameworks. The park is in close proximity to over 55 schools that

have a total enrollment of over 30,000 students. It will be imperative to have continuing communication with the education providers to ensure that interpretive and educational programming directly reflects the curriculums of local school children and the needs of other park visitors.

The park may be the first or at least the most important natural history related park experience for many visitors. This exposure could serve as a catalyst to educate these new park users to the importance of restoring and preserving natural landscapes and sensitive features of the area. Through this educational effort, increased support for the preservation of the remaining natural environments of the state may be realized.

Specific areas of the park will have distinct and unique learning opportunities. This Interpretive Element will provide an overview of the park by identifying primary themes with appropriate supporting themes and secondary themes. These will be used as a starting point to identify the rich interpretive values contained in the park.

The following describes the interpretive goals for the park and its natural and cultural resources, establishes the historical periods relevant to interpreting the park's cultural resources, and presents the major interpretive themes created to help communicate resource information to the public. If this approach is successful, individuals will have an enriched park experience and, in turn, may be encouraged to help preserve and protect the varied resources found at KHSRA.

**Goal: Provide the opportunities to increase the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural and cultural resources of KHSRA.**

## ***INTERPRETIVE THEMES***

### **Interpretive Period**

Development of the park shall include interpretation of not only the past history of the area but also the present use of the region for oil production. Interpretation shall include recognition of:

- Inhabitation by the Tongva Indians;
- European Colonization period (A.D. 1540-1771);
- Mission period (A.D. 1771 to 1843);
- Mexican Period (A.D. 1822 to 1846);
- Baldwin Hills Reservoir;
- Past, present and future oil production activity; and,
- Settlement of the Los Angeles Basin.

### **Interpretive Themes**

Interpretation relies on themes to describe the significant natural and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. Themes help connect the various pieces of the park so that relationships between plants, animals, topography, climate, geology and other elements and forces can be better understood. Most importantly, thematic interpretation helps the park visitor

understand the role humans have played and continue to play in interacting with and modifying these resources. The unifying theme and the primary themes are given below. Secondary themes that deal with specific natural and cultural features of the park, as well as specific locations, will be presented in the Interpretive Prospectus.

***Park Unifying Theme: An ever changing, ever healing landscape where natural and human forces converge.***

**Primary Theme: A natural refuge within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County, Baldwin Hills reveals California's rich natural history and our responsibility to respect it.**

**Supporting Theme: Native plants and animals find refuge in the fragile natural environment of KHSRA.**

This theme will introduce the beauty and diversity of California native flora and fauna with emphasis on their adaptations. It will contrast native vegetation and native wildlife with introduced species and the associated outcome of reduced viability of native species.

**Supporting Theme: Showing respect for the environment and other visitors while recreating at KHSRA will ensure safety for the park and people.**

KHSRA's location and easy access from the major urbanized area of Los Angeles results in extreme pressure on the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities offered in the park. This theme will educate visitors on how to recreate while preserving nature, respecting the solitude of other visitors and maintaining the park's resources for future generations.

**Supporting Theme: This park is an island of natural resources requiring community appreciation and participation to protect it.**

What we do in our communities impacts the health of this island of habitat and other natural resources. Our personal practices can effect the health of this island refuge. Its viability in providing a home for flora and fauna is dependent upon our decisions. Each individual decision we make contributes to (or detracts from) the health of a watershed and of the places we value. This theme looks at issues of habitat connectivity, watershed management and community environmental standards/stewardship. This supporting theme will look at the interconnections between KHSRA, the community and other natural areas (i.e. Ballona Creek and wetlands) surrounding the proposed park.

**Primary Theme: As a home to humankind, the park site and the larger Baldwin Hills area of which is it a part have created a haven for many cultures.**

**Supporting Theme: The park site and Baldwin Hills have been a home to many cultures.**

Beginning with the Native Americans and continuing to the ethnically diverse population of Los Angeles today, Baldwin Hills has been a center for cultural history. This theme will interpret the

history of the many cultures that have called Baldwin Hills home. Specific periods include: The Native American period, European Colonization period (1540 – 1771), Mission Period (1771 – 1843), Mexican Period (1822 – 1846), and Anglo Period (1848 – present). All of these periods need to be represented in the interpretive plans for KHSRA.

This supporting theme will look at the reasons so many people call Los Angeles home, what brought them here and why they choose to stay. The climate, jobs, and other factors have created the interconnection of many cultures within the Baldwin Hills area.

**Supporting Theme:** The park and the Baldwin Hills area of which it is a part were a temporary home for hundreds of international athletes.

Baldwin Hills was the site of the Xth Olympiad Olympic Village (1932). The idea of the Olympic Village was conceived from a deep sentiment that athletes of all nations could live peacefully, side by side, regardless of color, race, or creed. The concept of an Olympic Forest was incorporated in the previous General Plan to allow the planting of at least one representative tree species from each nation that participated in the 1932 Olympic Games. These trees should be identified and accompanied by interpretation of the cultures they represent.

**Primary Theme: Geologic history has shaped the Baldwin Hills area and our lives.**

**Supporting Theme:** From the hills and mountains to the flatlands of Southern California, geologic formations impact our daily lives.

This supporting theme will interpret the changing geology of southern California. From plate tectonics processes that continue over millennia to earthquakes that last seconds, geology strongly influences our day-to-day decisions as individuals and as a society.

**Supporting Theme:** Petroleum production is both a natural and a man-made process.

The Baldwin Hills contain a variety of geologic features that created the oil reserves. This theme will investigate the formation, extraction and refining of oil and the manufacture of petroleum products. The finite quantity of the resource and the need to conserve energy should be primary elements of this theme.

**Supporting Theme:** The geography has shaped human habitation of this region.

This theme will interpret the enormous variety of environmental factors and patterns as they affect the human community. The quality of our life styles is closely related to the quality of the environment in which we live.

**Primary Theme: Great parks are a part of healthy communities.**

**Supporting Theme:** Parks provide for healthy vibrant communities.



Parks such as this offer a refuge from the intensity of our city pressures. They provide places for renewal and refuge. They offer opportunities for personal fitness and social gathering. By interpreting the value of such a park we reinforce the need to fulfill the vision and associate the effort with the great community building efforts of the past and can share the vision that this park can continue to provide a refuge for the people of the Los Angeles area.

**Supporting Theme:** This theme will discuss what it takes to make a park, concept through completion. A focus on KHSRA is essential in making this theme relevant to the visitors. Process, funding, partnering and politics all play a role in the development of a park and should be included in the story covering this theme. All of the partners should be prominently acknowledged.

## **INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS**

The interpretive facilities, programs, and media that will convey this information are described in the following guidelines. These guidelines are presented for application of the unitwide goals and interpretive themes presented in the previous section.

### **Goals**

- To acquaint the public with the park's rich cultural history and the natural resources found in KHSRA;
- To inspire the public to protect and preserve the park resources;
- To acquire additional open space lands in proximity to the park; and,
- To create additional outdoor exhibit panels within the park.

### **INTERPRETIVE PANELS**

Interpretive panels are needed at various locations throughout the park to describe the site's rich cultural and natural heritage.

### **PROGRAMS**

School programs and guided walks are currently offered at KHSRA. These programs are coordinated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. These programs should be expanded to encourage use of the park by a diverse audience. Introducing a variety of guided walk topics and interpretive opportunities can serve to attract groups with diverse interests. Possible future programs could include docents serving as roving interpreters, docents hosting an interpretive station, and docents offering a weekend booth with hands-on activities and information. Special events focusing on living history, geology, or other topics could attract visitors to interpretive activities. Park staff should encourage minority and urban communities to participate in school programs and public programs. A variety of programs could be offered to

park visitors including nature walks, history programs and bike rides. School group programs would be offered on the rich natural and cultural history of the park.

### ***VISITOR, INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATION CENTERS***

Two visitor, interpretive and education centers will provide visitor services in the eastern and western portions of the park, respectively. One center is housed in an existing facility, while the second would require construction of a new structure on the Vista Pacific Scenic Site.

State-of-the-art visitor-serving facilities are planned for the northwest side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This visitor and educational center will be designed to take advantage of the spectacular views from this location of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding mountains. The facility is envisioned as a multi-level structure(s) built into the hillside, with a dramatic overlook terrace. Exhibit space, multi-purpose rooms, an auditorium, restrooms, restaurant and administration offices are proposed for these facilities, which will serve as a destination and departure point for hikers and bicyclists using the park's trail system. Access to these facilities at Vista Pacifica from outside the park could be provided from Jefferson Boulevard via Hetzler Road. In the future, access to this area by tram or funicular from a parking facility located at street level along Jefferson Boulevard could occur if suitable land acquisition by the state is possible. Parking on the hill should be limited due to the steepness of the site and to preserve habitat restoration areas and view corridors.

On the east side of the park, the existing visitor and education center along the entry drive to KHSRA at the north end of the fishing lake is proposed to be retained, expanded, or relocated within an appropriate area. The center is located adjacent to a restored natural habitat area and includes interpretive information on the natural history of the site.

### ***SCULPTURE GARDENS***

A portion of the former reservoir site on the eastern ridge of the park could be used for a future sculpture garden. The garden is envisioned as a passive recreation area providing a unique setting for large-scale land art or other media. A trail located along the rim of the existing space could be retained with additional buffer planting of native species located between the sculpture garden and the adjacent neighborhood.

### ***UNITWIDE COLLECTIONS***

The Department acquires and maintains collections for several reasons. First, to preserve elements of the natural and cultural environment original to the park; second, to document the people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose; and third, to support the interpretation of themes that are important to the park. The collection of both natural and cultural artifacts of the park will be considered only as they fulfill these criteria.

The Department has a legal and ethical mandate to obtain only collections for which it can provide professional curatorial management. Therefore, collections obtained or housed at the park will be obtained and maintained as directed by Departmental Collections Management Standards outlined in the Department Operations Manual (DOM).

- Natural history specimens will be preserved when necessary to document the natural history of the park.
- Architectural elements and other materials original to the park or used in its historic structures will be preserved when necessary to document the history of the park and its historic structures.
- Herbaria specimens will be preserved to document the natural history of the park.
- The Department will establish safe and secure spaces for storage and display of park collections.

#### **Scope of Collections Statement**

Museum collections will play a minor role at the park. At present some copies of historic photos of the area are kept at the existing Visitor Center. This collection will be maintained, and additional collections may be acquired, to:

- Retain elements of the real property such as archeological and paleontological materials removed from the site;
- Retrieve objects that were used historically at the site such as lumbering tools, railroad artifacts, or other historic items; and,
- Document the park's natural history.

#### *Guidelines:*

- The Scope of Collections Statement will be updated as necessary. Museum collections will be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Department Operation Manual (DOM) Chapter 2000 Museum Collections Management.

### **UNITWIDE VISITOR USE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

It is recognized that any recreational use produces at least some impact, and that the Department needs to manage impacts related to visitor use. Also recognized is the importance of providing and maintaining diversity in resource features and conditions of the park. To ensure that implementation of the General Plan Amendment protects resources and visitor experience, a consistent set of mitigation measures would be applied to actions that result from or are guided by The Plan. The Department would prepare appropriate environmental review (i.e., CEQA, the

National Historic Preservation Act, and other relevant legislation) for these future actions. As part of the environmental review, the Department would avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts when practicable.

## RECREATION CARRYING CAPACITY

Public Resources Code Sections 5001.96 and 5019.5 state that the land carrying capacity shall be determined before any park development plan is adopted, and that attendance at State Park System units shall be held within the limits established by this capacity. A definition of carrying capacity by the code, however, is not provided. The carrying capacity of land is developed by evaluating the interaction between land uses and natural systems and determining how these interactions will affect, over time, the integrity and sustainability of the land. Maximum capacity is the point where land regeneration is exceeded by demands made on natural systems and there is resulting degradation or destruction of the systems. Carrying capacity not only relates to the environmental resources of an area but also the quality of the visitor experience. In terms of park and recreation planning, carrying capacity may be extended in meaning to suggest that no cumulative net losses will be permitted to occur in any of the resource values of a unit (natural, cultural, aesthetic, or recreational) due to human use (activities or facility development). However seemingly insignificant, effects have a permanent impact on resource values. Therefore the intent of the Public Resource Code is to avoid degradation of resource-based park systems. The great variety of factors involved in damage to natural resources and the complexity of the interactions among the factors creates difficulties in establishing a carrying capacity number. Attendance, individual or group usage, time, and types and patterns of recreational use all contribute to the impact on resource systems. To aid in impact minimization, management can regulate capacity limits, regulate land use, enact mitigation measures, educate and interpret for the public, and ensure proper design. Determination of resource location and significance allows management to create future guidelines for public use of a park and access to it.

Adaptive management is a tool to address user capacities and is included in this plan. Adaptive management is an ongoing, iterative process of determining desired conditions, selecting and monitoring indicators and standards that reflect these desired conditions, and taking management action when the desired conditions are not being realized. The four key elements of adaptive management include: (1) determination of desired conditions; (2) selection of indicators and standards that reflect the desired conditions; (3) monitoring of the indicators and standards; and (4) implementation of management action when the desired conditions are violated or when conditions are deteriorating and preventive measures are available. Together, these elements help park managers make decisions about visitor use and resource protection.

Adaptive management is a decision-making framework but does not diminish management's role in decision-making; in fact, management must make crucial decisions in determining desired conditions, choosing appropriate management actions, and assessing occasional overlap between protecting park resources and providing for desired visitor experiences. The following outlines the Adaptive Management Program for the park.

**Goal: The Department should develop a park-specific adaptive management program to evaluate the recreational carrying capacity of the park.**

### ***DESIRED CONDITIONS***

Adaptive management relies on the concept of desired conditions, which are contained in the Management Zone descriptions and identify how different areas within the park will be managed. Each Management Zone prescribes a set of desired resource conditions, desired visitor experiences, and types and levels of uses.

### ***INDICATORS AND STANDARDS***

A major premise of adaptive management is that desired conditions, which are qualitative in nature, can be represented using quantitative indicators and standards. Indicators and standards reflect desired conditions and enable park management to determine whether or not the desired conditions are being realized. "Indicators," which are variables, are determined first; "standards" are the acceptable measurements (i.e., values) for the indicators. Specific indicators and standards are developed for the desired conditions for each combination of management emphasis and ecological type. Resource indicators measure impacts to the cultural, biological, and/or physical resources from visitor use. Social indicators measure impacts to the visitor experience caused by interactions with other visitors. Indicators should be specific, objective, quantifiable, reliable, related, responsive, nondestructive, and sensitive to visitor use. Standards should be quantitative, measurable, and feasible.

### ***MONITORING***

Detailed monitoring protocols will be developed for each standard to ensure accurate, valid data. Monitoring will begin as soon as a standard is selected and a monitoring protocol is developed.

### ***MANAGEMENT ACTIONS***

If monitoring revealed that a standard associated with an indicator were being violated, then desired conditions would not have been realized and management action would be initiated. Management action could determine that the violation of the standard was caused by natural variation and that the standard needed to be adjusted, or a new indicator and standard selected, to better reflect desired conditions. Actions to manage or limit visitor use would be implemented when the standard was violated due to impacts associated with visitor use. Management actions could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Site management (e.g., facility design, barriers, site hardening, area/facility closure, redirection of visitors to suitable sites);
- Regulation (e.g., the number of people, the location or time of visits, permitted activities, or allowable equipment);

- Enforcement of regulations (e.g., patrols, notification, citations);
- Education (e.g., information signs and exhibits, interpretive programs, visitor center exhibits, brochures and fliers, public meetings, meetings with user groups); and,
- Altering access (e.g., parking in proximity to sensitive resources, bike access, etc.).

Management action would comply with the requirements of CEQA and other applicable legislation.

### ***EXISTING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS***

There are a number of policies and ongoing management actions that address user capacities and protect the resources of the park. These policies and management actions will continue and may be modified while the adaptive management program is being implemented.

### ***WHAT THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS NOT***

It is worth noting what the adaptive management program will not do.

- The adaptive management program does not specify the total number of visitors that the park, as a whole, can accommodate at one time. Such an aggregate figure would mask problems at “hot spots” and would not provide managers with useful guidance for addressing use-related problems.
- As a framework for addressing carrying capacity, the adaptive management program is not driven by the capacity of existing infrastructure. Expanding or constructing facilities does not necessarily mitigate visitor use impacts to visitor experience or resources.
- The adaptive management program does not address impacts that do not result directly from visitor use. Impacts from park operations and management activities (e.g., exotic pest management), natural variability (e.g., flooding), development (e.g., construction, demolition), and other causes not directly associated with visitor activities are managed through other methods.
- The adaptive management program is not static. Visitor use patterns, desired visitor experiences, and resource conditions change with time. The adaptive management program is an iterative process of monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment.

### **ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY**

Allowable use intensity correlates the significance, sensitivities, and constraints of the unit’s resources with an allowable degree of human use. These uses may be defined by human activities and/or development of facilities. Allowable use intensity designations consider past, present, and future uses, and are used as planning tools in assessing the appropriateness of future proposals.

Management Zones, described above, include allowable use intensities for specific areas of the park, including future desired resource conditions, visitor activities, and facilities. Allowable use intensities contained in the Management Zones provide guidance on how individual areas will be managed.

## **AREA GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

Management areas for KHSRA are designed to address the wide array of distinct park, recreational and open space uses proposed for the park and the specific needs of different land use types. All Specific Management Areas will adhere to the appropriate goals and guidelines outlined above and with the Department of State Parks and Recreation's guidelines for management of natural and cultural resources. Presented below are guidelines developed for specific areas and/or Management Zones designated for the park.

### ***LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD PARK ENTRANCE, VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTER, NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA***

The park entrance off of La Cienega Boulevard will remain one of the primary entry points into the park and will introduce park visitors to the wealth of natural resources of the Baldwin Hills, provide trail maps and information on the range of cultural and recreational activities available, current events and education programs. This park entrance should immediately impart a sense of the natural oasis and native habitat that make the Baldwin Hills such a unique and special place. The Visitor Center will provide interpretive exhibits, and presentations to present up-to-date information and orientation to KHSRA to park visitors. This entrance should be part of the public transit linkage. Public parking should be provided, and the feasibility of a park shuttle/train system to provide access within the park should be evaluated.

The north central valley area will be managed to provide a high-quality, easily accessible park experience to visitors, including convenient parking for the fishing lake, picnic sites, Lotus Pond, playground and small-scale community center that can be used for small group meetings. As the main landscaped area that most park visitors, who come to the Visitor/Education Center, Botanic Gardens/Olympic Forest, or Sculpture Gardens will see, this area shall be sensitively designed to set an overall theme for the planted, non-habitat areas of the park.

### ***VISTA PACIFICA SCENIC SITE, VISITOR CENTER AND BALLONA CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION MANAGEMENT AREA***

As the most spectacular view site in urban Los Angeles as well as in KHSRA, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site provides visitors with a unique high-quality experience that emphasizes the views and restored natural habitat of this hilltop. This includes observation areas to showcase sweeping vistas from the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, walking and sitting areas and appropriately designed visitor-serving facilities, including a visitor center and restaurant that are sensitive to this special site. All site design will first protect views and accommodate habitat restoration and long-term habitat management needs and will be built to the

highest standard of environmentally sound design, energy efficiency and site compatibility. Public parking should be located near the base of the hill and will be located and screened to protect the viewshed. The possibility of a tram or funicular from a lower parking lot will be examined. Appropriate accommodations would be made for persons with disabilities and emergency access.

Footpath and bicycle trail connections to the Ballona Creek Trail will be provided. A land bridge from the lower area of the site over Jefferson Boulevard will be investigated. Footpaths and paved trails could ultimately connect the Vista Pacifica Site to the eastern ridgeline and the rest of the park.

### ***OLD RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT AREA***

The Old Reservoir area will continue to be managed in a passive recreational mode. The area could be used to create a quality outdoor sculpture and park experience, with carefully designed and coordinated landscaping, walking paths and signage. In selecting sculpture, coordination with local art museums and community art centers will be encouraged. Native vegetation should be planted in the northern portion to screen the houses from visitor use, reduce fire hazard, and better connect native habitat areas. Park maintenance facilities, service and storage yards, and nursery will remain in this management area.

### ***FIVE POINTS AND TRAILS CONNECTION MANAGEMENT AREA***

This area provides access to trails in the Ridgeline Management Area and potential connections to bicycle trails, footpaths, pedestrian walkways and other local parks. These include the Stocker Street Trail, pedestrian walkways along La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive, Norman O. Houston Park and Jim Gilliam Park.

### ***EASTERN RIDGELINE MANAGEMENT AREA***

This area consists of all of the eastern ridgeline and canyons on both sides of the ridgeline, and is bordered by La Brea Avenue, the neighborhoods of Baldwin Hills and Baldwin Vista, and Five Points. This area will be managed to protect natural habitat, scenic views and appropriate public access and to provide necessary buffers between visitor-serving uses and surrounding neighborhoods. Management will maximize the viability of existing natural habitat, as well as habitat being restored to a natural condition, and protect the connections between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas will be of highest priority. Location of trailheads, footpaths, service roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas, to maximize views from the ridgeline and to provide trail loop alternatives.

Landscaping in the natural habitat areas will be with plants native to Southern California. Irrigation will be designed to protect native habitat and will be used only where necessary for restoration efforts for picnic areas, and where runoff does not impact natural habitat areas. Other



designated open space in this area will be transitional landscape and will be landscaped primarily, although not exclusively, with native vegetation. These open space areas serve as a transition between native habitat areas and active recreation or more intensively developed park areas. Established picnic sites and playground areas are on the edges of the habitat areas and on grassy areas in this open space area.

### **ACQUISITIONS**

If the opportunity arises to purchase adjacent properties, acquisition of the properties will be considered. Park expansion will create buffer zones between the park and surrounding environments, additional parking options, and provide connections to adjacent properties allowing for trail and habitat corridor systems.

**Goal: Acquire properties adjacent to boundaries that are beneficial for increased parking, day use activities, trail connections, and habitat corridors**

### **ISSUE RESOLUTION**

There are a number of issues and planning efforts that require attention beyond the scope of this General Plan Amendment. Many goals and guidelines of the Plan Section provide direction for each issue. Some of these goals and guidelines recommend future planning efforts, including management plans and studies.

The General Plan identifies the following issues to be resolved in future planning and compliance documents:

- Park Access Points – Resolve park road and boundary access problems through detailed site planning, coordination with local agencies, and facility implementation. Solutions to access problems may require additional property acquisitions.
- Appropriate Recreational Uses – Provide quality recreational activities and public-use facilities without compromising resource integrity.
- Accessible Parking – Provide adequate parking at each designated access point, which conforms to various accessibility levels. Solutions to parking problems may require parking plans and studies, as well as additional property acquisitions.

The General Plan recommends that the following planning efforts and studies be undertaken.

- Congestion Management Plan;
- Collection of information and monitoring of the health and function of core areas and biocorridors;

- Management plans, studies, and updates to the park's Unit Data File as necessary to meet vegetation management guidelines, including a Resource Management Plan;
- Collection of information regarding sensitive species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park;
- Management programs to monitor and control non-native pests;
- Management programs to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats;
- Trail management plan; and,
- Adaptive management program to evaluate visitor-related carrying capacity.