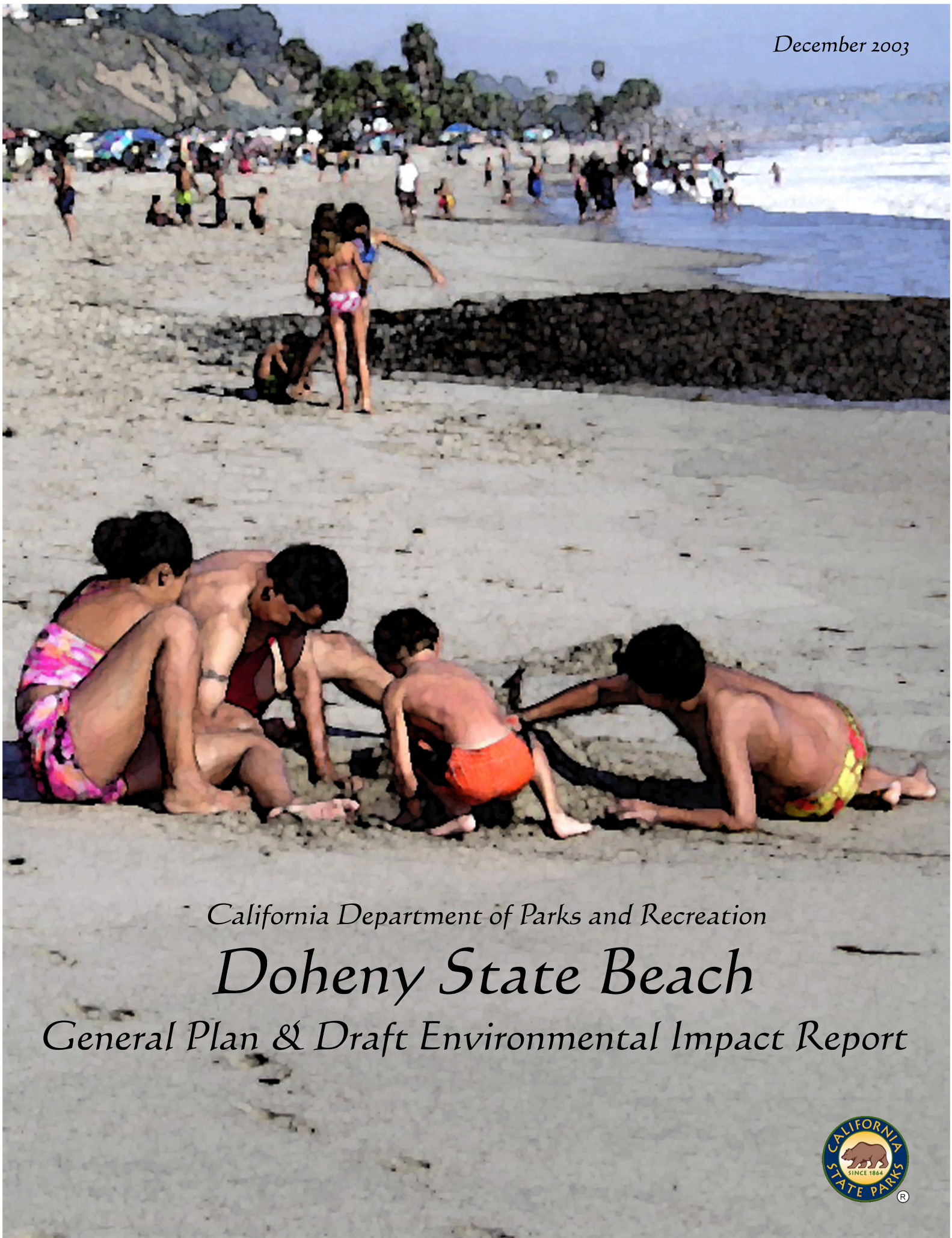


December 2003



California Department of Parks and Recreation

Doheny State Beach

General Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Report





DOHENY STATE BEACH

Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

The existing *Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Doheny State Beach* was adopted in 1972 and amended in 1982. This *Doheny State Beach General Plan* replaces these documents and serves as a framework to guide the park’s day-to-day decisions on park operations and improvements. It also serves as the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which assesses the existing environmental conditions at the park and identifies measures to preserve, restore, and manage the park’s environmental resources in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PARK

The 86-acre Doheny State Beach (Doheny SB) is located in southern Orange County within the city of Dana Point at 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive. It is bounded by Pacific Coast Highway (State Highway 1) and Coast Highway on the northeast, and by the Pacific Ocean on the southwest (Maps 1 and 2). The park provides 1.2 miles of sandy beach, picnic areas, campground, and a visitor center with aquariums.

Doheny SB is a State Recreation Unit of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) and is further classified as a State Beach pursuant to Section 5019.56(c) of the California Public Resources Code (PRC). Under this classification State Beaches are defined as “consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities.” PRC Section 5019.53 further provides for camping as a permitted activity at State Beaches and also states: “Improvements that do not directly enhance the public’s enjoyment of the natural, scenic, cultural, or ecological values of the resource, which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken within state parks.”

1.1.1 Spirit of Place

While the turmoil of the busy world passes by on Pacific Coast Highway, park visitors take no notice as they busy themselves with picnics or camp breakfasts, getting in the lineup for the next wave or playing on the volleyball court, watching the thrill on a child’s face while scampering away from a wave, or simply relaxing in the warm California sun. Doheny State Beach is a recreational mosaic and more. It is also a place of natural wonder and historic lore waiting to be discovered at the Visitor Center with its fascinating revelations about sea creatures; the historic saga of Native American settlements, missionaries, pirates, trading ships, soldiers, and adventurers; stories of the more recent past involving commercial empires, scandal, and national renewal during the Great Depression;

and the idyllic tales from the 1950s of the early California surf culture, the Beach Boys, and “Killer Dana.”

1.1.2 Environmental Setting

Doheny SB is located in an urbanized area of Dana Point. Retail shops and stores, restaurants, hotels, and other primarily visitor-serving commercial uses are located adjacent to the State Beach. Dana Point Harbor at the northwest end of the State Beach provides recreational boating, sportfishing, whale watching trips, and marina facilities. Service commercial, equipment storage and maintenance, and industrial uses are also located nearby on the west side of Doheny Park Road, north of Pacific Coast Highway.

The environmental conditions at Doheny SB are closely linked to Dana Point, the Harbor, and the urban communities of Orange County. Many of the challenges faced by park staff in maintaining a high quality and safe beach environment can be attributed to continued growth in Orange County. In 1970, when the northern day use area at the park was last significantly upgraded, the population of Orange County was 1,420,000. By 2000, the population in Orange County had doubled to 2,846,000, with most of this growth occurring in the southern Orange County communities of Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Dana Point.

This local population growth has created increased demand for access to developed coastal parklands such as Doheny SB, and at the same time has reduced the quality of the coastal area due to traffic congestion, water pollution from street runoff, and other adverse environmental and social characteristics of modern urban life. Located in a heavily populated and well-traveled urban setting, the park is subject to outside stresses that challenge the ability of park staff to maintain a high-quality park visitor experience. At times, the park is used to the limits of its capacity to serve all visitors who seek its pleasures.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS GENERAL PLAN

1.2.1 General Plans and the State Park Planning Process

General plans are broad-based policy documents that provide management guidelines for a park by defining a framework for implementing diverse missions of resource stewardship, interpretation, and visitor use and services. By legal mandate, every State Park in California must develop a general plan. The plan defines the purpose, vision, and long-term goals and guidelines for the management of the park. A general plan is not a project-specific document and typically does not define specific objectives, methodologies, and designs on how to accomplish its goals.

General planning provides opportunities to assess the park’s resource stewardship, facility development and management, and interpretation to the

public. It provides guidelines for future land use management and designation, including land acquisition and the facilities required to accommodate expected increased visitation.

The general plan provides a comprehensive framework that guides the park's developments, ongoing management, and public use for the next 20 years or more. Because it is in effect for so long, the plan must remain consistent in its vision for the park's future, general in its scope, and flexible in its proposed approaches for solving future management problems.

Major programs and projects that will be implemented during the lifespan of the general plan will require additional planning. Future planning efforts may include the preparation of specific Management Plans or Specific Project Plans to address specific park areas or facilities; resource protection or interpretive projects; or other park programs, goals, or issue evaluations.

Future planning efforts also include the preparation of project-specific environmental compliance documents for implementation of management plans and subsequent development projects. These documents should tier off and be consistent with the general plan's Program EIR. Securing any permits required for future implementation projects would also be part of subsequent planning actions.

Finally, the general plan may need to be amended if any new acquisitions are added to the existing park or if any other circumstances make parts of the plan no longer relevant or feasible. All general plans have an amendment/revision process built into them, allowing the plans to be flexible if new situations arise.

1.2.2 Public Involvement

Public input is an important component of the general planning process. It is sought at the very beginning and throughout the planning process for a variety of reasons. State Parks are managed for recreational opportunity and use by the people of California. Constituency building is needed to ensure the public's support for their local parks. A variety of methods, such as public meetings, user surveys, and interviews, were used to identify stakeholders of the park and general plan and to identify their needs and concerns for its future.

Local residents and stakeholders as well as specific user groups may also be able to provide important information about the park that is not common knowledge and not contained in the Unit Data File.

Preparation of the Doheny State Beach General Plan was conducted through a public process that involved a public workshop, public viewing of plan concepts and alternatives, and a public comment period on the General Plan and EIR.

Public Workshop No. 1

The first public scoping meeting for the Doheny State Beach General Plan Update was held on March 25, 2003, at the Dana Point Community Center. A newsletter with a meeting notice and survey form was also mailed to local agencies, organizations, and individuals, including persons who had responded in past surveys. Both written and verbal comments were received at the meeting, which was attended by approximately 25 people. A total of 30 individuals provided comments in writing either at the meeting or by return mail. Typical comments included the following: the Visitor Center is too small; more permanent restrooms are needed in the South Day Use Area; and the campground needs electrical hookups, more and larger campsites, and a group camp facility. Concerns with water pollution and improved bike and pedestrian access were also expressed. Further discussion of public concerns and comments is provided in Section 2.4.

Public Workshop No. 2/Public Comment Period

[To Be Provided at end of Public Comment Period]

1.3 CONTENTS OF THE GENERAL PLAN

1.3.1 Existing Conditions

Chapter 2 of this General Plan describes the current physical and social conditions of the park. This includes information on land use; significant physical, biotic, cultural, aesthetic, and recreations values; and existing facilities. The existing conditions section also lists system-wide and regional planning influences affecting the park, describes its demographic resident and visitor profile, and lists issues to be addressed in the general plan that have been identified during the early phases of the planning process. Input for the existing conditions section has been gathered through a variety of sources including review of the Unit Data File; review of other applicable technical documents; review of local and regional applicable planning documents; database searches; fieldwork; contact with agencies and other knowledgeable individuals; and user surveys and public meetings.

1.3.2 Park Plan

Park development and management goals and guidelines are provided in Chapter 3. Included are statements of the park's purpose and vision, and descriptions of measures that are recommended to protect and enhance the park's natural resources and visitor-serving facilities. The General Plan recommends maintaining and improving the park's existing facilities; no major changes to the types of uses currently existing at the park are proposed. Chapter 3 also includes management plans, specific project plans, and alternatives for future park improvements that are recommended to implement the general plan.

1.3.3 Program Environmental Impact Report

The Environmental Analysis section in Chapter 4 of this General Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 15166 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations). Together with the description of Existing Conditions and Issues in Chapter 2, the environmental analysis addresses all the points required for an EIR per Article 9 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The purpose of the Program EIR is to analyze and disclose the preferred alternative's effects on the environment. It discloses any significant and potentially significant effects that may result from the implementation of this General Plan, mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects, and level of significance after mitigation. The EIR informs decision makers and the public about the environmental consequences of the adoption of the General Plan, consistent with the requirements of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines.

The environmental review in this General Plan is considered a "first tier" EIR as described in Section 15152 of the CEQA Guidelines. The tiering concept enables later environmental evaluation by an EIR or Negative Declaration for projects that implement the General Plan. Environmental review of these implementing projects can be limited to examining the significant effects that were not examined in this EIR. This approach recognizes that not all effects can be mitigated at the time of adoption of a general plan and permits deferral of mitigation to the later EIR or Negative Declaration when specific details of implementing projects are known. In accordance with Section 15152, the environmental analysis in this General Plan evaluates "all reasonably foreseeable significant environmental effects" of the general plan project. Because the EIR prepared for the General Plan is programmatic in scope, it does not contain project-specific analysis for any of the projects recommended in the General Plan. Specific projects will undergo subsequent CEQA review in the future as described below.

1.3.4 Subsequent Planning Actions

Implementation of the Doheny State Beach General Plan will be carried out through future plans, projects, and programs designed to enhance visitor enjoyment, resource management, and public safety. The intent of the General Plan is to provide broad guidance for these actions through adoption of goals, guidelines, and objectives, but not to prescribe specific measures or timelines for fulfilling these goals. Input from park staff, public workshops, and analyses of existing environmental conditions have identified improvements and concerns that are identified in this document. Actions to improve these conditions will be further detailed by focused management plans, specific project plans, and environmental monitoring programs, as well as funding considerations inherent in management of State Park System lands.

Management Plans

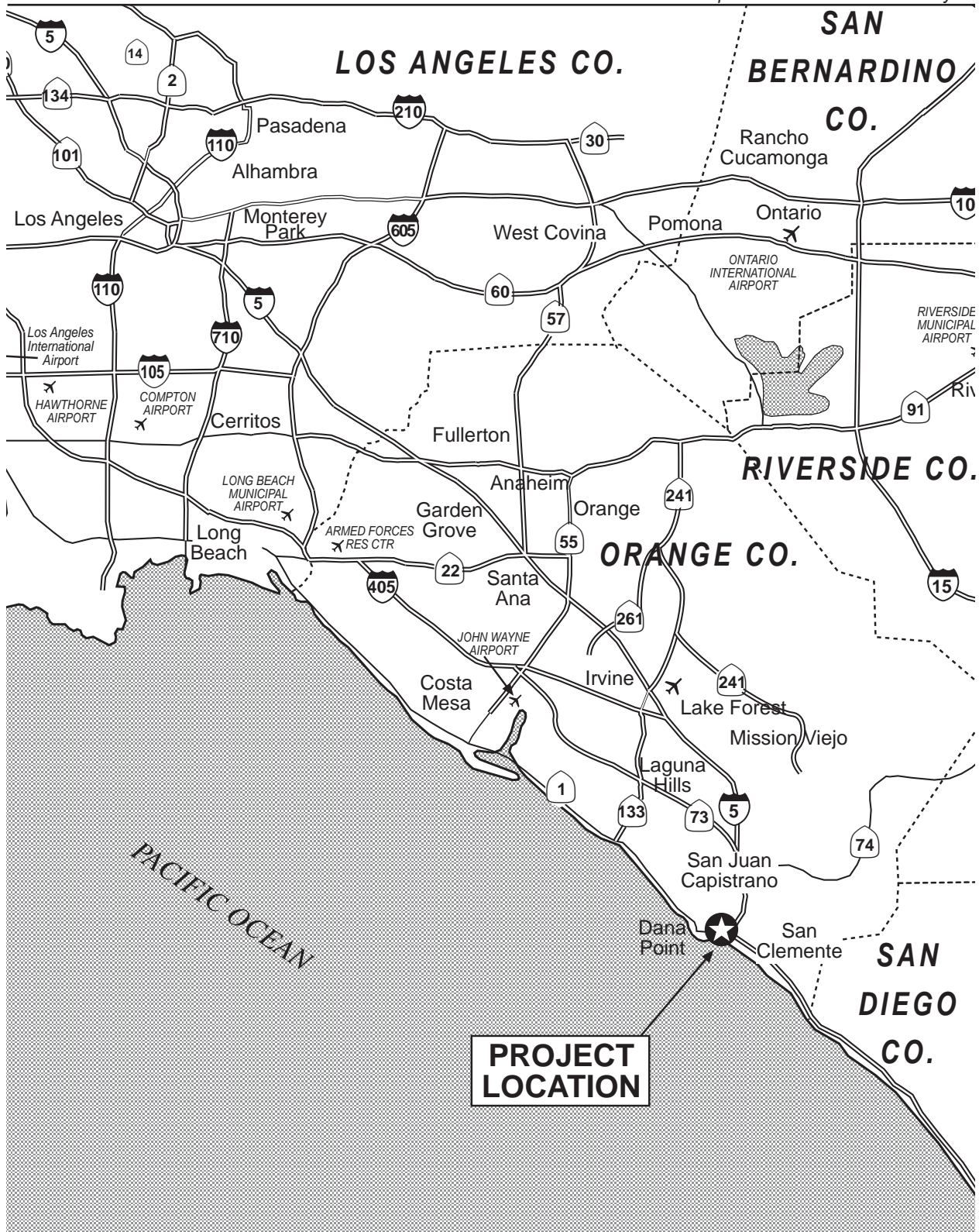
Management plans define the specific objectives, methodologies, and/or designs needed to accomplish park management goals. These occur on an as-needed basis and are typically focused on specific management topics, goals, or issues.

Specific Project Plans

Specific project plans are the detailed implementation plans needed to accomplish specific projects or management plans.

Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs

Park-specific monitoring plans are prepared to assess the status and condition of a park's vital resources and the effectiveness of management actions. The plans describe the important components of a park that need to be monitored with respect to stated management goals, priorities, and issues. They also specify what, how, and when to inventory, monitor, and assess each park resource.

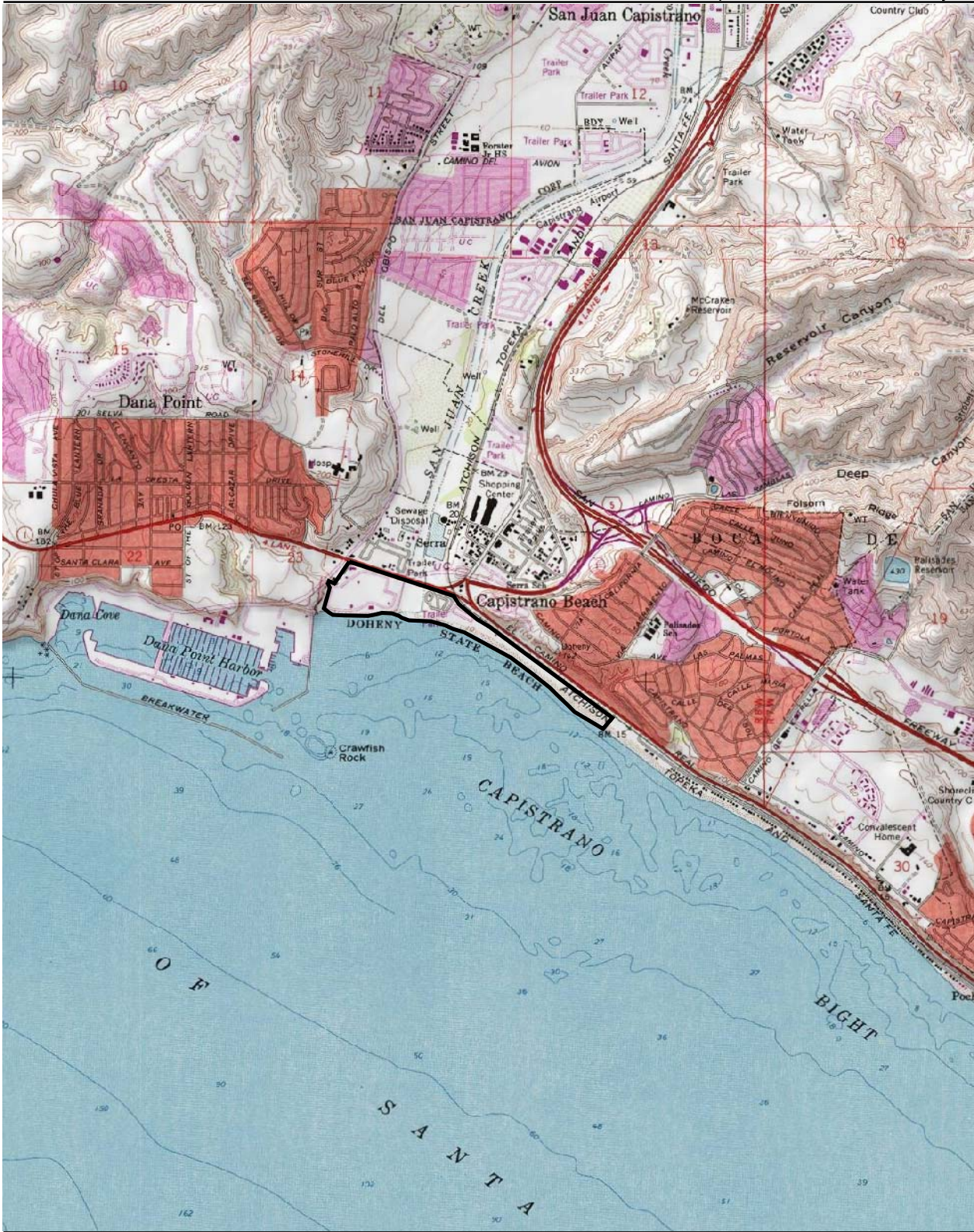


No Scale



PROJECT LOCATION

Map 1
Regional Location Map



Source: USGS, TOPOI; Dana Point and San Juan Capistrano Quads



3000 0 3000 Feet
 Scale: 1: 36,000; 1 inch = 3000 feet

 Project Site

Map 2
 Vicinity Map

Chapter 2 – Existing Conditions and Issues

2.1 SUMMARY OF PARK CONDITIONS AND RESOURCES

Doheny SB provides the public with access to over a mile of sandy beachfront and the opportunity to enjoy surfing, volleyball, swimming, sunbathing, beachcombing, fishing, biking and skating, or a family picnic or campfire. In addition, the park offers educational opportunities at the park's local marine life and natural history exhibits, and bird watching at the lagoon. Its location in a heavily populated and well-traveled urban area, presents challenges to park staff's efforts to maintain a high quality park visitor experience. This section summarizes existing conditions within the park and its larger environmental setting, identifies park issues, and serves as a basis for preparing goals and guidelines for future park improvements.

The 86-acre Doheny SB has been a State Park since 1931 and is located in Dana Point at 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive. It is bounded by Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway on the northeast, and by the Pacific Ocean on the southwest. Dana Point Harbor adjoins the park on the northwest and Capistrano Beach County Park is adjacent to the southeast. San Juan Creek flows through the park to the ocean and a small estuary is located within the park at the mouth of the river.

The creation of Doheny SB began with the 1931 donation by Edward Lawrence Doheny of 17 acres along Capistrano Beach to the State of California. The State developed the area for recreational purposes, including fishing, camping, and beach activities. During the 1930s, "New Deal" programs under the Roosevelt Administration led to creation of 27 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in California State Park units, including one at San Clemente State Beach, approximately 5.5 miles south of Doheny SB. By 1940, enrollees at the San Clemente CCC Camp had constructed picnic areas, campgrounds, parking, and a custodian's lodge at Doheny SB. Two features of the CCC work remain at the park today - a plastered and tiled adobe entryway along Coast Highway and the feature known as Thor's Hammer at the end of the breakwater.

The park is divided into three visitor use areas. The area northwest of the creek provides a day use picnic area with parking for approximately 700 cars, large turfed areas, picnic tables, restrooms and showers, beach, and the main lifeguard tower. A Visitor Center with aquariums and a simulated tide pool, park administrative offices, and a maintenance area are also located in this northwest portion of the park. A campground with 120 spaces for tent or recreational vehicle (RV) camping is located adjacent to the beach just southeast of San Juan Creek. Farther southeast (downcoast) is another day use beach area with approximately 567 parking spaces, 2 restroom buildings and chemical toilets,

beach showers, fire rings, and seasonal lifeguard towers. The existing park use areas and facilities are shown on Map 3.

The earliest visitor facilities at the park were developed in the mid-1930s, primarily through efforts of the CCC. Improvements and facilities were added over the years and, between the late 1960's and 1970, the North Day Use Area was significantly upgraded. The existing *Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Doheny State Beach* was adopted in 1972 and amended in 1982. The 1972 General Development Plan included a redesign of the existing campground and proposed an additional 235 campsites at the downcoast end of the park. A visitor center was also included in the 1972 plan, as well as general landscape and utility improvements. The additional campsites at the downcoast end were not developed following adoption of the 1972 plan and this area continued in use as a 100-space "temporary" campground. The 1982 plan amendment changed the designation of the downcoast area from camping to day use and proposed 450 parking spaces and new permanent restrooms. Camping is no longer permitted in the South Day Use Area.

2.1.1 Local and Regional Context

Doheny SB is located in an urbanized area of Dana Point, which became an incorporated city on January 1, 1989. Dana Point is primarily a residential and visitor-serving community, with very limited areas of industrial uses or employment centers. Lodging, restaurants, and retail stores provide the largest share of jobs in the city. Retail shops and stores, restaurants, hotels, and other primarily visitor-serving commercial uses are located adjacent to the State Beach along Pacific Coast Highway, Coast Highway, and Dana Point Harbor Drive. Almost no vacant properties exist near the park with the exception of a former motel site adjacent to the park at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Dana Point Harbor Drive.

Adjacent to the northwest end of Doheny SB is Dana Point Harbor, which provides recreational boating, sportfishing, whale watching trips, and marina facilities, as well as a hotel, shops, and restaurants. The harbor area is administered by the Orange County Department of Harbors, Beaches and Parks and consists of approximately 119 acres of land and 159 acres of water with some 2,500 boat slips. Construction of the Harbor was completed in 1971 and today provides numerous visitor activities and seasonal events. The Ocean Institute is located at the west end of the Harbor and provides a visitor center, classroom and laboratory facilities, and a research vessel and also displays the brig Pilgrim, a full-size replica of the square-rigged vessel on which Richard Henry Dana sailed and described his visit to the rugged cove below the Dana Point Headlands in his book, *Two Years Before the Mast*.

Capistrano Beach County Park is adjacent to Doheny SB at the downcoast end, and Lantern Bay County Park is across Dana Point Harbor Drive at the northwest end of the State Beach. Residential uses are primarily located on the coastal

bluffs above Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway to the north and east. Service commercial, equipment storage and maintenance, and industrial uses are also located nearby on the west side of Doheny Park Road, north of Pacific Coast Highway.

The adjacent roads are heavily traveled on weekdays as well as weekends. Recent traffic counts on local roads show approximately 12,700 average daily trips (ADT) on Dana Point Harbor Drive, 42,000 ADT on Pacific Coast Highway, and 12,700 ADT on Coast Highway. A rail line used for Metrolink commuter service, Amtrak, and freight service is adjacent to the southeasterly park boundary. Bus service to the park is available on Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) routes 1, 70, 85, 91, 187, and 191. The nearest bus stop to the park is on Pacific Coast Highway at Dana Point Harbor Drive and is served by OCTA routes 1, 91, and 187. The nearest Metrolink stops are in San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente.

2.1.2 Significant Resource Values

The park's location in a popular Southern California beach area enables year-round enjoyment of the park with a mild climate and generally good air quality maintained by coastal breezes. The sandy beach allows enjoyment of the park by swimmers, surfers, divers, and sunbathers. The park also provides a variety of natural and educational resources.

Biotic Resources

Environmental resources in the project area are principally represented by the Pacific Ocean and San Juan Creek. In addition, North Creek at the northwesterly end of the park supports riparian habitat in an earthen channel drainage course that serves as an outlet for urban storm drains. The park is fully developed, other than the portions within the creeks, and the beach is fully utilized for recreation, with only a very small remnant of natural coastal dune vegetation at the northwesterly end of the park. The off-shore area along the beach is within the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge as designated by Section 10907 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Doheny SB supports a variety of vegetation communities that provide suitable habitat for several sensitive and nonsensitive plant and animal species. Plant and wildlife surveys were conducted at the park in October 2002. Based on these surveys and research of existing data, sensitive biological resources are known to occur and others have the potential to occur within the park boundary.

Four wetland/riparian vegetation communities that occur within the park are coastal brackish marsh, southern willow scrub, southern sycamore riparian woodland, and mule fat scrub. These four wetland/riparian communities are considered rare and sensitive natural communities by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). A small coastal dune restoration area is protected near North Creek in the North Day Use Area. The remaining areas within the

park consist of developed areas with ornamental landscaping, open water, and beach. The vegetation communities and other biological resources identified within Doheny SB are shown on Map 4. Existing native plants in the park include the California fan palm (*Washingtonia* sp.), western cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana* ssp. *torreyana*), purple sand verbena (*Abronia maritima*), island morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*), and the sensitive sea dahlia (*Coreopsis maritima*). Landscape enhancements at the park include many nonnative ornamentals such as crystalline iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and Australian gum tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). A complete list of identified floral species is provided in Appendix A. In addition, plant species within the park's butterfly garden are listed separately in Appendix B.

Several sensitive plant species are either known to occur or have the potential to occur within the vicinity of Doheny SB. Sensitive plants are those native species that are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the CDFG, or those species considered rare or sensitive by the California Native Plant Society. Only one sensitive plant, thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), is known to have occurred naturally within Doheny SB, but it was not found during the Fall 2002 reconnaissance survey. Through restoration efforts at the park, two sensitive species have been planted, sea dahlia and Torrey pine. Sensitive plant and animal species potentially occurring at Doheny SB or in the local area are listed in Appendix C.

Although Doheny SB contains relatively small areas of natural vegetation, the park provides habitat for a variety of terrestrial wildlife species including insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Based on direct and indirect observations during the wildlife surveys and information obtained from park staff and the South Coast Audubon Society, some 200 terrestrial wildlife species are known within the park. Appendix D contains a list of the wildlife species most commonly found within the park or potentially occurring in the local area.

Wetland/riparian vegetation communities within the park provide habitat and nesting grounds for the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), black-necked stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), among others. The park's developed areas also provide habitat for a variety of species, including the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). The majority of species found within the park, however, rely on the open water and beach habitats. Species that occupy these areas include the California brown sea hare (*Aplysia californica*), sheep crab (*Loxorhynchus grandis*), California sheephead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), Brandt's cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), California

brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), black-bellied plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), western sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), and many other shorebird species.

Sensitive wildlife are those animal species listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or the CDFG, or those species considered sensitive by CDFG. Sensitive wildlife species also include federal migratory nongame birds of management concern and those listed on either the Partners in Flight or the Audubon Society's WatchList. While no sensitive insects or reptiles are known to occupy Doheny SB, 1 amphibian species, 30 bird species, and 1 mammal species found within the park are considered to be sensitive. These species are included in Appendix C.

Aquatic life can be found in several areas of Doheny SB. Within the park, there are two freshwater sources, North Creek and San Juan Creek, both of which contain fish and amphibian species. Additionally, the immediate off-shore area is within the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge, which contains an abundance of sea life. Based on direct and indirect observations during the wildlife surveys and information obtained from park staff, more than 75 aquatic wildlife species are known to occur within the park or the local area. Sensitive aquatic life are those plant and animal species that are listed as threatened or endangered by the USFWS or the CDFG; and those considered sensitive by the CDFG or by the American Fisheries Society. Giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) is known to occur in the local area is considered sensitive. White abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) is another sensitive marine species that historically occurred in deeper local offshore areas and has the potential to occur in adjacent waters. Three freshwater species that could potentially occur within the park are considered to be sensitive: southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*), and tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*). For a complete list of sensitive and nonsensitive aquatic species known to occur within the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge, see Appendix E.

Ecology

Doheny SB is home to a variety of plant and wildlife species, terrestrial and aquatic, that rely on the park and its habitats for survival. Because little natural native vegetation exists in the surrounding areas, the park's diversity of habitats is essential to support the common and sensitive species that occur within the park. Despite human encroachment, Doheny SB is still a thriving ecosystem. With the fragmentation and destruction of many of Southern California's native habitats, locations like Doheny SB are essential for the survival of many plant and wildlife species. Although only a few areas within the park support natural populations of native vegetation, these areas are protected and maintained by park staff as native habitat, such as San Juan Creek, the North Creek restoration project, and the butterfly garden.

Within the areas of native vegetation an abundance of plant and wildlife species can be found. Coastal brackish marsh lines the edges of San Juan Creek and supports species such as the great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, great egret, northern pintail, and white-crowned sparrow. Southern sycamore riparian woodland along North Creek and the northern side of San Juan Creek, is home to species such as common yellowthroat, Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), and house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Mule fat scrub and southern willow scrub also line the banks of San Juan Creek and provide habitat for species such as the Pacific slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), and lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*).

Doheny SB also has beach and open ocean that support a multitude of seabird species like the California brown pelican, black-bellied plover, and spotted sandpiper, among others. Even the developed ornamental landscapes within the park support the red-shouldered hawk, house sparrow, striped skunk, and other wildlife species.

Interpretive Resources and Special Events

Beach activities, family picnics, and camping remain the primary public attraction at Doheny SB. Recreational activities are beach-oriented and include swimming, surfing, windsurfing, fishing, diving, volleyball, and horseshoes. In addition, an active year-round interpretive program provides varied opportunities for community education and visitor activities. The interpretive program is highlighted by the park's tide pool program, which provides an introduction to marine ecology and intertidal habitats. A living re-creation of a tide pool in the Visitor Center is populated with locally collected species and supplemented by five aquariums, each with a different habitat and fish found in local waters. The 500-gallon simulated tide pool is used to teach tide pooling etiquette, ocean pollution issues, and natural habitat preservation. Group programs are frequently provided for school field trips, scout troops, special need groups, and other organizations. The Visitor Center is also open daily for the park's day use visitors and campers at no additional admission fee.

The Visitor Center includes a natural history museum of local wildlife with more than 25 mounted specimens on display. Educational activities are supported by the Doheny Interpretive Association, a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to promote an appreciation for the natural history of Doheny SB. The association coordinates a docent program for park volunteers. An introduction to local wildlife is provided by the varied displays at the Visitor Center, followed by a walk to San Juan Creek for observation with binoculars and bird identification cards. Other programs include a presentation on birds of prey followed by hands-on owl pellet dissection to determine what they eat, and an introduction to cephalopods, followed by dissection of squids. Another popular group activity is the Doheny scavenger hunt for natural objects as well as discarded items and recyclables. Special summer programs include campfire programs at the

campground, nature hikes, a junior ranger program for ages 7 to 12, and a ranger buddies program for ages 4 to 6.

Special events at the park are scheduled throughout the year, many in conjunction with Dana Point Harbor activities such as the Festival of Whales each year in March and local events such as fun runs, Earth Day, beach cleanups, and holiday celebrations. Special activities include the 2-day Doheny Blues Festival in May and Doheny Days Music Festival in September. Surf contests, a “woodie” car show, outrigger canoe race, and Native American celebrations are also held at the park. Special campfire programs are scheduled to coincide with many of these events and for other activities such as grunion runs.

Aesthetic Resources

The park’s location within the historic maritime community of Dana Point and the spectacular natural setting provided by the ocean and Dana Point Headlands define the aesthetic character of Doheny SB. The beach, ocean, harbor, San Juan Creek, and park landscaping represent very high quality visual resources that benefit park visitors as well as local residents, nearby hotel patrons, and travelers on streets and the railroad line adjacent to the park.

Pacific Coast Highway is designated as a Scenic Highway corridor on the Dana Point Circulation Element and a Viewscape Corridor on the Orange County Circulation Element. The city’s Urban Design Element also designates Pacific Coast Highway, Coast Highway, Dana Point Harbor Drive, and Street of the Golden Lantern as Landscape Corridors (City of Dana Point 1995b). The Urban Design Element contains many recommendations for landscape improvements along the street rights-of-way and medians adjacent to the park and for a city entrance feature or landscape focus area at the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Dana Point Harbor Drive. The Element also recommends “a stronger pedestrian linkage and design orientation between the Harbor and Doheny State Beach.”

2.1.3 Existing Park Facilities

North Day Use Area

As stated above, the park is divided into three visitor use areas (see Map 3). The upcoast end of the park is known as the North Day Use Area (though, due to the east-west alignment of the coast in this area, it is actually at the west end of the park) and encompasses approximately 13 acres for day use, parking for approximately 700 cars, and 10 acres of beach. There are two large turfed areas, picnic tables, main park concession facility, restrooms and showers, a swimming and surfing beach, and the main lifeguard tower. The Visitor Center with aquariums and simulated tide pool, a native plant garden and picnic area, and a bird viewing area adjacent to San Juan Creek are also in the North Day Use Area.

The two turfed picnic areas are approximately 3.2 acres and 1.1 acres in size, respectively. There are also two large group picnic sites (Areas A and B) available for reservation that accommodate up to 500 people each. Area A has 19 picnic tables and Area B has 11 picnic tables. Each area has a large fire ring, barbecue grill, sink, counters, cold drink bin, and electrical outlets. A 460-square-foot restroom building is also located adjacent to Areas A and B. An additional 13 group picnic areas may be reserved and can accommodate 25 to 100 people. Facilities provided at these sites are picnic tables and pedestal barbecues, and most also have fire rings. In total, the North Day Use Area provides 170 picnic tables and 99 barbecue grills.

Approximately 1,400 feet of beach frontage, 300 to 400 feet in width, provides some 10 acres of sand for beach activities north of the San Juan Creek jetty. Picnic Areas C and D are on the beach and each provides 6 picnic tables and a fire ring. A palm-covered Beach Palapa is available for special events and 9 sand volleyball courts are on the beach. A 1,620-square-foot restroom building and 2,600-square-foot concessionaire snack bar and beach equipment rental are also located adjacent to the beach in the North Day Use Area. Beach showers and changing rooms are provided. A 225-square-foot main lifeguard tower and 3 portable seasonal lifeguard stations also serve the North Day Use Area.

The 2,000-square-foot Visitor Center contains the aquariums, tide pool exhibit, gift shop, and park administrative offices. The 3,500-square-foot native plant Butterfly Garden is adjacent to the Visitor Center. Park visitors also enjoy the “whale walk” along the beachfront that is painted with life-size illustrations of the gray, blue, humpback, sperm, and minke whales, and an orca. Also located in the North Day Use Area is a one-half acre maintenance facility that provides approximately 3,000 square feet of building space for storage of equipment and supplies and shop space for maintenance services.

Campground

A campground with 120 spaces for tent or RV camping on approximately 8 acres is located adjacent to the beach just south of the creek. No hook-ups are provided, though potable water is available at several locations in the campground and an RV holding tank dump station is provided in the park. Also within the campground are five restroom buildings of 460 square feet each, including two with hot water showers, four beach shower facilities, and a campfire center. The beach in front of the campground extends for approximately 1,000 linear feet and encompasses some 5.4 acres.

South Day Use Area

The South Day Use Area is located downcoast of the campground and encompasses approximately 26 acres, with 3,200 linear feet (19.5 acres) of public beach and 567 parking spaces (6.5 acres). In addition to motor vehicle access from the main park entry, a pedestrian overpass of Coast Highway and the railroad provides access to the beach, and pedestrian/bicycle access is

available on a trail from the southeast. Two 460-square-foot restroom buildings, chemical toilets, and beach showers serve this area. A horseshoe area, volleyball courts, and fire rings are also provided for traditional Southern California beach-oriented activities. Four seasonal lifeguard stations serve the beach area downcoast of San Juan Creek.

Park Concessions

The 2,600-square-foot snack bar also provides beach equipment and bicycle rentals and is the primary park concession. In addition to fees generated by day use and camping, the park also obtains revenue from group activities and special events such as day camps during the summer operated through the City of Dana Point Recreation Division, special events such as the music festivals, and from rental of the large group picnic areas and the beach palapa.

2.1.4 Circulation and Infrastructure

Circulation

Map 5 shows the existing public circulation network serving the park. Pacific Coast Highway and other adjacent roads are heavily traveled on weekdays as well as weekends. Access to the park from Dana Point Harbor Drive is provided by Street of the Park Lantern, which is approximately 550 feet long extending from Dana Point Harbor Drive to the park entrance kiosk. A secondary exit from the park is available to southbound Coast Highway. A short bicycle path (Class I Bikeway) in Capistrano Beach County Park provides access to Doheny SB at the downcoast end, and a regional bicycle path (Class I Bikeway) along the west side of San Juan Creek provides access from areas north of Pacific Coast Highway. A bicycle lane (Class II Bikeway) is located on Dana Point Harbor Drive west of the park entrance and continues along Del Obispo Street northeast of Pacific Coast Highway. Pedestrian access is also provided via the bike paths from the east and north, as well as from the pedestrian bridge over Coast Highway and the railroad at the downcoast end of the park. Pedestrians also access the park from the County parking lot on Dana Point Harbor Drive at the west end of the park.

Paved roads serve all park use areas and parking lots and are generally in good condition and with adequate directional signs for motor vehicle access. The park entrance road also provides a sidewalk and has adequate width for bicycle use, though no special bicycle route signage or striping is provided. While many opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle use exist within the park, in places the pedestrian and bicycle routes are disjointed, additional directional signage would be helpful, and improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed, particularly from the North Day Use Area to the south end of the park. Bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians share the paved promenade along the beachfront which is approximately 20 feet wide, though no special markings or separate lanes are provided. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities around the park on local streets are inadequate in some areas, particularly on Pacific Coast Highway, which results in

high use of park roads for through access by bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians. Map 5 shows existing internal bicycle and pedestrian routes and indicates some areas where improvements are needed.

Utilities and Services

The park is connected to the public water system of the South Coast Water District and is served by a 24-inch line in Doheny Park Road. Onsite, a 4-inch water line serves the park and is minimally adequate, but should be upgraded to a minimum 6-inch line. Sewer service is also provided by the South Coast Water District, which maintains a pump station within the park in the South Day Use Area. The onsite wastewater collection system consists of 6-inch gravity lines in most areas of the park and a force main from the campground to a lift station at the maintenance yard. A 6-inch gravity line connects the lift station to the water district pump station. Offsite, 18- to 22-inch wastewater lines are located in Coast Highway.

The South East Regional Reclamation Authority (SERRA) operates a wastewater treatment plant on the west side of San Juan Creek approximately one-half mile from the park. A 57-inch ocean outfall extends beneath the park on the southeast side of San Juan Creek for a distance of 6,000 feet into the ocean.

The park is also provided electrical service by San Diego Gas and Electric Co., natural gas by Southern California Gas Co., and telephone service by SBC. There are no onsite water or electrical energy production facilities or wastewater disposal systems.

Storm Drainage

Storm drainage in the area is managed by the Orange County Flood Control District. San Juan Creek and North Creek are designated as coastal outfalls. Water quality in both creeks is a significant local problem due to the high concentration of urban pollutants in the storm drain system. Four other coastal outfalls for the local region's drainage system are located in the South Day Use Area.

San Juan Creek drains into the Pacific Ocean at Doheny SB. A beach berm blocks the mouth of the creek most of the time, except when the build-up of water causes it to break through periodically. The degree of periodic tidal exchange has not been studied. Generally, however, from late spring to late fall lower surf and limited storm runoff enable the berm to remain in place. While the berm traps pollutants in runoff within the lagoon, it also serves to reduce the level of pollution in the shoreline areas of the park.

Onsite, approximately 20 existing drains in streets, parking lots, and other paved areas, and 4 in lawns in the North Day Use Area collect runoff and discharge into an outlet on the northwest side of San Juan Creek. In addition, 7 drainage inlets in the bridge over San Juan Creek discharge directly into the creek, and 2 drain

inlets in the campground and access road drain to an outlet on the southeast side of San Juan Creek. It is believed that some of the park's drain inlets may be connected to sewer lines; however, no drainage diversion or bio-filtration systems, pollutant traps, or other regularly maintained structural best management practice (BMP) drainage devices are known to exist in the park. Drains in the campground's potable water basins are connected to the park's wastewater system and do not discharge into San Juan Creek. Map 6 shows the location of drainage inlets and outlets in the Park.

A program to improve the drainage system and San Juan Creek water quality has been underway by the County Flood Control District. A runoff diversion system was installed in North Creek in 2003 that intercepts storm drain low flows before they enter the park, traps and holds debris and larger objects for cleanout, and diverts the runoff to the SERRA wastewater treatment plant.

Emergency Services

The park relies primarily on its park rangers and lifeguard staff for visitor safety and first-provider emergency medical response. Police, fire, and emergency medical care are also provided by the Orange County Sheriffs Department and Orange County Fire Authority. The Sheriffs Department maintains a police services office at Dana Point City Hall and provides a minimum of two patrol units throughout the city at all times. The Orange County Fire Authority operates two stations in Dana Point, as well as stations in San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano to provide fire and emergency medical/paramedic response. The nearest station to the park is at 26111 Victoria Boulevard, which is located east of Doheny Park Road less than 1 mile from the park. The nearest hospital emergency room is at San Clemente Hospital and Medical Center at 654 Camino de Los Mares, which is just north of I-5 approximately 2.7 miles from the park in San Clemente. Another nearby hospital emergency room is at the South Coast Medical Center, approximately 4.8 miles north of the park at 31872 South Coast Highway (State Highway 1) in Laguna Beach. The Orange County Harbor Patrol also responds to off-shore emergencies and boater assistance calls from their station in Dana Point Harbor.

The Dana Point Emergency Services Department maintains the city's Emergency Plan, which provides the framework for responding to major emergencies or disasters, such as from earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis. In addition, because Dana Point and Doheny SB are within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, the Emergency Services Department works with other governmental agencies to develop and maintain integrated emergency plans for response to an incident at the San Onofre facility. Sirens to warn of an emergency incident at San Onofre are located on Coast Highway and other locations near the park. Should these sirens sound, an Emergency Alert System (EAS) message on radio and television would advise action that should be taken. The EAS message might advise that people stay

inside their homes with doors and windows closed, or it might recommend an evacuation, depending on the nature of the emergency.

2.1.5 Park Users

Visitor data since 1990 show that park visitors are increasing at a rate much greater than the increase in the population of Orange County. In 1990, 590,469 visitors to Doheny SB were tallied, including campers, paid day users, and free day users who didn't drive into the park. By 2002, the number had increased to 1,833,838. For 2002, the user groups were as follows: campers - 138,901; daily paid or annual pass holders - 1,233,446; free visitors - 461,491. Thus, park usage increased more than 300 percent over the past 12 years. This compares to an increase in the population of Orange County from 2,410,668 in 1990 to 2,896,130 in 2002; an increase of approximately 20 percent.

Visitor Profile

Doheny SB enjoys a wide variety of visitors and serves as both a local park for Dana Point, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and residents of other southern Orange County communities, as well as a vacation destination for campers from throughout Southern California and more distant areas. The most frequent visitors are surfers who primarily congregate in the North Day Use Area to surf at "boneyards." Many of the surfers and other local beachgoers park at the adjacent Dana Point Harbor parking lot at hourly rates rather than paying the park's day use fee, while making use of the restrooms, showers, and other facilities at Doheny SB. Other local residents and guests at hotels in the area can park on Coast Highway and walk into the park at the downcoast end or via the pedestrian bridge. Other local visitors enjoy the convenience of beachside parking and pay the park's day use fee, particularly on summer weekends and holidays when park users frequently fill up all available parking spaces.

The park is also very popular with a wide variety of community groups for its educational facilities and wildlife. This includes local school field trips, groups from seniors' facilities and organizations, church groups, the South Coast Audubon Society, and members of the Doheny SB Interpretive Association.

The park's picnic facilities are popular with families and groups, including businesses and other organizations, since they can be reserved. Many groups return frequently to enjoy the unique character of the park and its well-developed picnic facilities. In 2002 there were 494 organized groups that visited the park with reservations. The overwhelming majority of these groups were business groups or professional organizations, which accounted for approximately 50 percent of the organized groups. Others were youth groups such as scout troops, service organizations, schools, and social or recreational clubs. A total of 812 reservations for picnic sites were accommodated at the park in 2002, which included 96 birthday parties, 35 wedding or reception events, 42 family reunions, and 111 other events such as baby showers, anniversaries, graduations, and reunions. Based on observation of picnic sites used without reservation, it is

estimated that hundreds of other groups, mainly families, friends, and informal organizations, use the park's picnic facilities on an annual basis.

The park also accommodates visitors for special events, including two music festivals each year, surf contests, outrigger canoe races, and other local events. A total of 48 special event permits were issued in 2002. These special event activities are particularly beneficial to the tourism economy of Dana Point and its restaurants, lodging, retail, and recreational boating businesses.

Demographic Characteristics of Park Visitors

Due to the park's location near the southern end of Orange County, most of the park's most frequent day use visitors come from Dana Point and the adjacent cities of San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano. Other cities within 10 miles of the park are Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, and Mission Viejo. Census 2000 data on Table 1 show the demographic characteristics of Orange County as a whole in comparison to the 7 nearby cities. Overall, income, education, and race/ethnicity in the southern Orange County cities are notably different from Orange County as a whole.

**Table 1
Visitor Demographics Based on
Orange County and Local City Census 2000**

Location	Median Family Income	Percent of Families in Poverty	High School Education or Higher ¹	Ethnic and Racial Breakdown			
				% White	% Hispanic	% Black	% Asian
Orange County	\$64,611	7.0	79.5%	51.3	30.8	1.7	13.6
Dana Point	\$73,373	3.4	90.7%	78.8	15.5	0.8	2.5
San Clemente	\$76,261	4.6	90.7%	78.4	15.9	0.6	2.6
San Juan Capistrano	\$69,481	6.6	81.6%	62.3	33.1	0.4	1.9
Laguna Beach	\$100,778	2.8	96.2%	88.2	6.6	0.8	2.0
Laguna Niguel	\$93,613	2.8	95.2%	77.4	10.4	1.2	7.7
Laguna Hills	\$81,334	3.6	91.0%	68.9	16.4	1.3	10.1
Mission Viejo	\$86,902	2.3	93.8%	76.0	12.1	1.1	7.6

¹ Population 25 years and over

While it might be expected that almost all day use visitors reflect the demographic characteristics of southern Orange County, this is not necessarily the case. Doheny SB is a popular day use destination, particularly on warm weekends, for visitors from throughout Southern California, including western Riverside County, southern Los Angeles County, and northern Orange County. Family outings from distances of 25 miles and more attest to the unique attraction of Doheny SB. Observations during crowded summer weekends suggest that the grassy areas and picnic facilities, rather than the beach and ocean, are the major attraction for many of the adult visitors to the North Day Use Area. However, while they might not use the beach, the cooler coastal weather and seeing a child's natural enjoyment of the beach make the parents' outings to Doheny SB even more pleasurable.

Visitor surveys conducted at the park since summer 1999 also provide some insight into the demographic characteristics of park users. However, since 86 percent of a total of 481 survey questionnaires were completed by campers, survey results do not necessarily reflect the demographic characteristics of the majority of park visitors. Notable results of the survey were that 80 percent of the respondents had at least some level of college education; 77 percent were age 35 or older; 29 percent had an annual income greater than \$75,000 and 74 percent had an annual income greater than \$30,000; and 81 percent of those who responded to the question on ethnicity listed themselves as white, 6 percent as Hispanic, 1 percent each in the categories of Asian and Filipino, and less than 1 percent as African-American.

Of a total 429 visitors who completed these surveys, approximately 31 percent were from Orange County, 59 percent were from elsewhere in Southern California, 2 percent were from Northern California, 4 percent were from Arizona, and 4 percent were from other States.

Seasonal Use Fluctuations

The park attracts large numbers of visitors throughout the year, with the campground being nearly fully occupied year-round, even throughout the winter months. Obviously, summer is the high season for beach picnics and beach activities. On most holidays and many weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day, all of the park's 1,265 day use parking spaces are occupied. Even after the "Park Full" signs go up, visitors continue to arrive on foot, as well as on bikes and skates, during peak summer weekends. In fact, Park Rangers say that on summer holiday weekends it is difficult to spot a blade of grass in the North Day Use Area that is not covered by a lawn chair, beach towel, or picnic blanket.

Park use also peaks for special events during the spring, summer, and early fall, such as the music festivals, surf contests, outrigger canoe races, and other local activities. The park's picnic facilities remain popular in the spring and early fall months for families and groups, including businesses and other organizations. The park's educational facilities and wildlife also attract visitors year-round. Beginning in late winter and early spring, the continuous cycles of nature are on exhibit at the park with migratory birds in the lagoon, gray whales offshore heading north from Mexico, and spring flowers coloring the landscape. Several special park activities are scheduled in March each year to celebrate the Dana Point Festival of Whales.

Surfers are the most constant day users during the nonsummer months when generally larger ocean swells produce bigger waves than in the summer. Local residents and tourists also appreciate the opportunity for quiet enjoyment of the park's 1.2 miles of sandy coastline. Beach volleyball players, skaters, bike riders, walkers, and runners, as well as visitors to the park's interpretive facilities, are also a constant presence year-round.

2.1.6 Park Interest Groups

Doheny SB has a large number of regular park user groups, the most active of which is the Doheny SB Interpretive Association (DSBIA), a nonprofit organization of approximately 50 members formed in 1982. The DSBIA maintains a website of park events and coordinates volunteers at the Visitor Center and for special summer programs.

Other organizations that promote activities at Doheny SB are the South Coast Audubon Society, which organizes bird watching outings and provides volunteers for Park events; and the Doheny Longboard Surfing Association, which holds surf contests at the park and also assists with a variety of park cleanup and clean water awareness events. Similar organizations that have taken an active interest in improving and sustaining a cleaner beach environment at the park include Surfrider Foundation, Ocean Institute of Dana Point, Orange County Coastal Keepers, Heal the Bay, and Miocean.

The natural features and amenities at the park also support activities of local governmental organizations, such as school districts and park and recreation departments, and tourism and visitors associations. Special events at the park, such as the music festivals, and picnic facilities for businesses and organizations, help to promote Dana Point as a prime vacation and conference destination, which in turn supports local stores, restaurants, and hotels.

2.2 SYSTEMWIDE PLANNING INFLUENCES

Some regulations, policies, and plans address issues that cross park and regional boundaries. The following systemwide planning influences may affect planning decisions at Doheny SB. Any systemwide plans developed in the future that contain specific recommendations regarding the use, operation, or management of the State Park system may also affect future planning decisions at Doheny SB.

2.2.1 California State Parks Mission Statement

The Mission Statement for the Department is to “provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.”

2.2.2 Public Resources Code

California PRC Section 5019.50-5019.80, Classification of Units of the State Park System, provides for the designation of types of state park units, and sets forth guiding principles for each, which will be used as a reference to plan appropriate park improvements within Doheny SB. In addition to its designation as a State Beach, Doheny is also designated as part of the Capistrano Coast State Seashore, which extends from Newport Beach to the south end of San Clemente at San Mateo Point.

2.2.3 Statewide Trails Plan

The California Recreational Trails Plan addresses the mission and overall role of statewide trails as well as providing guidelines for future actions of the Statewide Trails Office. The mission and vision of the Statewide Trails Office is to:

Establish and maintain a system of trails and greenways that serves California's diverse population while respecting and protecting the integrity of its equally diverse natural and cultural resources. The system should be accessible to all Californians for improving their physical and mental well-being by presenting opportunities for recreation, transportation and education, each of which provides enhanced environmental and societal benefits.

The trails plan serves as a guideline for establishing and maintaining parks in California and integrates the State's trail programs with the local and private organizations that operate and maintain the trails. Moreover, it serves as a planning and maintenance guide for pathways and bicycle trails in Doheny SB.

2.2.4 California Coastal Trail Project

The California Coastal Trail is a proposed multi-use trail that would stretch 1,300 miles along or near the coastline from Oregon to Mexico. Pursuant to Senate Bill 908, the California Coastal Conservancy, in partnership with the Department and other federal, state, local, and private organizations, has released a draft of the *Completing the California Coastal Trail* report, which includes goals and objectives, general standards, recommendations for action, and maps of the conceptual alignment of the California Coastal Trail.

2.2.5 Natural Communities Conservation Program

The Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP) developed by the CDFG in 1991, is an effort unique to California. NCCP provides regional planning strategies for the protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing suitable economic development. The primary objective of NCCP is to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land use. There are no designated NCCP areas in Doheny SB; however, this General Plan adheres to the principles established in the NCCP regarding the protection of biodiversity.

2.2.6 Systemwide Park Operations and Concessions Plans

The concessions program provides a very important part of the visitors' experience. Concessionaires offer the facilities, services, and goods that the State could not otherwise provide, ranging from traditional food services and campground grocery stores, to beach equipment and bicycle rentals. Within the system's historic parks, concessionaires help achieve the Department's educational mission by providing historical reenactments and other educational programs, known in the park profession as "interpretation." These programs add

vitality, interest, and excitement to the fascinating heritage that is preserved and protected in California's state parks

The Department partners with a variety of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies through concession contracts, cooperative agreements, and operating agreements to offer the public these goods and services. How these opportunities are made available to the public is regulated by the California PRC, Section 5080 et seq.

2.2.7 Access to Parks Guidelines

The Access to Parks Guidelines was first published by California State Parks in 1994 and revised in 2000. The Access to Parks Guidelines details the procedure to make State Parks universally accessible while maintaining the quality of park resources. Also included in the guidelines are recommendations and regulations for complying with standards for accessibility. The vision of the guidelines is embodied in the Doheny State Beach General Plan.

2.2.8 California Heritage Task Force

The California Heritage Task Force (CHTF) was established in 1981 by the California legislature to develop a set of policies and programs for the State's cultural heritage resources. In 1984, the CHTF Report was published as a guide to the writing of legislation on cultural resource management.

2.2.9 California Coastal Act

The California Coastal Act (CCA) (California PRC Section 30000 et seq.) was enacted by the State Legislature in 1976 to provide long-term protection of California's 1,100-mile coastline for the benefit of current and future generations. The CCA created a partnership between the State (acting through the California Coastal Commission) and local county and city governments to manage the conservation and development of coastal resources through a comprehensive planning and regulatory program.

Doheny SB is located in the Coastal Zone and the Doheny State Beach General Plan serves to achieve the policies of the CCA by providing public access along 1.2 miles of beach, protecting and enhancing the recreational and educational resources of its marine environment, protecting sensitive habitat values of its coastal lands, and by preserving the park's scenic and visual qualities.

2.2.10 California Coastal National Monument

The California Coastal National Monument was created by President Clinton in January 2000 and was proclaimed a biological and geological treasure that is extremely rich in biodiversity and provides essential habitat for many species of scientific interest. The California Coastal National Monument consists of all unappropriated or unreserved islands, rocks, and outcroppings along the coast of California that are above the mean high tide line, not contiguous to the shore,

and within a distance of 12 nautical miles offshore. The monument includes more than 11,500 islands, rocks, and outcroppings, totaling approximately 900 acres. The designation as a National Monument mandates the protection of historic and scientific objects, particularly wildlife species that normally inhabit the monument area.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was originally charged with managing the monument. In June 2000 the CDFG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the BLM to collaborate in the management of the Monument. The Department also signed an MOU with the BLM, as approximately 25 percent of California's coastline is under Department management. The BLM is in the process of developing a Resource Management Plan for the Monument. The plan is to be comprehensive in nature and address and attempt to resolve issues within the Monument area only. The plan will also attempt to integrate, where possible, the numerous related management issues of the various coastal partners who desire to be included in the planning effort.

2.3 REGIONAL CONDITIONS AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Doheny SB is closely linked to the city of Dana Point, the Harbor, and the urban communities of Orange County. Land use issues, traffic impacts and circulation planning, natural and cultural resource protection, water quality, public safety, and visitor services provide continuing challenges and opportunities. Principal among these issues for Doheny SB are continued growth and planned new development in southern Orange County, coastal access, and maintenance of water quality in San Juan Creek, North Creek, and the ocean. Efforts currently ongoing in the San Juan Creek watershed include development of a Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) and a Special Area Management Plan/Master Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAMP/MSAA).

2.3.1 Regional Population Growth

According to population statistics kept by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the population in Orange County has increased steadily since Doheny SB first became a State Park in 1931. In 1930, there were 119,000 persons in Orange County. In 1970, when the North Day Use Area at the park was last significantly upgraded, the population of Orange County was 1,420,000. The Orange County population grew to 1,933,000 in 1980 and by 2002 the population in Orange County was estimated to be 2,896,130, which is double the population that existed in 1970 when the North Day Use Area was last upgraded.

Both Orange County and Dana Point are projected to increase in population. In 2010, the population of Orange County is projected to be 3,163,000, reaching 3,335,000 by 2020. Dana Point population is projected to increase from 35,110 in 2000, to 40,900 in 2010, and to 42,100 by 2020.

2.3.2 Coastal Access

Dana Point is provided with public coastal access along nearly its entire ocean frontage. Capistrano Beach County Park provides public access at the southeast end of the city, and Doheny SB and Dana Point Harbor provide public access north and west to the Dana Point Headlands. Salt Creek Beach Park provides public access from north of the Headlands nearly to the north boundary of the city. The Dana Point General Plan is a California Coastal Commission-certified local coastal program.

Doheny SB maintains full free pedestrian and bicycle access to the park. No physical barriers exist to pedestrian access except where necessary for public safety, such as along most portions of Pacific Coast Highway and the railroad. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the park is available from Pacific Coast Highway near the intersection with Coast Highway; and the pedestrian overpass at the downcoast end of the park also provides access over Coast Highway and the railroad. The park is frequently used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters for through access between downcoast areas and Dana Point Harbor, both for recreation and for access to harbor area businesses.

Though State Parks are not required to prepare local coastal programs pursuant to the CCA, the design, uses, and operation of Doheny SB adhere to all the basic goals of the CCA set forth in Section 30001.5 and the policies set forth particularly in articles 2 (Public Access), 3 (Recreation), and 4 (Marine Environment) of the CCA. This includes not only public accessibility as described above, but also the provision of lower cost visitor and recreational facilities for both day use and overnight camping, protection of water-oriented recreational activities, and maintenance of marine resources to sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters.

2.3.3 Water Quality

Water resources in Doheny SB and surrounding areas of southern Orange County are under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), one of nine RWQCBs in California. The San Diego Region encompasses most of San Diego County, parts of southwestern Riverside County, and southwestern Orange County. The Santa Ana RWQCB has jurisdiction in the remaining portions of Orange County.

RWQCBs implement and enforce the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulations on municipal stormwater as a point source pollutant through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit process. The County of Orange, its 33 cities, and the Orange County Flood Control District, are joint permittees under the NPDES permits issued by the San Diego and Santa Ana RWQCBs. The Orange County permittees received NPDES Permits in 1993 and 1996 and have prepared a draft Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP) as part of the RWQCB approval process for reissuance of the permits.

The basic goal of an RWQCB is to preserve and enhance the quality of water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. This goal is accomplished through the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for surface waters and groundwaters. Beneficial use is defined as “the uses of water necessary for the survival or well being of man, plants, and wildlife.” The Basin Plan recognizes 23 categories of beneficial uses. The beneficial uses designated for the San Juan Creek mouth are:

- Contact Water Recreation – Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses at the park include swimming, wading, surfing, skin and SCUBA diving, and fishing.
- Noncontact Water Recreation – Uses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving body contact with water. These uses include picnicking, sunbathing, beachcombing, camping, boating, tidepool and marine life study, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment.
- Wildlife Habitat – Uses of water that support terrestrial ecosystems including preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats, vegetation, wildlife, and water and food sources for wildlife.
- Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species – Uses of water that support habitats necessary for the survival and successful maintenance of plant or animal species established under state or federal law as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- Marine Habitat – Uses of water that support marine ecosystems including preservation or enhancement of marine habitats, vegetation (such as kelp), fish, shellfish, and wildlife (e.g., marine mammals, shorebirds).
- Migration of Aquatic Organisms – Uses of water that support habitats necessary for migration, acclimatization between fresh and salt water, or other temporary activities by aquatic organisms, such as anadromous fish.
- Shellfish Harvesting – Uses of water that support habitat suitable for the collection of filter-feeding shellfish (e.g., clams, oysters, mussels) for human consumption, commercial, or sport purposes.

The water quality at the San Juan Creek mouth is generally inadequate to support these designated beneficial uses. Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA, the San Juan Creek mouth is listed as an impaired water body. Water bodies on the 303(d) list are ranked by priority in developing action plans to control Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of various constituents present in these water bodies, to improve water quality. The San Juan Creek mouth is ranked on the San Diego RWQCB 303(d) list as a medium-priority impaired water body.

Water bodies on the 303(d) list also include a description of the pollutants that cause the water quality to be inadequate to support the designated beneficial uses. The inclusion of the San Juan Creek mouth on the 303(d) list is due to high measured levels of bacterial indicator organisms. Bacterial indicator organisms may not necessarily cause human health impacts, but their presence indicates the potential for water contamination with other pathogens that are harmful, such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. The actual pathogens are not measured by the RWQCB because the identification and enumeration of those pathogens are difficult, time consuming, and expensive. The indicator bacteria measured in determining inclusion on the 303(d) list are fecal coliform, total coliform, and enterococci. These indicator bacteria are easily detected by simple laboratory methods, and their concentration can be correlated with the extent of water contamination.

There are currently no identifiable major point sources (such as industrial uses) that discharge pollutants to the creek and all wastewater treatment in the basin is directed to the SERRA ocean outfall. Therefore, human sources of pollutants are believed to reach the creek primarily by stormwater runoff from urbanized areas within the creek's 176 square mile watershed. Specifically, San Juan Creek receives urban runoff primarily from the neighboring upstream city of San Juan Capistrano. Contaminants carried by urban runoff include oil and grease from roadways; illicit dumping of petroleum products; and pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers from golf courses, parks, and residential neighborhoods. Urban runoff may contain high bacterial counts and viruses, may be toxic to marine life, and may carry garbage and silt that litter the ocean and its beaches and kill or injure marine life. Other potential human sources of contaminants to the creek include runoff from irrigated agriculture, as well as mining and ranching operations.

Contaminants in San Juan Creek are also derived from birds and wildlife. Waterfowl are thought to contribute to high indicator bacteria counts at the creek mouth. However, high indicator bacteria counts caused by the presence of waterfowl do not generally cause human health impacts. Birds do not carry the same types of pathogens as people, and the risk of illness to people is assumed to be lower when the indicator bacteria come from animals instead of humans.

Water quality at Doheny SB is monitored by South Orange County Wastewater Authority and Orange County Environmental Health. Water samples are collected at a frequency of one or two samples per week at 8 sampling stations, including at North Beach, at 250 feet north of San Juan Creek, at the San Juan Creek ocean interface, at 50 feet south of San Juan Creek, and at various distances in the open ocean south of the wastewater outfall.

When indicator bacteria are found in these water samples at levels that are considered a potential human health problem, or when there are known sewage spills or storm events, County health officers can issue a beach closure, post a beach warning, or issue a rain advisory.

Beach closures occur as a result of sewage spills or repeated high bacteria levels in the water samples, of which the source is unknown. A closure is a notice to the public that the water is unsafe for contact and that there is a high risk of getting ill from swimming in the water.

A beach warning sign is posted when at least one bacterial standard has been exceeded, but there is no known source of the contamination. The posting serves to alert the public of possible health risks associated with water contact. Postings may be short term or more permanent where monitoring indicates repeated contamination, such as from a known storm drain outlet. Warnings may also be posted where sources of contamination are identifiable and can be explained as not of human origin (e.g., resident marine mammals or seabirds).

A rain advisory warns people to avoid areas where rainwater flows onto the beach during rainstorms and is often issued by radio or newspaper. Rain advisories may not be based on the actual evidence of contamination; however, it is known from past experience that rainwater runoff carries pollutants to the beach. County officials often recommend that beach users avoid water contact during rain and 3 days after a rainstorm.

In 2001, there were 7 instances of beach closures at Doheny SB lasting from 2 to 7 days. The reported source of contaminants in each of the cases was an upstream sewer line. Two of these closures were caused by equipment malfunction, and five were caused by sewer line blockages. Warning signs were also posted year-round at both North Beach and the San Juan Creek mouth. The contaminants were identified as coming from creeks as a result of nonpoint source urban runoff. In addition to the permanent posting of warning signs in 2001, there were 6 temporary postings of beach warning signs at Doheny SB.

During 2002, there were no reported beach closures at Doheny SB. However, there were 5 postings of beach warning signs, most of which were at the San Juan Creek mouth, and the North Creek mouth was posted year-round.

Nine rain advisories were issued in 2002 at Orange County beaches, including Doheny SB. In 2001, 12 rain advisories were issued for these beaches and were in effect for a total of 74 days. In both years, the majority of the advisory days occurred between November and March, with no advisories issued in the summer months.

2.3.4 Biological Corridors and Linkages

A biological corridor is a linear landscape feature that provides a link for faunal and floral movement between two patches of comparatively undisturbed habitat, such that both faunal and floral species can migrate to repopulate or maintain current populations in more restricted habitat areas. Biological corridors and other habitat linkages are essential in geographically diverse settings, and especially in urban settings, for the sustenance of healthy and genetically diverse

plant and animal communities. Isolation of populations can have many harmful effects and may contribute significantly to local species extinction.

Doheny SB has two viable wildlife corridors, San Juan Creek and the interface with the Pacific Ocean. San Juan Creek connects Doheny SB with several of the canyons within the upper San Juan Creek watershed, providing for movement between a highly disturbed urban region and areas of natural habitat, including areas within the Cleveland National Forest north and east of Interstate 5. Local, state, and federal agencies, in cooperation with landowners, are engaged in land use and natural resource conservation planning efforts within a 91,000-acre portion of southern Orange County, which includes the San Juan Creek watershed. This effort is being conducted pursuant to the NCCP/HCP and SAMP/MSAA, described above and is intended to address regional land use planning, habitat conservation, and water quality issues.

The beach and associated riparian areas along the Pacific Ocean provide important stopover sites for migratory birds, while the ocean itself supports fish and marine mammals that migrate along the Southern California Bight. In addition to these wildlife corridors, a strip of native and exotic vegetation runs along the southwestern edge of Coast Highway. Although highly disturbed, it acts as a corridor for resident and migratory birds and other wildlife and links Doheny SB with higher-quality habitat fragments along the coastal bluffs to the northwest.

2.3.5 Cultural Resources

Prehistoric Period

Human occupation of the Southern California coastal region is known from archaeological records to have occurred from about 7,000 years ago. Some sites along Salt Creek, just to the north of Dana Point, may date from this period. Linguistic evidence indicates that sometime between 5,000 and 2,000 years ago, there was an influx of desert dwellers to coastal sites. Initially, the new groups were north of the Doheny SB area, but by about 2,000 years ago the Takic speakers had moved down to occupy this area as well.

During the Late Prehistoric period, which began about 1,500 years ago, there was a dramatic increase in population size and density and an increased reliance on individual hunting and marine resources. There was also a shift to more permanent villages. Also, in the latter part of the Late Prehistoric period there is evidence of trade with the offshore islands.

Historic Period

The Native Americans made initial contact with Europeans in 1769, when Captain Gaspar de Portolá led an expedition from San Diego to Monterey. The Mission at San Juan Capistrano was established in 1775 and subsequent contact by Native Americans with the Spanish at the Mission had a profound effect on

their lives. Prior to missionization, some Native Americans were in semipermanent villages, utilizing stone, bone, shell, wood, and vegetal matter as tools for procuring food. Several such villages are named on Mission registers, although their exact locations are unknown. However, the locations of several villages along San Juan Creek and its tributaries have been mapped. After contact, the Native Americans associated with the Mission became known as the Juaneño. In recent times they also use their traditional name, Acjachemem.

During the early Mission period, the strip of beach at the mouth of San Juan Creek served as the port of the Mission and the area was visited by explorers both on foot and in ships. The San Juan Creek provided fresh water, and the Dana Point Headlands (then known as San Juan Point) provided protection from wind. Trade in the local area included ships from Asia, which were primarily interested in the otter, abalone, and seal populations.

In December 1818, two ships of “pirates” (in reality, South American insurgents involved in pillaging colonies still loyal to Spain) under the command of Hippolyte Bouchard raided the town next to the Mission and set fire to the stores, barracks, and Spanish governor’s house.

The primary boat landing place later shifted a little to the north where the New England trading ship, Pilgrim, anchored in 1835. This event was described by Richard Henry Dana in his book *Two Years Before the Mast*:

San Juan is the only romantic spot in California. The country here for several miles is high table-land, running boldly to the shore, and breaking off in a steep hill, at the foot of which the waters of the Pacific are constantly dashing.... Just where we landed is a small cove, or “bight,” which gave us, at high tide, a few square feet of sand-beach between the sea and the bottom of the hill. This was the only landing-place. Directly before us, rose the perpendicular height of four or five hundred feet.

In 1845, the area was visited by U.S. Army Major W.H. Emory, who rode through the area with a detachment of 500 soldiers under the command of Commodore Robert F. Stockton on their way to aid in the capture of the pueblo at Los Angeles during the Mexican War. Emory describes the headlands as presenting a “formidable military obstacle” because it was impossible to get around them unless the tide was out. The detachment reportedly camped to the east of Doheny Beach and then proceeded north along El Camino Real.

During the Mexican period, the Rancho Boca de la Playa was established and consisted of about 6,600 acres, which included Doheny Beach. The Rancho changed hands several times and the area was visited only intermittently until the late 1800s, when the railroad line between San Diego and San Juan Capistrano was built right next to Doheny Beach. Some of the bluffs were cut to make way

for the railroad, and they would later be further cut for U.S. Highway 101, now Pacific Coast Highway.

Park Development Period

Much of the coastal area now known as Capistrano Beach (formerly San Juan-by-the-Sea) was acquired by Edward Lawrence Doheny, a wealthy oil baron. Doheny had been a relatively unsuccessful prospector who happened one day in 1892 to notice a wagon going past his boarding house in Los Angeles. It was full of a brown greasy substance that he later learned could be mixed to create a kind of oil. Seeing the potential use of such a product, he got financial backing and began to explore the area for more of the substance. In 1893, he developed the first oil well on the Pacific coast at the La Brea Tar Pits. From this beginning he created a vast oil empire in Southern California, Mexico, and elsewhere. In the early 1920s, he and his son Edward Jr. were identified as participants in the Tea Pot Dome Scandal during the administration of President William G. Harding. The father was indicted by the U.S. Government, but later acquitted of conspiracy and bribery charges involving oil leases obtained from the Secretary of the Interior.

During this time, the son began development of 1,000 acres in the Capistrano Beach area and on the palisades above the park and built several large residences and three landmarks: a pier, the Capistrano Beach Club, and a gazebo. A former Doheny family home is located in the palisades area on Camino Capistrano at the end of Camino Estrella. Tragically, the son and his personal secretary died in 1929 in an apparent murder-suicide at the home his father had built for him, the Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills.

The father's health suffered from the events of the 1920s and he died in 1935. His wife used the family fortune to endow libraries at the University of Southern California and St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, and to create the Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation at St. Vincent's Hospital in Los Angeles. In addition to the Greystone Mansion, the Dohenys created two other surviving landmark buildings, the Doheny Mansion on Chester Place in the West Adams District south of downtown Los Angeles (later willed to the Catholic Church) and the nearby St. Vincent's Church on Figueroa Street. In 1931, Doheny donated 17 acres along Doheny Beach to the State of California. The State developed the area for recreational purposes, including fishing, camping, and beach activities.

Civilian Conservation Corps Period

During the 1930s, "New Deal" programs under the Roosevelt Administration led to unprecedented development of national and state parks throughout country. The CCC was created in March 1933 to implement President Roosevelt's Emergency Conservation Work Program, which employed youth and veterans to help stimulate the economy and to develop and conserve the country's important resources.

By 1935, 27 CCC camps had been established in California State Parks under the administration of the National Park Service (NPS), including one at San Clemente State Beach. Enrollees at the San Clemente CCC Camp also worked at Doheny SB and built new roads and paths, brought in fill soil to replace land washed away by flood waters, and constructed a breakwater to prevent erosion from San Juan Creek. The feature known as Thor's Hammer was constructed at the end of the breakwater. Picnic ramadas were also built, with whitewashed adobe brick and tule roofs. These ramadas included native stone picnic tables and benches, and adobe and stone firepits. Camping ramadas were of wood construction and also featured tables, benches, and firepits. A plastered adobe wall, with arched and tiled entryways along Pacific Coast Highway, was constructed as well. One entryway, sections of the wall, and Thor's Hammer appear to be the only structural remnants of the CCC construction period at the park today.

During a 9-year cooperative program, NPS and the CCC provided technical expertise and park planning guidance to the California Division of Beaches and Parks, as well as labor that resulted in the construction of more than 1,500 buildings and structures, and thousands of miles of trails and fire roads throughout California. By 1940, picnic areas, campgrounds, parking, and a custodian's lodge had been developed at Doheny SB.

Archaeological and Historic Sites

A review of the archaeological records was made at the South Central Coastal Information Center in September 2002. The search included a review of all the prehistoric and historic sites that have been recorded within a mile radius of Doheny SB. Also consulted were the National Register of Historic Places (September 2002), the California State Historic Resources Inventory (2001), the Directory of Historic Properties for Orange County (August 2002), California Historical Landmarks listing (1997 and September 2002), and the California Points of Historical Interest (1992).

No evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found within the confines of Doheny SB, although a number of sites dating to the Late Prehistoric period have been recorded near the park. Several historic structures and buildings were also identified in nearby areas during the records search for this project; however, none were listed as being within the boundaries of the park. Most are associated with the development of Dana Point and are north of the project area.

Only one cultural resources survey is known to have taken place within the boundaries of Doheny SB, a field review undertaken by the staff of Doheny SB, and revealed no archaeological resources within the park boundaries. A site visit by State Park archaeological consultants in October 2002 identified the historical architectural resources that still remain at Doheny SB, which are the adobe entryway and wall, and Thor's Hammer. No evidence of the ramadas built by the CCC during the same period were found, nor were any prehistoric resources.

Development of the park, coastal storm erosion, and flooding of San Juan Creek make it unlikely that undisturbed prehistoric resources remain.

2.4 ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

This section highlights the important issues derived from the descriptions of existing conditions and planning influences in Sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3. The goals and guidelines of Chapter 3 address these issues.

2.4.1 Public Concerns and Comments

The first public meeting for the Doheny State Beach General Plan was held on March 25, 2003. The following comments are typical of the statements that were provided by the public, both written and verbal, at this meeting.

Interpretive Facilities

- A new Visitor Center should be located at the north end of the north parking lot and include aquariums, tide pools, exhibits, displays, gift shop, classrooms, etc. Second location choice would be combined with the Lifeguard Headquarters on the beachfront.
- The Campfire Center should be relocated adjacent to the south end of the campground, east of the horseshoe pits.
- A bird viewing platform should be installed at the north side of the San Juan Creek mouth.

Access and Circulation

- Access to the park from the existing bike trail is dangerous as bicyclists have to cross traffic on Pacific Coast Highway and use the crosswalks to stop traffic.
- A safe convenient pedestrian access to the beach area from the hotel across Coast Highway is needed.
- Improve the South Day Use Area with a paved pathway next to the beach for skaters, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Resurface the existing asphalt bike and rollerblade path along the beach.
- Realign bike and pedestrian paths to make them more accessible for local residents.

Day Use Facilities

- Redesign the South Day Use Area to accommodate large RV parking.
- Repair or replace picnic equipment in the North Day Use Area.
- Showers and restrooms are needed at the far north end of the North Day Use Area.
- More restrooms and trash facilities are needed during peak use and major events.
- More shade structures should be installed on the beach near the volleyball courts.

Campground

- Electrical hookups should be provided in the campground to reduce noise and fumes from RV generator use.

Other Comments

- Reforestation project is needed to replace eucalyptus trees removed from North Day Use Area due to lerps insect infestation.
- Coordinate with the current Dana Point Harbor planning process in order to create a better flowing land use situation.
- Allow leashed dogs on the beach before 9 am and after 6 pm.
- Install tournament quality horseshoe pits.
- Cooperate with Dana Point to acquire and design the lot on the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Dana Point Harbor Drive.
- Continued problem of ocean water pollution.

2.4.2 Resource Protection and Management Issues

Water Quality

Water quality at Doheny SB is a major concern of park visitors who use the ocean for swimming, surfing, and other recreational activities. Upstream of the park, San Juan Creek and North Creek exist as concrete channels that accumulate contaminated runoff from urban development and then release these pollutants into the ocean causing beach closures and water quality warnings. Three large drainage outlets empty into the east side of San Juan Creek just north of the park boundary. In addition to San Juan Creek and North Creek, four other coastal outfalls for the local area's drainage system exist in the South Day Use Area.

Onsite, approximately 20 existing drains in streets, parking lots, and other paved areas, and 4 in lawns in the North Day Use Area collect runoff and discharge into San Juan Creek. Many of these drains are located at hose bibs in trash receptacle and dumpster locations. In addition, 7 drainage inlets in the bridge over San Juan Creek discharge directly into the creek, and 2 drain inlets in the campground and access road drain to an outlet on the southeast side of San Juan Creek. It is believed that some of the park's drain inlets may be connected to sewer lines; however, no drainage diversion or bio-filtration systems, pollutant traps, or other regularly maintained structural BMP drainage devices are known to exist in the park.

While some runoff from paved areas within the park drains into San Juan Creek, this amount is insignificant in comparison to runoff originating from offsite. Polluted runoff entering the creek and ocean from offsite sources limits the benefit of any measures the park could implement to control and/or divert runoff away from San Juan Creek. Park staff and other Department personnel can, however, lend support to regional and local efforts to better manage urban runoff.

A recent example of a local effort is the construction of a runoff diversion system that intercepts drainage in North Creek before it enters the park, traps and holds debris and larger objects for cleanout, and diverts the runoff to the SERRA wastewater treatment plant. This system was completed in July 2003 with funds provided by the City of Dana Point; the State Water Resources Control Board; and Miocean, a local nonprofit foundation. The City has also taken other recent actions, including installation of stormwater filtration systems, to reduce water quality impacts on San Juan Creek and other local waterways.

Biotic Resources and Ecology

Doheny SB is responsible for the support of a variety of plant and wildlife species, terrestrial and aquatic, that rely on the park and its habitats for survival. Management activities at the park have enabled this ecosystem to survive, and continued diligence will enable it to further prosper. This must include attention to wildlife habitat considerations during new construction, as well as through routine activities such as landscape maintenance practices, selection of plant materials, litter control, visitor education, and proper management of drainage and wastewater systems.

2.4.3 Access and Circulation Issues

Doheny SB is located in a dense urban residential, commercial, and recreational area and is served by public roads that are heavily traveled on weekdays as well as weekends. Overall, however, park access by motor vehicles is adequate and the park can be easily entered from several directions by pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters. One area of need for improved access is a mid-block pedestrian crossing of Pacific Coast Highway at the existing signal east of Dana Point Harbor Drive. This would provide access to stores and restaurants, particularly for campers who might otherwise drive to avoid the long roundtrip walk through the main entrance. Illegal and unsafe crossing of this busy highway at this location by park visitors is not uncommon. The Doubletree Doheny Beach is located across Coast Highway near the campground and also lacks convenient and safe access to the park. The park should support their efforts to obtain a controlled crossing from the City and/or the California Department of Transportation near the one-way vehicle exit from the park.

Interior paved roads serve all park use areas and parking lots; the roads are generally in good condition and provide adequate directional signs for motor vehicle access. While many opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle use exist within the park, in some locations the pedestrian and bicycle routes are disjointed, additional directional signage would be helpful, and improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed, particularly from the North Day Use Area to the south end of the park. Construction of a sidewalk from the south end of the Coast Highway bridge to the South Day Use Area should be a high priority. The road is only approximately 24 feet wide with no shoulders available to accommodate pedestrians, who must share the roadway with cars and RVs, bicyclists, and skaters. This joint use continues through the parking lot

where nonmotorists must contend with vehicles entering and exiting parking spaces.

Another issue affecting circulation is the rental of three-wheel bikes and four-wheel buggies for onsite recreation using sidewalks, bicycle paths, parking lots, and roads within the park. A reevaluation of this activity should be conducted to determine whether this is an appropriate activity that is compatible with more leisurely park uses.

Further analysis of access and circulation should be conducted to define a system of sidewalks and bike routes for internal and through circulation. This would include identification of sidewalk and pathway improvements needed for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

2.4.4 Recreation and Interpretation Opportunities and Issues

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center provides an exceptional and convenient location for visitor education and enjoyment. However, the physical facility is much too small to adequately support its variety of activities and exhibits. In addition, the building and its infrastructure are near the end of their useful lives. Docent activities, group education, casual visitor activities and assistance, a wide range of interpretative information, and staff office needs, all share inadequate space.

Needed improvements include expanded space for marine and wildlife exhibits, a larger presentation area for park history displays, larger gift shop, and in particular, a separate group classroom/video room to facilitate visitor education and appreciation for the park's natural and historic resources. Staff offices should also be arranged either in a separate building or with a separate access and with adequate area for meetings.

Ideally, the new Visitor Center would include appropriate outdoor space, either through improved integration with the Butterfly Garden, new outdoor exhibits, or by relocation near the lagoon and ocean. Relocating the Visitor Center near the lagoon and ocean would have the benefit of attracting more day use visitors and pass-through pedestrians, bicyclists, and rollerbladers. This would potentially increase gift shop revenue. The opportunity to create a focal point for day use visitors with a new Visitor Center in the area between the existing concession stand and the San Juan Creek mouth, should also be considered. A comprehensive redevelopment of this area to include updating or replacing the concession stand and adjacent seating areas would serve to create a focal point for visitor activities near the beach.

Cultural Resources

The park and nearby areas were the setting for a unique variety of historic activities and events, from Native American settlements and the mission period;

explorers, pirates, and trading ships; visions, ambitions, and conflicts preceding California statehood; culture, commercial empires, and scandals of the early 20th century; the role of the CCC in State and National Parks during the great depression; and the storied lifestyle of the Southern California surf culture during the time of “killer Dana” and the Beach Boys. With so many stories to be told, the park would be challenged to do justice to all of them. However, a great deal of the history, photos, and stories have been collected by the Doheny SB Interpretive Association and park staff, much of it on the Association’s website and in exhibits at the Visitor Center. Additional organization and presentation of this material, including use of multi-media resources and internet links, would provide visitors with access to fascinating stories of Southern California history. The CCC-era walls and entryway have the potential for decay from weather or vandalism and their cultural significance is not being adequately presented to park visitors. A small interpretive display of the CCC history at the remaining early park CCC features near the campground entrance would be appropriate.

Visitor Day Use Facilities

The local population density and favorable surf break at Doheny SB results in high use of the park’s facilities in the North Day Use Area on a year-round basis. Some 48 permanently installed picnic tables with benches and barbecue grills are located along the beachfront for use on a nonreserved basis. While still functional and structurally sound, they appear worn and unattractive and should be considered for replacement.

Campground

Public oceanfront camping in Southern California is almost exclusively provided through the State Park System. At Doheny SB, the quality of this camping experience is reduced by the small size of the campground and the small size of the spaces. The only adjacent area feasible for expansion would be to the southeast, perhaps including conversion of the adjacent 78-space parking lot to campground use. An extension of camping with up to 235 campsites in the South Day Use Area was proposed by the park’s 1972 General Development Plan but was deleted in the 1982 amendment.

Other possibilities would include converting a portion of the North Day Use Area adjacent to San Juan Creek to camping, or permitting self-contained RV camping during the non-summer months in a portion of the South Day Use Area. Each alternative is likely to create objections from current park users and/or nearby property owners.

The lack of electrical connections at the camp spaces causes complaints from both tent campers and those in RVs. The tent campers object to RV generator noise, which most find particularly disturbing during the dinner hour; and RV campers would prefer the convenience of an electrical connection rather than using their generators, which are restricted to specified daylight hours. Electrical

connections for at least an appropriate portion of the campground spaces and a prohibition on generators would resolve ongoing conflicts between campers.

Special Events

The two annual music festivals and other smaller special events provide an opportunity for the park to support local tourism and community groups, especially those that are beach oriented, such as surf contests, volleyball tournaments, outrigger canoe races, and the annual Festival of Whales. Some of these events tax the capacity of the park's facilities, but this is primarily an issue of adequate event preparation, management, and cleanup. Park staff is well aware of the needs and challenges of these events and have been able to adequately control impacts to the community and to the park's resources and infrastructure.

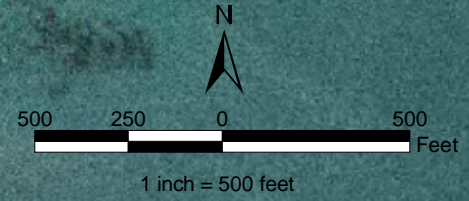
2.4.5 Aesthetic and Community Compatibility Issues

Doheny SB is a valuable resource to the open space and beach-oriented recreational character of Dana Point. Park management, operations, and improvements, need to be sensitive to the existing open space character of the park and avoid changes that would be visually incompatible with the area or detract from existing views of the ocean from nearby areas. Upgrading the existing landscaping and fencing adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway would improve the park's appearance from these roadways, nearby properties, and public parks to the north and northwest. The South Coast Water District sewer pump station in the South Day Use Area also detracts from the visual character of the park and should be either removed or landscaping and aesthetic improvements should be provided by the sewer district.





KEY	Entrance/Visitor Center/Office	Main Lifeguard Tower	Rental Bike Trail	Group Picnic Area
	460 Square Foot Restrooms (8)	Snack Bar and Rental Concession	Pedestrian Overpass Access	Group Picnic Area
	1620 Square Foot Restrooms (2)	Beach Palapa	Pedestrian/Bicycle Access	Group Picnic Area
	Picnic Pads	Campfire Center	Service Area	Group Picnic Area
	Park Boundary	Volleyball Courts	Sanitary Dump Station	
		Horseshoe Pits	Sewer Pump Station	


Doheny State Beach
MAP 3
Existing Park Facilities



LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Vegetation
- CBM Coastal Brackish Marsh
- SWS Southern Willow Scrub
- SSRW Southern Sycamore Riparian Woodland
- MFS Mule Fat Scrub
- OP Open Water
- CD Coastal Dune



Doheny State Beach

MAP 4
Existing Biological Resources



1	Main Park Entrance/Exit	1	No Sidewalk
2	Vehicle Exit	2	Sidewalk Less Than 5-Feet Wide
↑	Pedestrian Access	3	Pedestrian/Bicycle/Skate Route Through Parking Lot
↑	Pedestrian and Bicycle Access	↗	Main Pedestrian/Bicycle/Skate Routes
⎓	Park Boundary		



Doheny State Beach
MAP 5
Existing Circulation System



- KEY**
- Existing Drainage Inlets
 - ▲ Existing Drainage Outlets
 - ▲ Existing Regional Stormwater Outfalls
 - ▶ Summer Diversion to Sewer
 - ⎓ Park Boundary



Doheny State Beach
MAP 6
Existing Drainage Inlets/Outlets

Chapter 3 – Park Plan

The long range vision for Doheny SB is depicted in this Park Plan. The purpose of this chapter is to portray both the desired resource condition and visitor experience of the park and to provide goals and guidelines that will direct future management efforts toward achieving those desires

3.1 PURPOSE AND VISION

The purpose and vision statements will serve as guidelines for the future management of Doheny SB. They are related, yet distinct, planning concepts that provide a context and direction for future management and planning efforts for the park. These concepts are described in more detail below.

3.1.1 Unit Purpose

The declaration of purpose is the broadest statement of management goals designed to fulfill the park's vision. A Declaration of Purpose is required by Public Resources Code Section 5002.2(b), "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the Park consistent with the park's classification" The following declaration of purpose expands that contained in the 1972 general plan, by describing additional management objectives:

The purpose of Doheny State Beach is to make possible the public use and enjoyment of the beach and ocean, and to maintain and improve the park's beach, picnic, camping, and public educational facilities. These activities are to be conducted in a manner that is compatible with nearby existing land uses, promotes public safety and accessibility for all park visitors, minimizes adverse effects on water quality in the ocean and creeks, and preserves the park's natural and cultural resources.

3.1.2 Unit Vision

The following park vision provides an image of what Doheny SB may be like following the implementation of the General Plan and is intended to guide decisions on land use plans, improvements, and park services:

Doheny State Beach offers local residents and tourists alike the opportunity to enjoy the Southern California beach lifestyle and provides a respite from the nearby turmoil of the outside world. Inherent in the enjoyment of these pleasures is the public responsibility for proper stewardship of the fragile coastal environment and respect for the natural and cultural history of earlier times.

Protection and enhancement of natural environmental processes can enable full enjoyment of the ocean and shoreline, while

promoting healthy, sustainable ecosystems. Interpretive programs and facilities can instill in park visitors an appreciation of the natural ecosystem and its relationship to the quality of the human environment, and help to build a strong personal ethic of ocean resource preservation. Those who find both pleasure and responsibility in the natural environment will pass these qualities on to future generations as a priceless legacy.

3.2 PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES

Three park management zones have been developed to preserve and improve the distinct natural, aesthetic, and recreational values found in the park. Within these zones, the desired resource conditions, visitor experience and uses, and potential facilities vary depending on the environmental or physical site constraints and stakeholder input. The management zones for Doheny SB, illustrated on Map 7, are Core Habitat Zone, Native Plant Resource Zone, and Recreation/Operations Zone.

3.2.1 Core Habitat Zone

The Core Habitat Zones at Doheny SB are San Juan Creek, North Creek, the riparian wetland areas associated with these creeks, the ocean, and the small dune restoration site on the beach near North Creek. Preservation and management to maximize natural habitat conditions are the primary land use objectives to be accomplished in considering any development plans or activities that would directly or indirectly affect the Core Habitat Zones. Only passive park visitor activities such as wildlife viewing and educational programs are permitted in the creeks and dune restoration site. Scientific and/or habitat restoration programs may also be conducted in the Core Habitat Zones with prior authorization by the Department.

Beach and water recreation activities are permitted in the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge, which extends 600 feet seaward of the mean high tide line. These activities are subject to Section 10664 of the California Fish and Game Code, which provides a list of the fish, mollusks, and crustaceans that may be taken with a sportfishing license. Fin fish may be taken only by hook and line or by spearfishing gear. All other fish and forms of aquatic life not listed in Section 10664 are protected and may not be taken without a written permit from the CDFG.

3.2.2 Native Plant Resource Zone

The Native Plant Resource Zones are designated over those areas of native or ornamental landscaping where picnicking and other forms of recreational use occur. This would include landscaped areas adjacent to the two creeks, the Butterfly Garden, and other pockets of vegetation separating use areas or providing visual screening where existing ornamental vegetation could be replaced with native plants. This zone is intended to provide supplemental

habitat to allow roosting and potential nesting of birds, as well as habitat for terrestrial species. These areas would continue to serve their current function of use area separation or visual screening and, over time, be converted to more native plant species. Passive park visitor activities such as wildlife viewing and educational programs are permitted in the Native Plant Resource Zones.

3.2.3 Recreation/Operations Zone

The Recreation/Operations Zone designates areas where visitor recreational activities and park operational and maintenance facilities are the principal existing and planned land uses. This zone is a high-intensity use area where developed land uses and visitor recreational activities will be concentrated. While future development or maintenance activities in this zone must be sensitive to adjacent natural resource areas, the zone is demarcated to avoid those areas of greatest resource sensitivity in the park.

3.3 PARK-WIDE GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Goals and guidelines are management approaches for achieving the Declaration of Purpose and Vision Statement described above, and are defined in the California State Parks Planning Handbook (2002):

- **Goals:** General, overall, and ultimate purpose, aim or intent toward which management will direct effort. Goals are not necessarily measurable except in terms of the achievement of component objectives which attainment of the goal involves.
- **Guidelines:** General set of parameters that provide directions towards accomplishing goals.

This section presents the goals and guidelines that apply park-wide for management of natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources, visitor use and park development, interpretation, and park facilities, in an environment where visitor use could impact sensitive resources and natural ecosystems. In addition to park-wide goals and guidelines in this section, specific area goals and guidelines are provided in Section 3.4. These goals and guidelines would be accomplished through future plans, projects, and programs as described in Section 1.3.4.

3.3.1 Natural Resources

Though Doheny SB is almost fully developed for recreational use, it contains areas essential to the life cycle of biotic resources and to the health and well-being of its visitors. These resources are principally represented by the ocean and the creeks.

Biotic and Ecological Resources

Despite human encroachment, Doheny SB is still a thriving ecosystem. With the fragmentation and destruction of many of Southern California's native habitats, locations like Doheny SB are essential for the survival of many plant and wildlife

species. While the ocean and creeks are the principal biotic resources in the project area, the park is home to a variety of terrestrial and aquatic plant and wildlife species that rely on the park and its habitats. The four wetland/riparian vegetation communities that occur within the park are considered rare and sensitive by the CDFG, and several sensitive plant species are either known to occur or have the potential to occur in or near the park.

Goal NR 1: The habitat quality and size of natural resource areas within the park are not reduced for the purpose of increased recreational use, and opportunities to improve and enlarge natural resource area are evaluated for inclusion in the design and construction of all park improvement projects.

- **Guideline NR 1.1:** Provide special protection for federal and state listed species, as well as other exceptional natural resources, including species of special concern as designated by the CDFG and protected by federal law.
- **Guideline NR 1.2:** Collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies involved with habitat management in the southern Orange County region to assure that habitat management at Doheny SB is consistent with these efforts. Resource specialists should be used to document the park's natural resources and monitor changes in the number of species commonly present, habitat quality, and distribution of resources, for the purpose of recommending methods to improve the health of the park's ecosystems. This would include use of native landscape specialists to recommend plant materials suitable for improving terrestrial wildlife habitats within the park.
- **Guideline NR 1.3:** Aquatic habitats within the creeks and offshore area should be further evaluated to determine baseline habitat conditions, provide recommendations for enhancing habitat for aquatic species and birds that are dependent on aquatic environments, and to establish a program for monitoring habitat changes.
- **Guideline NR 1.4:** Opportunities to enhance nesting, roosting, and foraging opportunities for sensitive wildlife species shall be considered as a part of park management and maintenance activities and improvement projects.

Water Quality

San Juan Creek and North Creek serve as coastal outfalls for urban runoff from the local communities. Four other coastal outfalls for the local area's drainage system exist in the South Day Use Area. Water quality in the creeks and ocean is a significant problem due to the high concentration of urban pollutants that are carried into the storm drain system and to the coastal outfalls. Onsite, approximately 33 existing storm drains in paved areas and lawns discharge into San Juan Creek. Though some of these may be connected to sewer lines, no drainage diversion or bio-filtration systems, pollutant traps, or other regularly maintained structural BMPs are known to exist in the park.

Water quality and associated beach closures and warning postings have become a recurring complaint of park visitors. Continued surface water contamination from urban runoff results in potential public health problems, as well as creating adverse natural resource conditions within the park.

Goal NR 2: Cooperative relationships are established and maintained with local and regional agencies responsible for water quality and stormwater management, which result in improved creek and ocean water quality and a continual reduction in beach closures and warning postings at the park.

- **Guideline NR 2.1:** Work closely with local and regional efforts to improve water quality in stormwater runoff. Monitor and provide input to local agencies in identifying needed improvements to the local storm drain system and their decisions on setting priorities for stormwater improvement and diversion projects.
- **Guideline NR 2.2:** Apply for the appropriate federal Clean Water Act permits (Sections 401 and 404) to enable periodic removal of the sand plug at the mouths of San Juan Creek and North Creek in order to improve water quality in the lagoons and avoid adverse impacts to ocean water quality.

Goal NR 3: Improvements are made to park’s drainage systems and maintenance practices that benefit water quality in the creeks and ocean. Ideally, these improvements would also enhance public enjoyment of the park’s water features.

- **Guideline NR 3.1:** A focused study should be conducted of the onsite portion of North Creek and the potential for natural biological remediation of polluted runoff entering the park, such as through installation of a “treatment wetland.” Elements of such a system could include a naturalized design of drop structures to slow the flow of runoff and facilitate infiltration, wetland plant materials capable of removing pollutants, and stream flow recirculation to oxygenate the water and create a more aesthetic stream condition. This system could also serve as a test site for installation of a larger treatment system in San Juan Creek.
- **Guideline NR 3.2:** Initiate a study of the park’s drainage system and map all inlets, outlets, and underground storm drains, and any existing diversions of stormwater runoff to the park’s sewer system. The study should identify feasible BMPs for all inlets, outlets, and drains that are not connected to the sewer system.
- **Guideline NR 3.3:** Eliminate inlets to the storm drain system adjacent to trash containers unless connected to the sewer system, retrofitted with adequate filtration systems, or diverted to bio-swales or treatment basins.
- **Guideline NR 3.4:** Continue volunteer beach and creek cleanup projects and public education programs to reduce visitor impacts on water quality.

3.3.2 Cultural Resources

The park and nearby areas were the setting for a unique variety of cultural activities and historic events from the Native American period to the early Southern California surf culture. The principal remaining cultural resource features at Doheny SB are from the CCC period of the 1940s – a plastered and tiled adobe entryway along Coast Highway and the feature known as Thor’s Hammer at the end of the breakwater.

Goal CR 1: All significant historic features and sites at the park are preserved, protected from damage, and properly interpreted for public appreciation of the park’s history.

- **Guideline CR 1.1:** Monitor the condition of the remaining CCC-period features in the park, such as through annual photo documentation, and initiate measures to preserve and/or restore these features if deterioration becomes evident.
- **Guideline CR 1.2:** Interpretive materials and/or methods should be provided to better inform the public of the CCC’s role in the park’s early development. Improvements should be made to restore the appearance of the remaining adobe walls at the park.

3.3.3 Aesthetic Resources

The park’s location within the historic maritime community of Dana Point and the spectacular natural setting provided by the ocean and Dana Point Headlands define the aesthetic character of Doheny SB. The beach, ocean, harbor, San Juan Creek, and park landscaping represent very high quality visual resources that benefit park visitors as well as local residents, nearby hotel patrons, and travelers on streets adjacent to the park.

Pacific Coast Highway is designated as a Scenic Highway corridor on the Dana Point Circulation Element and a Viewscape Corridor on the Orange County Circulation Element. Scenic views from most offsite locations have been respected by past park improvements and operations. Landscape improvements could be made at some locations along Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway for additional screening where appropriate and to provide variation in landscape materials.

Goal AR 1: Doheny SB continues to be an aesthetic resource for the local community and park visitors and cooperates with the City on improvements to the Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway viewsapes; and park visitors are provided appropriate screening of areas that detract from their enjoyment of the beach environment.

- **Guideline AR 1.1:** A scenic resources evaluation should be conducted to identify the potential for enhancement of views into the park and screening of negative visual features seen from within the park.

- **Guideline AR 1.2:** The South Coast Water District sewer pump station in the South Day Use Area should be removed or redesigned and landscaped to be more attractive to park visitors.

3.3.4 Visitor Use and Park Development

Development and refurbishing of park facilities have not kept pace with the explosive population growth of Southern California. In 1970, when the North Day Use Area was last significantly upgraded, the population of Orange County was 1,420,000; by 2000 it had doubled to 2,846,000.

Day Use

The local population density, mild year-round climate, and suitable surf break at Doheny SB result in high use of the park's facilities on a year-round basis, particularly in the North Day Use Area.

The crowded conditions, particularly on summer weekends and holidays, and the variety of visitor activities create the potential for conflict between vehicles, bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians in some areas of the park. In addition, the separation between the North and South Day Use Areas, and the lack of a walkway along the beach frontage in the South Day Use Area, add to the difficulty in patrolling the park's 1.2 miles of beachfront.

Parked RVs in the South Day Use Area often encroach onto the public beach due to the lack of adequate length of parking spaces to accommodate large RVs.

Goal PD 1: A variety of passive and active recreational uses are provided that will allow California's diverse population to visit, enjoy, and gain an appreciation for the natural values of the coastal environment.

- **Guideline PD 1.1:** Active park uses should be limited to the ocean and suitable areas of the beach. Sports activities on the beach should be restricted to designated areas shown such as the volleyball courts and horseshoe area. Due to frequent large crowds, particularly in the North Day Use Area, park staff should restrict activities, such as ball games and loud music, which have the potential to interfere with more leisurely activities of other visitors.
- **Guideline PD 1.2:** Park staff should continue to provide opportunities for day use visitors to participate in activities that develop appreciation and respect for the natural coastal environment.

Goal PD 2: Visitor facilities, park infrastructure, circulation, access, and adequate staff visibility of all park use areas continue to be improved to keep pace with increases in park day use attendance.

- **Guideline PD 2.1:** Overall park circulation and access for motorists, bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians shall be evaluated prior to any substantial park improvements. (See also goals and guidelines for *Pedestrian and*

Bicycle Paths, below.) Locations to be considered for improved access include a crosswalk across Pacific Coast Highway at the existing traffic signal east of Dana Point Harbor Drive and at the Doubletree Doheny Beach hotel on Coast Highway.

- **Guideline PD 2.2:** A parking study should be conducted to evaluate feasible means to redesign parking in the South Day Use Area to create separate bicycle and pedestrian pathways outside of the parking lot driving lanes. The study should also make recommendations on accommodating large RVs in a manner that does not result in encroachment on the public beach. It is anticipated that some reduction in parking may be necessary to provide a safer and more efficient parking and circulation system for the South Day Use Area.
- **Guideline PD 2.3:** A comprehensive evaluation should be conducted of the condition of the park's day use facilities, such as picnic tables, barbecues, and restroom facilities to identify and prioritize replacement or improvement needs.
- **Guideline PD 2.4:** Increased traffic on Pacific Coast Highway over the life of the General Plan would be expected to increase existing noise levels in the park. A sound wall should be constructed or other sound attenuation measures implemented along the length of the North Day Use Area adjacent to the highway. Based on an evaluation of noise levels generated by existing and projected future traffic volumes, a sound wall would need to be approximately 6 feet high to effect adequate noise mitigation within the park. A wall design that is similar to the park's previous CCC-era adobe walls would be appropriate.

Campground

The quality of the camping experience is reduced by the small overall size of the campground (approximately 8 acres) and small campsites. The small size of many campsites limits use to a maximum of two to four people and do not accommodate larger families or two-family groups. In addition, the lack of electrical connections at the camp spaces results in generator use by some RV campers, which causes frequent noise complaints from other campers.

Goal PD 3: The campground is expanded to provide larger campsites, electrical hookups, and other appropriate amenities, while still permitting adequate opportunity for tent camping without hookups.

- **Guideline PD 3.1:** A focused study should be conducted on expanding the campground to the southeast with the goal of increasing the size of the campsites, rather than providing a greater number of sites. Other alternative sites should also be considered, including relocating the campground to the North Day Use Area and redeveloping the campground for day use.

- **Guideline PD 3.2:** Electrical service should be added to at least 50 percent of the campsites and generator use should be prohibited within the campground.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths

Doheny SB provides free pedestrian and bicycle access to the park, which is frequently used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters for through access between downcoast areas and Dana Point Harbor, primarily for recreation and also for access to harbor area businesses. In places, the pedestrian and bicycle routes are disjointed, additional directional signage would be helpful, and improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed. An expanded Visitor Center and concession facility (see goals PD 5 and INT 3 and associated guidelines) could become a focal point for bicyclists' and pedestrians' Doheny SB experience.

Goal PD 4: Doheny SB becomes a memorable “experience along a journey” for local and regional bicyclists and pedestrians, including hikers following the California Coastal Trail.

- **Guideline PD 4.1:** A focused study should be conducted to provide a separate system for through access by bicyclists and skaters that links with local and regional trails. Key components of the study would include the potential for a separate 10-foot-wide bicycle/skate route through the South Day Use Area, designated bicycle lane at the main park entrance, and delineation of areas for pedestrian-only use or restricted periods (e.g., weekdays only) when joint pedestrian/bicycle use would be permitted. The study should include recommendations on completing missing links, adequate signage, restrictions or limitations on types of users, and ADA compliance.

Goal PD 5: Safe pathways are provided in the park, which are adequately separated from motor vehicle lanes.

- **Guideline PD 5.1:** The focused study in Guideline 4.1 should include a specific design for construction of a sidewalk from the south end of the Coast Highway bridge to the South Day Use Area. The road is only approximately 24 feet wide with no shoulders available to accommodate pedestrians, who must share the roadway with cars and RVs, bicyclists, and skaters. Recommendations should also be provided on completing other missing links, adequate signage, restrictions or limitations on types of users, and ADA compliance.
- **Guideline PD 5.2:** Pedestrian access along the South Day Use Area beachfront should be established and protected from encroachment by vehicles. As an alternative to a paved walkway, it could be improved with decomposed granite or a composite, synthetic boardwalk.

Concessions

The 2,600-square-foot beachfront snack bar is the primary park concession and provides food and beverages and also rents beach equipment and bicycles. North Day Use Area visitors are the primary current users of the concession facility. No concession facilities are provided in the South Day Use Area or campground. Concession revenue is also generated by group activities and special events. Limited snack bar hours and lack of onsite retail sale of convenience items and camping supplies reduce the revenue potential and service to visitors provided by the current operation.

Goal PD 6: The concession facility supplies appropriate goods and services to meet the needs of all park users and benefits from increased visitation at an expanded Visitor Center.

- **Guideline PD 6.1:** Evaluate strategies to maximize concession revenue through a portable or permanent satellite facility at the South Day Use Area and establishment of a small store in the existing building that would sell beach and camp supplies.
- **Guideline PD 6.2:** Rental of three-wheel bikes and four-wheel buggies for onsite use should be assessed to determine if considerations of public safety or visitor needs warrant continuation of this concession. Bicycle rental for primarily offsite travel should be continued, if feasible for the operator.
- **Guideline PD 6.3:** Establishment of an expanded Visitor Center near San Juan Creek could provide an opportunity for expanded food service. If studies to expand the Visitor Center are initiated, the opportunity to redesign and update or replace the concession stand and adjacent seating areas should be considered.

Special Events

The park also accommodates visitors for special events, including two music festivals each year, surf contests, outrigger canoe races, and other local events. The size of the park, transit access, and available parking make it a unique local resource for special events that supports the tourism economy of Dana Point.

Goal PD 7: Doheny SB continues to be a location for special events that are appropriate to the Southern California beach environment and support the local tourism economy.

- **Guideline PD 7.1:** The most appropriate special events are those that provide a public educational benefit in support of clean water and enjoyment of the ocean environment. Events that coincide with Dana Point Harbor and City events, such as the Festival of Whales, are particularly appropriate.
- **Guideline PD 7.2:** Preparation, management, and decisions to continue to permit large special events such as the music festivals, should be based on considerations of public safety, adequacy of sanitary facilities, minimal pre-event disruption to park operations, and prompt post-event cleanup with no

damage to park facilities or the natural environment. These large events should avoid the period between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

Acquisitions

Expansion of the park is not anticipated since the only adjacent undeveloped land is a former motel site at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Dana Point Harbor Drive. However, it is acknowledged that day use facilities are frequently used beyond their capacity during summer weekends and additional area for recreational use would better accommodate the continually increasing number of park visitors.

Goal PD 8: Future decisions on park acquisitions are based on a determination that expansion would also benefit the City and Dana Point Harbor or would provide an opportunity for joint use.

- **Guideline PD 8.1:** If the City and/or Harbor indicate a desire to acquire additional land for public use adjacent to Doheny SB, park staff should participate in the evaluation of mutual opportunities and constraints that would be involved in any acquisition of adjacent property desired by these agencies.

3.3.5 Interpretation

The aquatic ecosystem and history of Doheny SB and its environs provide the best opportunities for public education and enjoyment of park activities and can instill a sense of place and a personal commitment by park visitors for responsible use of park facilities and resources. Current interpretive programs provide a variety of opportunities for participation by different visitor groups and ages, including local residents.

Natural Resources

The park's natural resources are principally represented by the Pacific Ocean and San Juan Creek. Although Doheny SB contains relatively small areas of natural vegetation, the park provides habitat for a variety of terrestrial wildlife species, including insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The role of the park's terrestrial environment in a local area of sparse and nonconnected habitats is an appropriate topic for public education. In the future, as urban stormwater runoff improvements are implemented offsite and onsite, the environmental quality of these resources and of North Creek, as well as opportunities for interpretation, would be increased. In particular, public education on the issues and benefits associated with urban runoff management would be an appropriate park interpretive topic.

Goal INT 1: Opportunities are provided that increase visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural resources at the park and result in an understanding of the sensitivity of these resources to human impact.

- **Guideline INT 1.1:** Provide interpretive opportunities that afford all visitors information about the park's natural resources, including the components and

functions of its interrelated ecosystems and their importance on a regional and global scale.

- **Guideline INT 1.2:** Interpretive programs on natural resource education and stewardship should continue to be included in presentations at the Visitor Center and Campfire Center, as well as participatory activities and park involvement in community-wide projects and programs.

Cultural Resources

The local area has been the setting for a unique variety of historic activities and events, from Native American settlements, local history, and the Southern California surf culture. A great deal of the history, photos, and stories from early local history have been collected by the Doheny SB Interpretive Association and park staff, much of it on the Association's website and in exhibits at the Visitor Center.

Goal INT 2: A full chronological display is provided at an expanded Visitor Center of the cultural and historic events associated with the area of Doheny SB.

- **Guideline INT 2.1:** Existing collections and stories of Southern California history should be organized and presented through onsite displays and use of multi-media resources and internet links.
- **Guideline INT 2.2:** An interpretive display of the park's CCC history would be appropriate. The remaining early park CCC features near the Campground entrance are presently an overlooked and generally neglected feature of the park that are worthy of an interpretative display. Future park improvements in this area should include a more prominent role of these historic resources as a park entry feature.
- **Guideline INT 2.3:** New construction should incorporate elements of the park's cultural history as design themes or aesthetic treatments. Examples would include CCC-era architecture or interpretive treatments reflective of the area's maritime and surf culture history.
- **Guideline INT 2.4:** Acquire and maintain collections obtained or housed at the park in accordance with the Department's Collections Management Standards.

Visitor Center

The existing Visitor Center is too small to adequately support the variety of activities and exhibits it contains and the building and its infrastructure are near the end of their useful lives. Needed improvements include expanded space for marine and wildlife exhibits, a larger presentation area for park history displays, larger gift shop and, in particular, a separate group classroom/video room to facilitate visitor education and appreciation for the park's natural and historic resources. Staff offices should also be arranged a separate building or designed with a separate access.

Ideally, the new Visitor Center would be relocated near the lagoon and ocean and include appropriate outdoor exhibit space in an area that is adequately separated from traffic noise. Opportunities to redesign the Visitor Center and concession stand as separate uses within a single center of visitor activities should also be considered. Alternatively, the Visitor Center could be expanded in its current location, be functionally integrated with the Butterfly Garden, and be improved with new outdoor exhibits.

Goal INT 3: A new Visitor Center is constructed that enables presentations with additional interpretive facilities for improved public education on the natural resources and cultural history of the park and local area.

- **Guideline INT 3.1:** The architectural design of the new Visitor Center should reflect elements of the park history and the maritime character of Dana Point.
- **Guideline INT 3.2:** The location and site design of the new Visitor Center should provide a more open facility that is better integrated with the park’s natural environment.
- **Guideline INT 3.3:** The new Visitor Center should be of adequate size to accommodate the continually growing local population and increased visitor attendance. Consideration should be given to providing a multi-purpose room that would enable video presentations, use of interactive media resources, and group activities.

3.3.6 Facilities

Buildings and Grounds

With the benefits of good maintenance practices, sturdy construction, and a mild climate, most of the park’s facilities are in good shape, though many of the buildings are 30 years old. In particular, size and structural deficiencies exist in the Visitor Center/staff office building and the main lifeguard tower. In addition, buildings constructed in the 1970s and those constructed since do not reflect a common architectural theme, and none reflects the original organic architecture of CCC-era park improvements. The utilitarian architectural character of the concession building, and its prominent beachfront location, make it particularly out of character with the park’s natural and historic setting.

Goal FAC 1: Buildings and other park infrastructure are improved and/or replaced as needed to adequately accommodate increased visitor attendance. Over time, as buildings are remodeled or replaced, a consistent architectural theme reminiscent of the original CCC designs is implemented.

- **Guideline FAC 1.1:** Routine inspections should be conducted to document building and infrastructure deficiencies.
- **Guideline FAC 1.2:** Prior to construction of any significant new building, a standardized architectural treatment for all new construction should be established and followed for future buildings and accessory facilities.

Goal FAC 2: Native plant materials are used to the greatest extent practical and invasive exotic plants are eliminated from the park.

- **Guideline FAC 2.1:** Plant materials used for landscaped areas should be native and low water use species wherever practical. When exotic plant materials are used, only noninvasive species are permitted.
- **Guideline FAC 2.2:** Exotic plant materials should be removed from natural habitat areas, particularly along San Juan Creek. Invasive exotic species should have the highest priority for removal.

Goal FAC 3: The siting, design, and materials used for park improvements demonstrates sensitivity to natural site conditions and the Earth's diminishing resources.

- **Guideline FAC 3.1:** Considerations during design of park improvement projects should include evaluation of environmentally preferred options to traditional building materials and techniques. Where feasible, park projects should reduce both the natural resource impacts that result from construction, as well as the energy and other resources that would be consumed in maintaining park buildings and grounds.
- **Guideline FAC 3.2:** Appropriate strategies to implement Goal FAC 3 would include selection of “green” building materials, such as recycled products; maximizing areas of permeable surfaces, including replacement of existing paved areas where alternative surfacing materials would allow more natural infiltration of rainfall and drainage runoff; orientation and design of buildings for maximum solar and climate benefit; and utilizing drought tolerant plantings and maintenance practices that minimize the need for fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, and encourage biodiversity of landscaped areas.

Roads and Utilities

In general, the park's roadways are adequately improved and maintained for motorized vehicle use. As noted above under *Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths* in Section 3.3.4, improved separation of nonmotorized facilities from roads and parking areas is needed.

Maintenance of adequate park utility services requires sufficient capacity in water and sewer lines serving restrooms and showers. As stated in Chapter 2, an existing 4-inch water line serving the park should be upgraded to a 6-inch line to provide adequate capacity for peak demand.

Goal FAC 4: Park roads, walkways, bicycle routes, and utilities are adequately maintained and improved to ensure public safety for all park users and to provide adequate capacity for their level of use.

- **Guideline FAC 4.1:** The level of use of park roads and utility infrastructure requires continual monitoring to ensure that facilities are improved and/or

upgraded as needed to adequately accommodate increased visitor attendance.

Lifeguards and Emergency Services

The 1.2 miles of beach, large crowds on peak summer days, and variety of park users, both in the water, picnicking, and passing through on bikes and skates, result in a large number of emergency response situations. The campground also creates the potential for night emergency medical assistance. The small size and poor condition of the existing main lifeguard tower make it inadequate for the park's public safety needs.

Goal FAC 5: An improved main lifeguard facility and continued high level of assistance are provided to beach users and other visitors who require emergency medical assistance.

- **Guideline FAC 5.1:** The main lifeguard tower should be improved to provide space, facilities, and equipment in keeping with accepted standards for similar beach lifeguard towers.

Goal FAC 6: Facilities, services, and public education are provided that contribute to the safety and convenience of visitors.

- **Guideline FAC 6.1:** Staffing levels for lifeguards and other security personnel should keep pace with increased visitor attendance.
- **Guideline FAC 6.2:** Emergency contact information and directions to the nearest 24-hour hospital emergency room (currently South Coast Medical Center in Laguna Beach) should be posted at the park office, entrance kiosk, lifeguard tower, each restroom in the campground, and at other appropriate locations in the North and South Day Use Areas.
- **Guideline FAC 6.3:** Evaluate whether signage and informational displays adequately inform visitors of hazardous swimming and wading conditions.

Maintenance and Operations

The volume of year-round visitor use and the variety of physical and environmental conditions at the park create the need to store and maintain a great number of vehicles, equipment, tools, supplies, trash disposal bins, and other items. At the same time, the relatively small size of the park and lack of any “out of the way” space for a maintenance facility creates the need to minimize space allocated to maintenance activities to the extent practical. Park staff has sought opportunities to relocate or share facilities with other local agencies, but this must be done in a manner that would not result in inefficient park operations.

Goal FAC 7: Maintenance and storage areas, and trash disposal facilities are not openly visible from public use areas.

- **Guideline FAC 7.1:** A study should be conducted to identify effective ways to relocate or adequately screen existing unsightly maintenance and operations areas.
- **Guideline FAC 7.2:** Park staff should continue to investigate opportunities to relocate or share similar facilities with other local agencies so as to maximize space available at the park for public use.

3.4 SPECIFIC AREA GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section of the General Plan refines the management intentions for the principal use areas of the park by proposing relevant goals and guidelines for the long-term management and improvement of these areas. The specific areas are the North Day Use Area, South Day Use Area, Campground, and the Creeks and Ocean Resource Areas. While all areas of the park are to be managed in accordance with the park-wide goals and guidelines in Section 3.3, the specific areas described below are governed by both park-wide and specific area goals and guidelines. Some goals and guidelines from Section 3.3 that are particularly relevant to the specific areas are repeated below.

3.4.1 North Day Use Area

The North Day Use Area encompasses approximately 30 acres for day use recreation, which includes 10 acres of beach and parking for approximately 700 cars. The ocean is functionally also a part of the North Day Use Area. As described in Chapter 2, there are two large turfed areas, picnic tables, restrooms and showers, a swimming and surfing beach, sand volleyball courts, main concession facility, and the main lifeguard tower. Though other facilities are located in this area of the park, the following goals and guidelines are intended to apply to uses and facilities between the ocean and the main park entrance road.

While the North Day Use Area is addressed in this General Plan as a single entity, it contains two separate nodes of activity: the beach and ocean, and the picnic areas. While many park visitors come to enjoy both, some visitors limit most of their activities to one or the other of these nodes of activity. Thus, the North Day Use Area serves two distinct user groups: the picnic area primarily functions as an urban park for passive recreation by individuals, families, and groups; and the beach and ocean provide an opportunity for those who want to enjoy the beach. The North Day Use Area also provides a venue for many of the park's special events described in Chapter 2.

Due to the opportunities for a wide variety of activities on and off the beach, and the ample parking and facilities provided for visitor comfort and enjoyment, the North Day Use Area is the most intensively used portion of Doheny SB and, during warm summer weekends, may represent the most intensively populated 30 acres in the entire State Park System.

Goal NDU 1: Visitors to the North Day Use Area are provided with a high, but unobtrusive, level of public safety and adequate facilities for emergency response and medical assistance.

- **Guideline NDU 1.1:** The general level of recreational activities should be restricted to passive uses, primarily picnics, in the lawn areas of the park. All types of participant sports activities should be prohibited except on very low use days when park staff determines that activities with a very low potential for injury or annoyance to others, such as badminton, frisbee, and ball toss activities, could be allowed.
- **Guideline NDU 1.2:** Group recreational activities on the beach should be limited to the volleyball courts. Frisbee and ball toss activities among two or three people can generally be accommodated on the beach except when crowd conditions warrant restrictions.

Goal NDU 2: Additional day use visitor amenities and improvements to existing facilities are provided, which are functionally arranged as a focal point for interpretive opportunities and visitor services, and designed to reflect the natural and historic character of the area.

- **Guideline NDU 2.1:** The North Day Use Area should continue to be made available for special events. Type of event, potential size of crowd, and time of year should all be considered when permitting special events. Opportunities to accommodate events in the two large group picnic sites should be maximized and appropriate improvements made to adequately serve the needs of corporate, convention, or other special events, as well as large family gatherings.
- **Guideline NDU 2.2:** If studies to expand the Visitor Center are initiated, the opportunity to relocate it to the oceanfront and update or replace the concession stand and adjacent seating areas should be considered.

Goal NDU 3: Activities and circulation routes are designed and managed to provide an appropriate level of separation between user groups in order to minimize conflicts, while accommodating a free flow of visitors between park activity areas and amenities.

- **Guideline NDU 3.1:** Nonmotor vehicle circulation should provide access to all areas of the North Day Use Area and provide improved through-park circulation but should limit bicycle riding, skating, skateboarding, and jogging along the beachfront walkway to only very low use days and times.

Goal NDU 4: Vehicle circulation in the area around the main park entrance is improved to enable efficient and safe flow of cars, nonmotor vehicles, and pedestrians, and increases picnic and other recreational use areas where feasible.

- **Guideline NDU 4.1:** A focused study should be conducted for the portion of the park between the service area/east park boundary and the North Day Use

parking lots to identify possible design alternatives that would improve nonmotor vehicle circulation at the park entrance and expand picnic areas. This should include the potential to reduce the area of paved surfaces by combining portions of the existing adjacent roadways that serve through park traffic with those that serve the parking lots.

3.4.2 South Day Use Area

The South Day Use Area encompasses approximately 26 acres for day use recreation and includes over 19 acres of beach, 3,200 feet in length. Parking for approximately 567 cars is also provided. As described in Chapter 2, there are two restroom buildings, chemical toilets, beach showers, volleyball courts, a horseshoe area, and fire rings on the beach. While all motor vehicles must take access through the main park entrance, a pedestrian overpass of Coast Highway and the railroad, and a pedestrian/bicycle trail at the south end of the park, provide additional points of access. This additional free accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians makes the South Day Use Area particularly attractive to nearby residents who can bike to the beach or park on the street, as well as to guests at numerous visitor accommodations across Coast Highway.

While there are some picnic tables in the South Day Use Area, there are no lawn areas and only limited visitor amenities, which give it an appeal to those who seek a more peaceful and relaxed day at the beach than is usually available at the upcoast end of the park. The downcoast end also is very popular with the RV crowd who can enjoy the beach with the amenities of home only steps away.

Goal SDU 1: The South Day Use Area continues to provide an adequate level of facilities and services for beach-oriented passive recreation and relaxation with limited recreational improvements.

- **Guideline SDU 1.1:** Additional permanent restroom facilities need to be provided to replace the porta-potties located in the South Day Use Area.
- **Guideline SDU 1.2:** Use of the restroom located just south of the campground requires visitors to cross a traffic lane. Consideration should be given to removing this facility or relocating park traffic to only the east side of the building. A future replacement facility could be provided in a joint use lifeguard and restroom facility located closer to the beach. The potential for wave runup would need to be evaluated and may limit facility placement or require special design or structural protection.

Goal SDU 2: Improved separation of pedestrian and nonmotorized vehicle routes from driving lanes are provided in the parking areas.

- **Guideline SDU 2.1:** A study should be conducted to evaluate feasible means to redesign parking in the South Day Use Area to create separate bicycle and pedestrian pathways outside of the parking lot driving lanes. The study should also make recommendations on accommodating large RVs in a manner that does not result in encroachment on the public beach. It is

anticipated that some reduction in parking may be necessary to provide a safer and more efficient parking and circulation system for the South Day Use Area.

- **Guideline SDU 2.2:** Pedestrian access along the South Day Use Area beachfront should be established and protected from encroachment by vehicles. As an alternative to a paved walkway, it could be improved with decomposed granite or a composite, synthetic boardwalk.

3.4.3 Campground

The campground encompasses approximately 8 acres and provides 120 spaces for tent or RV camping. Campers also enjoy over 5 acres and approximately 1,000 linear feet of beach between the campground and the ocean. No hook-ups are provided, though potable water is available at several locations in the campground and an RV holding tank dump station is provided in the North Day Use Area. The lack of electrical connections at the camp spaces causes generator-noise complaints from other campers. Also within the campground are five restroom buildings, including two with hot water showers, beach showers, and a campfire center.

Goal CAMP 1: The campground is expanded to provide larger campsites, electrical hookups, and other appropriate amenities, while still permitting adequate opportunity for tent camping without hookups.

- **Guideline CAMP 1.1:** A focused study should be conducted on expanding the campground to the southeast with the goal of increasing the size of the campsites, rather than providing a greater number of sites. Other alternative sites should also be considered, including relocating the campground to the North Day Use Area and redeveloping the campground for day use.
- **Guideline CAMP 1.2:** Electrical service should be added to at least 50 percent of the campsites and generator use should be prohibited within the campground.

3.4.4 Creeks and Ocean Resource Areas

Aquatic habitat resources in Doheny SB are principally represented by the Pacific Ocean and San Juan Creek. In addition, North Creek supports riparian habitat in an earthen channel drainage course that serves as an outlet for urban storm drains.

Wetland/riparian vegetation communities within the park provide habitat and nesting grounds for birds such as the great blue heron, great egret, black-crowned night-heron, killdeer, black-necked stilt, and common yellowthroat. Shorebird species that rely on the open water and beach habitats include the Brandt's cormorant, California brown pelican, black-bellied plover, western sandpiper, and many other species.

Additionally, the immediate off-shore area is within the Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge, which contains an abundance of sea life. Based on direct and indirect observations during the wildlife surveys and information obtained from park staff, over 75 aquatic wildlife species are known to occur within the park or the local area. Sensitive freshwater species that could potentially occur within the park are southern steelhead, arroyo chub, and tidewater goby. Sensitive marine aquatic species that could occur in local waters are white abalone and giant sea bass.

Goal COR 1: Park creeks and the ocean are protected, rehabilitated where feasible, and managed to improve habitat conditions for native wildlife and fish.

- **Guideline COR 1.1:** Aquatic habitats within the creeks and offshore area should be further evaluated to determine baseline habitat conditions, provide recommendations for enhancing habitat for aquatic species and birds that are dependent on aquatic environments, and establish a program for monitoring and documenting habitat changes.

Goal COR 2: The natural habitat value of the park's creeks and ocean resources continues to be a principal interpretive theme in educating park users regarding the sensitivity of these resources to human impact.

- **Guideline COR 2.1:** Provide an expanded Visitor Center with additional multi-media resources for visitors to better understand their role in protecting local water quality. This could include computer terminals linked to local water quality agencies and organizations.

Goal COR 3: Park drainage and stormwater management systems are improved to reduce untreated runoff into the creeks and ocean.

- **Guideline COR 3.1:** Apply for the appropriate federal Clean Water Act permits (Sections 401 and 404) to enable periodic removal of the sand plug at the mouths of San Juan Creek and North Creek in order to improve water quality in the lagoons and avoid adverse impacts to ocean water quality.
- **Guideline COR 3.2:** A focused study should be conducted of the onsite portion of North Creek and the potential for natural biological remediation of polluted runoff entering the park, such as through installation of a “treatment wetland.” Elements of such a system could include a naturalized design of drop structures to slow the flow of runoff and facilitate infiltration, wetland plant materials capable of removing pollutants, and stream flow recirculation to oxygenate the water and create a more aesthetic stream condition. This system could also serve as a test site for installation of a larger treatment system in San Juan Creek.

3.5 PLAN ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Map 8 is the Land Use Plan for the Doheny State Beach General Plan. Following the public review period for the general plan and EIR, this document will be considered for adoption at a public meeting of the California State Park and Recreation Commission. Action to certify the EIR in accordance with the CEQA process will also be considered at that meeting.

Implementation of the Doheny State Beach General Plan will be carried out through future plans, projects, and programs designed to enhance visitor enjoyment, resource management, and public safety. Unlike general plans for cities and counties that are implemented largely through zoning, the park's general plan will be implemented through future park improvement projects and management programs. Input from park staff, public workshops, and analyses of existing environmental conditions have identified improvements and concerns that are identified in this document. Actions to improve these conditions will be further detailed by focused management plans, specific project plans, and environmental monitoring programs, as well as funding considerations inherent in management of State Park System lands.

3.5.1 Management Plans

Management plans define the specific objectives, methodologies, and/or designs needed to accomplish park management goals. These occur on an as-needed basis and are typically focused on specific management topics, goals, or issues.

3.5.2 Specific Project Plans

Specific project plans are the detailed implementation plans needed to provide design details, schedules, and procedures necessary to complete specific projects or accomplish management plans.

3.5.3 Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs

Park-specific monitoring plans are prepared to assess the status and condition of a park's vital resources and the effectiveness of management actions. They describe the important components of a park that need to be monitored with respect to stated management goals, priorities, and issues. They also specify what, how, and when to inventory, monitor, and assess each park resource.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Section 21081.6 of CEQA requires that a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) be adopted upon the certification of an EIR in order to assure that the mitigation measures are implemented. An MMRP has been included as Table 4-1 in the EIR portion of this General Plan.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is a tool to monitor intensity of use and adjust management practices accordingly. Adaptive management can be applied to the protection and enhancement of sensitive resources at the park, or be used to improve visitor enjoyment of park facilities and programs. It is an ongoing, iterative process of identifying desired conditions, selecting and monitoring qualitative indicators and quantitative standards that are reflective of these desired conditions, and then taking certain specified actions if adequate progress toward the desired conditions is not being made. Following are relevant elements of this adaptive management process applicable to Doheny SB:

Allowable Use Intensity. Allowable use intensity correlates the significance, sensitivities, and constraints of the park's resources to determine the allowable degree of human use. This general plan implementation process can be undertaken to adjust the permitted intensity of park use based on the measurable impacts on the park's resources, or can be used to assess the appropriateness of future park improvement proposals.

Qualitative Evaluation. Visitor impact can also be determined qualitatively via representative indicators that present a snapshot of environmental conditions without the necessity of investigating the full complexity of environmental systems. Indicators can be developed to cover the range of activities, intensities of use, ecosystem types, and environmental systems present in the park. These indicators can be monitored throughout the life of the general plan to provide feedback for adaptive management decisions. Over time, this will provide an assessment of whether resource conditions are improving and enable park staff to identify where further corrective action may be needed. The following are examples of indicators that may be employed over the long term to provide feedback on the health of natural systems, cultural resources, and park systems and improvements:

- **Water Quality:** Measured changes in water quality in the lagoons and ocean and resulting increase or decrease in beach closures and warning postings.
- **Health of Natural Communities:** Extent of natural vegetation communities and reduction in invasive exotic species.
- **Wildlife:** Presence of a variety of native wildlife, including a variety of aquatic species, and use of park environments for nesting and foraging by sensitive or protected bird species.
- **Sensitive Cultural Resources:** Maintenance of the remaining CCC-era park features and protection from deterioration.
- **Public Safety:** Measured changes in incidents of emergency medical care, ocean rescues, bicycle/pedestrian accidents, and crime.
- **Willful Destruction:** Evidence of vandalism and litter.

- **Parking and Circulation:** Frequency of days with inadequate parking and increase or decrease in number of accidents between motor vehicles and bicycles or pedestrians.
- **Utilities:** Frequency of inadequate utility capacity attributable to inadequate size of water or wastewater systems.
- **Accessibility:** Adequate opportunity for all visitors, regardless of physical capabilities, to safely enjoy all park facilities, and elimination of physical barriers to mobility throughout the park.

These or other appropriate indicators are benchmarks for measurement of park management expectations. If park staff determines that the park or any specific area or activity is not meeting the desired visitor experience or resource protection goals, action can be initiated to identify and improve the situation. Actions to manage or limit visitor use would be implemented when desired conditions are not being met due to impacts associated with visitor use. Before taking action involving physical change in park facilities or improvements, it is necessary to determine that the action to be taken is consistent with goals and guidelines of the general plan and that potential impacts were adequately addressed in the environmental analysis of the plan. Examples of possible management actions would include the following:

- **Site management:** Implement measures affecting facility design, barriers, surface treatments, area or facility closure, change in access locations, or redirection of visitors to other areas.
- **Regulations:** Limit number of people, location or time of use, permitted activities, and allowable equipment.
- **Enforcement of regulations:** Institute or increase patrols, notifications of infractions, and citations for violations.
- **Education:** Provide informative signs and exhibits, interpretive programs or activities, brochures and fliers to be handed out at park entrance, meetings with user groups.

3.5.4 Future Actions to Resolve Issues

This park planning process has identified issues and focused planning efforts that will require attention beyond the scope of this General Plan. Funding and staffing limitations restrict what issues and studies the Department is able to address in the near future and priorities will need to be established for park improvements. Many goals and guidelines of the General Plan provide direction for each issue and planning effort needed for plan implementation. Some of these goals and guidelines recommend future planning efforts, such as management plans and focused studies. The following list of high-priority issues is not intended to restrict work on other issues or planning efforts.

Visitor Center Improvements

From the standpoint of visitor services and amenities, construction of a new Visitor Center with adequate space for expanded interpretive exhibits and programs, should be a high-priority item. As discussed in Sections 2.4 and 3.3, the ideal future Visitor Center would include appropriate outdoor space, larger presentation areas for natural resource and park history displays, larger gift shop, and a group classroom and video room to improve the park's public educational programs. Relocating the Visitor Center near the lagoon and ocean should be considered as it would have the benefit of attracting more day use visitors and pass-through pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters.

Circulation and Pedestrian/Bicycle Routes

From a public safety standpoint, improving circulation within the park to separate motor vehicles from pedestrian and bicycle routes should also be a high-priority item. The park is served by high-volume roads and many local residents use the park for walking, jogging, bicycling, and skating between Capistrano Beach and Dana Point Harbor. As illustrated on Map 5, circulation system deficiencies and pedestrian/vehicle conflicts exist within the park. These problems are most critical between the North Day Use Area and the downcoast end of the park where cars, pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters share the same roadway and parking lot with no separation. Considering that many pedestrians and bicyclists are young children, this is a significant public safety issue. Safe accessibility for disabled park visitors is also lacking in this southern area of the park. A focused study to provide separate systems for through access by pedestrians, bicyclists, and skaters is recommended in Section 3.3 of this General Plan.

Water Quality Improvements

The issue of greatest importance for the park's natural resources is improvement of the water quality in the creeks and ocean. As described in Section 2.3, beach closures and warning postings are a common occurrence along the beach due to polluted drainage and stormwater runoff from inland areas. This has been a significant complaint from park visitors for the past several years. Stormwater system improvements are being made in the local communities and the park's system should also be upgraded to incorporate state-of-the-art BMPs. As shown on Map 6, some 33 storm drains exist in the park's paved areas and lawns, most of which are believed to discharge directly into San Juan Creek. Though some of these may be connected to sewer lines, no drainage diversion or bio-filtration systems, pollutant traps, or other regularly maintained structural BMPs are known to exist in the park. Another recommended focused study would determine the potential for natural biological remediation through installation of a "treatment wetland" in North Creek, which could also serve as a test site for installation of a larger treatment system in San Juan Creek.

Campground Improvement




The Doheny SB Campground is a very highly used and enjoyed facility for Orange County residents and visitors from inland areas. The quality of the camping experience is reduced by the small overall size of the campground (approximately 8 acres) and small campsites. In addition, the lack of electrical connections at the camp spaces results in generator use by some RV campers, which causes noise complaints from other campers. As recommended in Section 3.3, a focused study should be conducted on expanding the campground to the southeast with the goal of increasing the size of the campsites, rather than providing a greater number of sites. Electrical service should be added to at least 50 percent of the campsites so that generator use can be prohibited within the campground.

3.5.5 Intent of the General Plan Implementation Process

Implementation of this General Plan is intended to balance the needs of the public for enjoyment of park facilities while maintaining the natural qualities that make the park a valuable public resource and an enjoyable visitor experience. Potential visitor impact on natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources is to be considered along with public feedback on the overall quality of the visitor experience to determine whether current practices are appropriate or require correction. Use of appropriately selected indicators, together with management goals, expectations, and financial resources, provides the basis for long-term management decisions that will result in proper stewardship of the park.

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

PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES	
	Core Habitat Zone
	Native Plant Resource Zone
	Recreation/Operations Zone



Doheny State Beach
MAP 7
Park Management Zones



LAND USE CHANGES	
	Environmental Enhancement Areas
	Improved Visitor Center and Concession Area
	Expanded Campground Area

PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES	
	Core Habitat Zone
	Native Plant Resource Zone
	Recreation/Operations Zone



Doheny State Beach

**MAP 8
Land Use Plan**

Chapter 4 – Environmental Analysis

This Environmental Analysis section of the Doheny State Beach General Plan has been prepared as a Program EIR in accordance with Section 15166 of the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations). With the description of Existing Conditions and Issues in Chapter 2, the environmental analysis addresses all the points required to be in an EIR by Article 9 of the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of the Program EIR is to analyze and disclose the preferred alternative's effects on the environment, mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. The environmental review in this General Plan is considered a "first tier" EIR as described in Section 15152 of the CEQA Guidelines. Because the EIR prepared for the General Plan is programmatic in scope, it does not contain project-specific analysis for any of the projects recommended in the General Plan. Specific projects will undergo subsequent CEQA review in the future when details of the projects are known and potential environmental effects and mitigation measures, if required, can be determined.

4.1 SUMMARY

This EIR contains an analysis of the following potential environmental impacts associated with the use and development of Doheny SB: land use and planning, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, circulation and access, hazards, noise, public services and utilities, and aesthetics.

4.1.1 Summary of Impacts and Mitigation

Land Use and Planning

The general plan is consistent with the designation of Recreation/Open Space for the park on the Dana Point General Plan/Local Coastal Program and is also consistent with relevant policies of the CCA. In addition, goals and guidelines of the proposed Doheny State Beach General Plan support local nonmotor vehicle circulation planning and the ongoing habitat conservation planning by local, state, and federal agencies. Mitigation for potential impacts to land use plans and policies is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines that recommend focused studies to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian pathways through the park. No further mitigation is required.

Biological Resources

Riparian habitat at the San Juan Creek lagoon is subject to indirect impacts from human activities associated with high levels of park use. Compliance with proposed general plan guidelines would ensure further evaluation would be conducted to monitor and document habitat and species impacts within the park and to enhance habitat conditions, in particular for species that are dependent on aquatic environments. Mitigation for potential impacts to riparian habitats and

associated wildlife species is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines that would improve riparian and other natural habitat conditions within the park. No further mitigation is required.

Cultural Resources

A few sensitive cultural resources associated with the CCC period of park development exist at Doheny SB. Guideline CR 1.1 provides measures to monitor the condition of remaining CCC-period features in the park, including annual photo documentation and measures to preserve and/or restore these features if necessary. This is a less than significant impact.

Water Resources

The main source of pollution affecting waters at Doheny SB is stormwater runoff from neighboring urbanized areas. In addition, existing drains within the park convey runoff from parking lots and trash container areas to the storm drain system. Mitigation for potential impacts to water quality is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines for focused studies to upgrade the park's storm drain system by incorporating state-of-the-art BMPs and for natural biological remediation of polluted runoff through installation of a "treatment wetland" in North Creek. No further mitigation is required.

Circulation and Access

Crowded park conditions create potential conflicts between vehicles, bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians in some areas of the park. Mitigation for potential impacts to circulation and access is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines that recommend focused studies of the park's circulation patterns to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian pathways through the park, and would adequately avoid significant impacts to circulation and access. No further mitigation is required.

Hazards

Public safety concerns exist at the park due to inadequate separation of pedestrian and bicycle routes from roadways and parking lot driving lanes. Emergency and safety facilities need reevaluation to assure adequate emergency response. Mitigation for potential public safety impacts is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines that recommend focused studies of the park's circulation patterns to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian safety and to improve facilities, staffing, and public information for emergency response to visitor needs. No further mitigation is required.

Noise

Noise from traffic on existing roadways, specifically Pacific Coast Highway, and RV generator noise can affect park users. Mitigation for potential noise impacts is provided by Guideline PD 2.4 that recommends that a sound wall be constructed along Pacific Coast Highway as traffic noise levels increase in the future, and in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and

guidelines that recommend installation of electrical hookups in the campground. No further mitigation is required.

Public Service and Utilities

Existing demand for electrical service at the campground is not being met and the existing stormwater drainage system in the park does not meet current water quality standards for reduction in pollutants in urban runoff. Mitigation for potential public service and utility impacts is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines that recommend installation of electrical hookups in the campground and focused studies to upgrade the park's storm drain system and a natural biological remediation of polluted runoff in North Creek. No further mitigation is required.

Aesthetics

Potential visual impacts could occur if future park development were to obstruct or detract from existing views of the park from offsite public areas. Mitigation for potential visual impacts is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures and guidelines, which recommend that existing natural resources areas within the park not be reduced and that a scenic resources evaluation to identify areas for visual enhancement be prepared. This impact is less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

Development in the local project area is expected to occur primarily through infill development of residential and commercial uses consistent with local city general plans. Two major land use planning and development projects, the Dana Point Harbor Master Plan and the Headlands Development and Conservation Plan, are considered to be cumulative projects in relation to the Doheny State Beach General Plan. These projects would contribute cumulative traffic, noise, air quality, and other impacts associated with continued population growth in the area. However, the Doheny State Beach General Plan would not provide additional facilities that would contribute to an increase in this expected rate of growth, nor would it expand existing uses or create new uses that are intended to attract additional park visitors.

4.1.2 Summary of Alternatives Considered

Two alternative land use plans are evaluated for comparison of potential impacts to the proposed project. Alternative 1, Campground Relocation and Expansion, would relocate the campground to a portion of the North Day Use Area and be expanded from approximately 8 acres to approximately 13 acres, which could add up to 75 new campsites. The existing campground would be converted to day use picnic sites and parking. Alternative 2, Environmental Enhancement would convert, restore, and enhance approximately 5.6 acres to natural habitat for local wildlife species along both sides of San Juan Creek, along North Creek and by expanding the existing dune restoration site, and by replacing the existing maintenance area with native habitat. In addition to the alternative land use plans, the No Project Alternative is also evaluated.

4.1.3 Areas of Controversy and Issues to Be Resolved

Based on public input provided at the public scoping meeting described in Section 2.4.1, no substantial issues of public controversy have been identified for the proposed project. Additional public input may be provided on improvements desired by park users and priorities for these improvements, which may require resolution by the Park and Recreation Commission.

4.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Doheny State Beach General Plan replaces the existing *Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Doheny State Beach* that was adopted in 1972 and amended in 1982 and serves as a framework to guide the park's day-to-day decisions on park operations and improvements. As described in Section 1.2, general plans are broad-based policy documents that provide management guidelines for a park by defining a framework for implementing diverse missions of resource stewardship, interpretation, and visitor use and services. The plan defines the purpose, vision, and long-term goals and guidelines for the management of the park.

Map 3 in Chapter 2 shows the existing park facilities and use areas. The park is divided into three visitor use areas. The area northwest of San Juan Creek provides a day use picnic area with parking for approximately 700 cars, large turfed areas, picnic tables, restrooms and showers, beach, and the main lifeguard tower. A Visitor Center with aquariums and a simulated tide pool, park administrative offices, and a maintenance area are also located in this northwest portion of the park. A campground with 120 spaces for tent or RV camping is located adjacent to the beach just southeast of San Juan Creek. Farther downcoast is another day use beach area with approximately 567 parking spaces, 2 restroom buildings and chemical toilets, beach showers, fire rings, and seasonal lifeguard towers.

4.2.1 Project Objectives

The declaration of purpose for Doheny SB in Section 3.1.1 is intended to serve as the principal statement of park management objectives to fulfill the park's vision. The objective of the general plan is to retain the basic facilities and form of park development during the anticipated 20-year planning period of the general plan update. Improvements to existing facilities and replacement of existing structures are needed and may include expansion of existing buildings or use areas; however, no increase in facilities is expected to occur that would substantially increase visitor capacity or reduce existing natural areas, principally represented by the two creeks, adjacent wetland/riparian vegetation communities, and the ocean.

4.2.2 Project Features

Map 8 is the proposed Land Use Plan for the Doheny State Beach General Plan and illustrates the key features of the general plan update process contained in

Chapter 3. These key project features are summarized below under the headings of Park Management Zones and General Plan Goals and Guidelines.

Park Management Zones

Map 7 in Chapter 3 illustrates park management zones that address the distinct natural, aesthetic, and recreational values found in the park. These zones have been incorporated into the proposed general plan map. Within these zones, the desired resource conditions, visitor experiences and uses, and potential facilities vary depending on the environmental or physical site constraints and stakeholder input. The management zones for Doheny SB, are Core Habitat Zone, Native Plant Resource Zone, and Recreation/Operations Zone.

As described in Section 3.2, the Core Habitat Zone is designed to maximize natural habitat conditions as the primary land use objective for this zone. Only passive park visitor activities such as wildlife viewing and educational programs are permitted in the creeks and dune restoration site. Beach and water recreation activities are permitted in the offshore Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge, including sportfishing subject to Section 10664 of the California Fish and Game Code. Scientific and/or habitat restoration programs may also be conducted in the Core Habitat Zones with prior authorization by the Department.

The Native Plant Resource Zone is designated over those areas of native or ornamental landscaping where picnicking and other forms of recreational use occur. This zone is intended to provide supplemental habitat to allow roosting and potential nesting of birds, as well as habitat for terrestrial species. Over time, it would be replanted to contain more native plant species.

The Recreation/Operations Zone designates areas where visitor recreational activities and park operations and maintenance facilities are the principal existing and planned land uses. This zone is a high-intensity use area where developed land uses and visitor activities would be concentrated. While future development or maintenance activities in this zone must be sensitive to adjacent natural resource areas, the zone is demarcated to avoid those areas of greatest resource sensitivity in the park.

General Plan Goals and Guidelines

The park-wide and specific area goals and guidelines in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 are management approaches to achieve the park's declaration of purpose and to provide facilities for public access, recreation, interpretation, and park administration in an environment where visitor use could impact sensitive resources and natural ecosystems. These goals and guidelines would be implemented through future plans, projects, and programs as described in Section 1.3.4.

The goals and guidelines include recommendations for improved preservation and management of natural and cultural resources, and improvements to visitor-

servicing facilities and interpretive programs. From these recommendations, the Land Use Plan of the General Plan (Map 8) has been prepared and the following proposed park management programs and improvements are proposed:

- **Park Management Zones:** The three park management zones are illustrated on Map 7 and described above and in Section 3.2. Implementation of the zones would preserve and enhance the park's existing natural resource areas; increase the use of native plants to screen and separate use areas; and preserve the existing active recreational uses, camping, and park management and visitor facilities.
- **Stormwater Management:** The Department would seek to improve water quality in the creeks and ocean through cooperative efforts with local and regional agencies and implementation of feasible BMPs for all inlets, outlets, and drains within the park. Obtaining federal Clean Water Act permits for periodic removal of the sand plug at the mouths of San Juan Creek and North Creek could be included.
- **Preservation of Historic Features:** The condition of the remaining CCC-period features in the park would be monitored and measures would be initiated to preserve and/or restore these features if deterioration becomes evident.
- **Aesthetic Resources:** Future park improvements would seek to enhance views, improve screening of offsite areas, and remove or visually improve the sewer pump station in the South Day Use Area.
- **Improvements to Park Circulation:** A separate system for through access by bicyclists and skaters that links with local and regional trails would include separate bicycle and pedestrian pathways outside of the parking lot driving lanes in the South Day Use Area, which could include improvement of a beachfront walkway; designated bicycle lane at the main park entrance; delineation of areas for pedestrian-only use or restricted periods (e.g., weekdays only) when joint pedestrian/bicycle use would be permitted; and completing missing links, providing adequate signage, implementing restrictions or limitations on types of users, and ensuring ADA compliance.
- **Campground Improvements:** The campground would remain at 120 spaces but would be expanded by approximately 2 acres to the southeast to enable increased campsite size. This area is shown on Map 8 and consists of an unused dirt area, parking lot, horseshoe pits, and restroom building. Electrical service would be added to at least 50 percent of the campsites and generator use would be prohibited.
- **Visitor Center Improvements:** The Visitor Center would be expanded to provide additional displays of local and park history and improved educational facilities. The General Plan recommends that it be relocated in the area between the main concession stand and San Juan Creek and that the outdated concession building be replaced. Though the Visitor Center could also be expanded at its current location, relocating it to the beachfront could

include a comprehensive redesign of this area to make it a focal point for interpretive opportunities and visitor services.

- **Improved Facilities:** Proposed improvements to park infrastructure would include two new restrooms in the South Day Use Area, new main lifeguard tower in the North Day Use Area, refurbishing and/or replacing park buildings and picnic facilities, and upgrading the existing 4-inch water line to a 6-inch line.

4.2.3 Park Improvement Procedures

Input from park staff, public workshops, and analyses of existing environmental conditions have identified improvements and concerns that are identified in this document. Actions to improve these conditions will be further detailed by focused management plans, specific project plans, and environmental monitoring programs. These future planning efforts will also include the preparation of project-specific environmental compliance documents for implementation of these projects. These documents should tier off and be consistent with this Program EIR. Securing any permits required by State and federal agencies for future implementation projects would also be required and may involve project-specific mitigation not addressed in this EIR.

The park planning process has identified high-priority issues listed in Section 3.5.4, and focused planning efforts that will require future action. As described in Section 3.5.4, funding and staffing limitations will affect the timing of future actions to resolve these issues. Other issues and improvements may also be implemented before the listed issues are able to be addressed. It is not the intent of the general plan process to restrict future decisions on funding priorities for park improvement projects.

4.2.4 Intended Uses of the EIR

This Program EIR analyzes the preferred alternative's effects on the environment and discloses any significant and potentially significant effects that may result from General Plan implementation. Mitigation measures are also provided, primarily in the form of goals and guidelines from Chapter 3 that would reduce all potential significant effects to below a level significance. The EIR informs decision makers and the public about the environmental consequences of the adoption of the General Plan, consistent with the requirements of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines.

As a "first tier" EIR, described in Section 15152 of the CEQA Guidelines, environmental review of implementing projects can be limited to examining the significant effects that were not examined in this EIR. This approach recognizes that not all effects can be mitigated at the time of adoption of a general plan and permits deferral of mitigation to the later EIR or Negative Declaration when specific details of implementing projects are known. In accordance with Section

15152, the environmental analysis in this General Plan evaluates “all reasonably foreseeable significant environmental effects” of the general plan project.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Doheny SB is located in an urbanized area of Dana Point. Retail shops and stores, restaurants, hotels, and other primarily visitor-serving commercial uses are located adjacent to the State Beach. Dana Point Harbor at the northwest end of the State Beach provides recreational boating, sportfishing, whale watching trips, and marina facilities. Capistrano Beach County Park is adjacent to the Doheny SB at the downcoast end, and Lantern Bay County Park is across Dana Point Harbor Drive at the northwest end of the State Beach. The nearest residential use is a mobilehome park located across from the park on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway. Other residential uses are primarily located on the coastal bluffs above Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway to the north and east. Service commercial, equipment storage and maintenance, and industrial uses are also located nearby on the west side of Doheny Park Road, north of Pacific Coast Highway. Additional information on the project’s environmental setting is provided in Chapters 1 and 2 of this General Plan.

4.4 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

4.4.1 Land Use and Planning

Introduction

This section analyzes land use and planning impacts that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

Relevant criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines are used to determine the potential level of the project’s land use and planning impacts. According to the land use and planning thresholds of significance in the Guidelines that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, the General Plan would have a significant impact if it would:

- physically divide an established community,
- conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect, or
- conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Impact Analysis

Potential impacts to Dana Point General Plan and Local Coastal Program. The Doheny State Beach General Plan is consistent with the

designation of Recreation/Open Space for the park on the Dana Point General Plan/Local Coastal Program. The Doheny State Beach General Plan and existing park improvements are also consistent with the CCA as follows: they provide for public access, including lower cost visitor facilities; provide water-oriented recreation; protect the marine environment; preserve sensitive habitat land resources; and preserve scenic resources and minimize adverse impacts associated with new development. This impact is less than significant.

The Dana Point General Plan designation of Doheny SB as Recreation/Open Space permits "...public and private recreational uses necessary to meet the active and passive recreational needs of area residents and visitors as well as open space uses necessary to preserve public views, scenic natural land forms such as bluffs, and environmentally sensitive habitat areas." (City of Dana Point 1999). Existing and planned uses at the park are consistent with this designation. In addition, existing and planned park development is consistent with the Dana Point Circulation Element designations of Class I Bikeways along San Juan Creek and into the park at the downcoast end (City of Dana Point 1995a). Nonmotor vehicle circulation consistent with the city's Circulation Element would be improved through implementation of Guidelines PD 2.1, PD 2.2, and PD 4.1, which recommend focused studies of the park's parking lots and circulation patterns to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian pathways through the park.

Consistent with the CCA, the park allows free pedestrian and bicycle access and provides day use parking for approximately 700 cars. The picnic facilities, snack bar, 120-space campground, and free marine and wildlife exhibits at the Visitor Center also provide lower cost visitor and recreational facilities.

Local, state, and federal agencies, in cooperation with landowners, are engaged in land use and natural resource conservation planning efforts within a 91,000-acre portion of southern Orange County, which includes the San Juan Creek watershed. This effort is being conducted pursuant to the NCCP/HCP and SAMP/MSAA, described in Sections 2.2.5 and 2.3, and is intended to address regional land use planning, habitat conservation, and water quality issues. There are no designated NCCP areas in Doheny SB; however, this General Plan adheres to the principles established in the NCCP/HCP regarding the protection of biodiversity through the recommendations contained in Guidelines NR 1.1 through NR 1.4.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts to land use plans and policies is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines PD 2.1, PD 2.2,

and PD 4.1, which recommend focused studies of the park's access, parking lots and circulation patterns to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian pathways through the park and would adequately avoid significant impacts to land use and planning. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.2 Biological Resources

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to biological resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions. Existing biological resources are illustrated on Map 4.

Thresholds of Significance

Relevant criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines are used to determine the potential level of the project's impacts to biological resources. According to the thresholds of significance for biological resources in the Guidelines that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, the General Plan would have a significant impact if it would:

- have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS,
- have a substantial adverse impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFG or USFWS,
- have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means,
- interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites,
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Impact Analysis

Adverse indirect impacts to riparian habitat. The proposed general plan would not have any direct adverse effects on existing biological resources. Compliance with Guidelines NR 1.2 through NR 1.4, Guideline NR 2.2, Guideline COR 1.1, and Guideline COR 3.1 would ensure further evaluation would be conducted to monitor and document habitat and species impacts within the park and to enhance habitat conditions, in

particular for species that are dependent on aquatic environments. This impact is less than significant.

As described in Sections 2.1.2 and 2.3.4, Doheny SB is home to a variety of plant and wildlife species, terrestrial and aquatic, that rely on the park and its habitats for survival. Park visitor activities generally avoid riparian areas at the creeks and no park improvements are proposed in riparian habitat areas. However, human presence in the park produces indirect impacts on wildlife species that are dependent on riparian habitats. Current park attendance is frequently at maximum capacity levels on weekends from late spring through early fall and is also at high levels during the summer on weekdays. Significant increases in attendance are not anticipated during these peak periods, though some increase during non-peak periods would be expected with improvements to visitor amenities such as an expanded Visitor Center. Improvements to the Visitor Center would have the beneficial effect of increased opportunities for public education on resource protection, which is a major focus of current park interpretive efforts.

In addition, due to the configuration and open condition of the park, habitat areas are highly visible to park staff and direct impacts from visitor use are minimal. As stated in Section 2.2.5, there are no designated NCCP areas in Doheny SB. However, this General Plan is intended to advance principles established in the NCCP regarding the protection of biodiversity through the relevant goals and guidelines in Chapter 3.

Continued recreational use of the park would result in less than significant impacts to biological resources because future park management activities would be required to include attention to wildlife habitat considerations as a part of park management and maintenance activities and improvement projects. Guideline NR 1.1 requires protection of federal and state listed species, as well as other exceptional natural resources. Guideline NR 1.2 would document and monitor changes in the park's natural resources and habitat quality. Guidelines NR 1.3 and COR 1.1 recommend further evaluation of baseline habitat conditions and to provide recommendations for enhancing habitat for aquatic species and birds that are dependent on aquatic environments, and to establish a program for monitoring habitat changes. Guidelines NR 2.2 and COR 3.1 recommend obtaining Section 401 and 404 Clean Water Act permits for periodic removal of the sand plug at the San Juan and North Creek lagoon mouths to allow tidal flushing and improve water quality in the lagoons and ocean.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts to riparian habitats and associated wildlife species is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines NR 1.1 through

NR 1.4 and Guidelines NR 2.2, COR 1.1, and COR 3.1 to improve riparian and other natural habitat conditions within the park and would adequately avoid significant impacts to biological resources. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.3 Cultural Resources

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to cultural resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

Relevant criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines are used to determine the potential level of the project's impacts to cultural resources. According to the thresholds of significance for cultural resources in the Guidelines that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, the General Plan would have a significant impact if it would:

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5,
- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5,
- directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Impact Analysis

No direct adverse effects to cultural resources would occur; however, potential indirect adverse impacts could occur to existing cultural resources features within the park as structures deteriorate over time. Guideline CR 1.1 provides measures to monitor the condition of remaining CCC-period features in the park, including annual photo documentation and measures to preserve and/or restore these features, if necessary. This is a less than significant impact.

As described in Section 2.3.5, Doheny SB is located in an area that was the setting for a variety of cultural activities dating from the prehistoric era to the more recent role of the CCC in the park's development. Studies and surveys of Doheny SB found no evidence of prehistoric occupation within the park itself. Historical archaeological resources that have been identified in Doheny SB include the adobe entryway and wall, and Thor's Hammer. These structures were constructed during the CCC period and are considered cultural resources of the park. Deterioration of these structures over time would be a potential adverse impact if they were not properly maintained. Continued park

maintenance and upkeep would minimize the potential deterioration of these resources and would help to preserve the structures.

The General Plan would act to further protect these resources as outlined in Guideline CR 1.1. The General Plan would include provision for additional organization and presentation of the history of the CCC at Doheny SB at the Interpretative Center as described in Guidelines CR 1.2 and INT 2.2. Additional interpretive displays near the CCC structures would also provide additional information. Implementation of the General Plan would not result in a significant impact as defined by the thresholds of significance as outlined above. The General Plan would not result in or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts, such as potential deterioration of the CCC-era structures that could occur with or without implementation of the General Plan, is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These measures will adequately avoid significant impacts to cultural resources and no further mitigation is required.

4.4.4 Water Resources

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to water resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

Relevant criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines are used to determine the potential level of the project's impacts to water resources. According to the thresholds of significance for water resources in the Guidelines that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, the General Plan would have a significant impact if it would:

- violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements,
- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite,
- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or

- substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite,
- create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality,
 - place housing or other structures within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, or
 - expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam, or inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Impact Analysis

Water Quality in the San Juan Creek mouth is inadequate to support the beneficial uses designated for San Juan Creek by the Basin Plan. Compliance with Guidelines NR 2.1, NR 2.2, NR 3.1 to 3.4 and Guidelines COR 2.1, COR 3.1, and COR 3.2 would enable development of management actions to improve water quality at Doheny SB. Untreated stormwater runoff from the park contributes to poor water quality; however, this contribution is less than significant as the park is a very minor a portion of the 176 square mile San Juan Creek watershed.

As described in Section 2.3.3, the main source of pollution affecting waters at Doheny SB is stormwater runoff from neighboring urbanized areas, such as San Juan Capistrano. Controlling and reducing the amount of runoff that reaches the park would improve water quality. Guidelines NR 2.1 and NR 3.2 recommend studies of the park’s existing drainage system and working with local agencies to identify ways to improve water quality in stormwater runoff. Guideline NR 3.3 specifically recommends the elimination of drains that convey runoff from trash container areas to the storm drain system. By proactively participating in the planning and improvement of the park’s stormwater system, the amount of polluted runoff reaching the park’s waters can be reduced.

Another measure to improve water quality at the park is to allow the periodic removal of the sand plug at the mouths of San Juan Creek and North Creek (Guideline NR 2.2). This action would facilitate tidal exchange and improve water quality in the lagoons and ocean. However, this action also has the potential to affect the ecology of the creek mouths, and potential impacts would need to be further studied during the required 401 and 404 permit processes before implementing specific projects.

A recommendation that could result in substantial benefit to water quality is contained in Guidelines NR 3.1 and COR 3.2 for a focused study of the onsite portion of North Creek and the potential for natural biological remediation of polluted runoff entering the park through installation of a “treatment wetland.”

This system could also serve as a test site for installation of a larger treatment system in San Juan Creek.

Public involvement as outlined in Guidelines NR 3.4 and COR 2.1 is also important in protecting water quality. Continuing public education programs and supplementing them with multi-media resources will provide visitors with a better understanding of their role in protecting local water quality. Volunteer cleanup projects help to protect water quality as well as to instill a sense of stewardship.

Implementation of the water quality protection and improvement measures described above, which have been incorporated into this General Plan, would assure that the park's impact on water resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts to water resources is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation and procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines NR 2.1, NR 2.2, NR 3.1 to 3.4, and COR 2.1, COR 3.1, and COR 3.2 to improve water quality at the park and provide for public involvement in protecting water quality. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.5 Circulation and Access

Introduction

This section analyzes circulation and access impacts that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

Relevant criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines are used to determine the potential level of the project's circulation and access impacts. According to the circulation and access thresholds of significance in the Guidelines that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, the General Plan would have a significant impact if it would:

- cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system,
- exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways,
- substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use,
- result in inadequate emergency access, or
- result in inadequate parking capacity.

Impact Analysis

Crowded park conditions create potential conflicts between vehicles, bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians in some areas of the park. Compliance with Guidelines PD 4.1, PD 5.1, NDU 3.1, and SDU 2.2 would improve circulation systems within the park. This impact is less than significant.

Map 5 shows the existing public circulation network serving the park and indicates areas within the park where improvements to bicycle and pedestrian routes are needed. In general, the access road to the park, which provides approximately 550 feet of stacking distance from Dana Point Harbor Drive to the park entrance kiosk, avoids impacts to local streets from park users. On many weekends, particularly during summer months, park users contribute to conditions on local roadways that exceed the capacity of these roadways to accommodate traffic at acceptable levels of service.

Pacific Coast Highway and other adjacent roads are heavily traveled on weekdays as well as weekends, which results in high use of park roads for through access by bicyclists, skaters, and pedestrians. Park roads and parking lots are generally in good condition and provide adequate directional signs for motor vehicle access. While many opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle use exist within the park, in places the pedestrian and bicycle routes are disjointed, directional signs are inadequate, and improved separation from roads and parking areas is needed, particularly from the North Day Use Area to the downcoast end of the park.

From the south end of the Coast Highway bridge to the South Day Use Area, the existing road is only approximately 24 feet wide with no shoulders available to accommodate pedestrians, who must share the roadway with cars and RVs, bicyclists, and skaters. This joint use continues through the parking lot to the downcoast end of the park where nonmotorists must contend with vehicles entering and exiting parking spaces. Further analysis of park circulation is recommended in Section 2.4.3 to define a system of sidewalks and bike routes for internal and through circulation. This would include identification of sidewalk and pathway improvements needed for compliance with ADA requirements. The need for circulation system improvements to separate motor vehicles from pedestrian and bicycle routes is identified as a high-priority issue in Section 3.5.4.

Another factor affecting safe use of park roads and pathways is the rental of three-wheel bikes and four-wheel buggies for onsite recreation using sidewalks, bicycle paths, parking lots, and roads within the park. A reevaluation of this activity is recommended in Section 2.4.3 to determine whether this is an appropriate activity.

Guideline PD 4.1 requires preparation of a focused study to provide a separate system for through access by bicyclists and skaters, and to determine the potential for a separate 10-foot-wide bicycle/skate route through the South Day Use Area. It would also provide recommendations on completing missing links, providing additional pedestrian access into the park, adequate signage, restrictions or limitations on types of users, and ADA compliance. Guideline NDU 3.1 also recommends limiting bicycle riding, skating, skateboarding, and jogging along the beachfront walkway to only very low use days and times. Guideline SDU 2.2 proposes to establish a pedestrian walkway along the South Day Use Area beachfront that would be protected from encroachment by vehicles. Park improvements in accordance with these goals and guidelines through implementation of the General Plan would assure that potential circulation and access impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts to circulation and access is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines PD 4.1, NDU 3.1, and SDU 2.2, which recommend focused studies of the park's circulation patterns to improve bicyclist/skater and pedestrian pathways through the park, and would adequately avoid significant impacts to circulation and access. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.6 Hazards

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts of hazardous conditions that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

The hazards analysis uses criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. According to the thresholds of significance that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to hazards if it would:

- create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials,
- emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school,
- be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment,

- impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or
- expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Impact Analysis

Pedestrian and bicycle routes need to be improved to ensure public safety. Compliance with Guidelines PD 4.1, 5.1, and 5.2, and Guideline SDU 2.2 would provide for the study and development of pedestrian and bicycle trails in a manner that would ensure public safety. This impact is less than significant.

As described in Section 2.4.3, areas for improvement have been identified in the existing pedestrian and bicycle trails that would ensure public safety and avoid significant project impacts. Specifically, three areas of improvement that have been identified are the need for increased separation of pedestrian and bicycle routes from roads and parking areas; the reevaluation of the compatibility with more leisurely park uses of three-wheel bikes and four-wheel buggies on park roads and walkways; and the illegal and unsafe mid-block pedestrian crossings of Pacific Coast Highway.

Implementation of Guidelines PD 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, and 5.2, and Guideline SDU 2.1 would contribute to a park design that integrates pedestrian and bicycle access trails throughout the park. Guideline PD 4.1 recommends a study of park access and recreation trails. Guidelines PD 4.2 and SDU 2.1 recommend providing a pedestrian walkway along the South Day Use Area beachfront; and Guideline 5.1 would install a sidewalk from the end of the Coast Highway bridge to the South Day Use Area. Under Guideline PD 5.2, use of three-wheel bikes and four-wheel buggies on park trails would be assessed to determine compatibility with other trail uses. The reevaluation of pedestrian and bicycle trails would improve the overall safety of park visitors.

Existing emergency and safety facilities need to be reevaluated for adequacy to serve existing and future needs of park visitors. Compliance with Guidelines FAC 5.1 and FAC 6.1 through 6.3 would contribute to the safety and convenience of park visitors by providing adequate emergency response facilities. This impact is less than significant.

Special safety considerations at Doheny SB include proximity to the nearby San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, the high volume of visitors, and inexperienced swimmers in dangerous ocean conditions. While nuclear emergency services are coordinated by the Dana Point Emergency Services Department, emergency personnel at Doheny SB need to be capable of

providing adequate response for park visitors in the event of a nuclear emergency.

Following the recommendations of Guidelines FAC 5.1 and FAC 6.1 through 6.3 would contribute to the safety and convenience of visitors by ensuring that adequate emergency response facilities and staff are available. Specifically, the main lifeguard tower would be improved, emergency personnel staffing would be adequate, and information would be posted to help park visitors respond to emergency situations. Implementation of these measures would avoid significant public safety impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts to hazards affecting public safety is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines FAC 5.1 and FAC 6.1 through 6.3 to continue providing a high level of emergency response to park visitors. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.7 Noise

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to water resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

The noise analysis uses criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. According to the thresholds of significance that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to noise if it would:

- cause exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies,
- exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels,
- a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, or
- a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Impact Analysis

Noise from traffic on existing roadways, specifically Pacific Coast Highway, and RV generator noise can affect park users. Compliance

with Guidelines PD 2.4, 3.2 and CAMP 1.2 would reduce noise in the park. This impact is less than significant.

The City of Dana Point Noise Element of the City's General Plan (1991) defines the acceptable noise levels for different types of land uses. The acceptable noise level for park and recreational space is 65 decibels (dBA). The northern portion of the North Day Use Area is the most susceptible area to noise generated from Pacific Coast Highway that travels adjacent to the northern park boundary. As described in Chapter 2, Existing Conditions, this is a heavily traveled roadway with approximately 42,000 ADT. Other roadways located near the park, such as Coast Highway and Dana Point Harbor Drive do not represent significant sources of noise to the park. The noise sensitive areas of concern near Pacific Coast Highway include the Butterfly Garden near the Visitor Center and group picnic area A. Other park areas near Pacific Coast Highway include parking lots, sanitary dump station, and service area. These park facilities would not be considered sensitive land uses as no recreation occurs in these locations.

To evaluate potential impacts, calculations were performed to determine the 65 dBA CNEL noise contour line within the park resulting from traffic noise on Pacific Coast Highway. The calculations assumed 42,000 ADT traveling at a speed of 35 miles per hour. To represent the worst-case scenario, the noise was assumed to be traveling over the hard surfaces of internal park roads and parking lots. The purpose of the 65 dBA CNEL contour line is to define the area that may receive noise levels up to 65 dBA CNEL. Outside of the contour line, noise levels would be less than 65 dBA CNEL.

Calculated over a hard surface terrain, the 65 dBA CNEL contour line for traffic noise from Pacific Coast Highway is located approximately 300 feet into the park, parallel to the roadway. The majority of the park uses that are located within this contour are parking lots, internal roadways, and service areas. The Visitor Center is located on the edge of the 65 dBA CNEL contour line and this would not be considered an impact because activities take place within the Visitor Center building. The Butterfly Garden located to the southwest of the Visitor Center is not within the 65 dBA CNEL contour line and would not experience noise levels greater than 65 dBA CNEL. The northern portion of group picnic area A is also on the border of the 65 dBA CNEL contour line; however, the majority of the usable picnic space is located to the south and outside of the contour line. In addition, because there is landscaping and soft surface terrain located between the noise receptors and the roadway, the noise levels would actually be slightly lower than the calculated levels. No significant noise impacts to sensitive uses in the park due to current roadway traffic noise would be anticipated with implementation of the General Plan. However, increased traffic on Pacific Coast Highway over the life of the General Plan would be expected to extend the 65 dBA contour farther into the park and impact additional park areas with adverse noise levels.

Currently, the campground area is impacted by noise from generators used primarily by RV campers. This noise source particularly impacts tent campers, as well as other RV campers. To reduce this noise source, Guidelines PD 3.2 and CAMP 1.2 provide for installation of electrical hookups for at least 50 percent of the campsites and prohibition of generator use in the campground area. These General Plan guidelines would eliminate the generator noise source.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential noise impacts is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines PD 2.4, PD 3.2, and CAMP 1.2, which recommend that a sound wall be constructed adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and that electrical hookups be installed in the campground. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.8 Public Services and Utilities

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to public services and utilities that would result from implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing conditions of park utilities and services.

Thresholds of Significance

The public service and utility analysis uses criteria from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. According to the thresholds of significance that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to public services and utilities if it would:

- result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives,
- exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board,
- require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,
- require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects,
- have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources,
- result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve

- the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments,
- be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs, or
 - comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Impact Analysis

Existing demand for electricity at the campground is not being met. Compliance with Guidelines PD 3.2 and CAMP 1.2 would provide electricity for at least 50 percent of the campsites and eliminate the use of noisy generators at the campground. The reduction in noise would alleviate conflicts between campers. This impact is less than significant.

The use of electrical generators at the campsites causes noise-related complaints from campers. There are currently no electrical connections at any of the campsites. Providing electrical connections at 50 percent of the campsites and prohibiting the use of generators, as suggested by Guidelines PD 3.2 and CAMP 1.2, would alleviate camper disputes. Electrical service to the park is provided by San Diego Gas and Electric Company. Providing electrical service to at least 50 percent of the campsites would require extension of electrical infrastructure within the park. Most of the electricity usage is anticipated to occur during the off-peak evening hours. Due to the off-peak usage pattern and the low electrical usage typically demanded by campers, no upgrades to existing offsite electricity-producing facilities would be needed.

Improvements to the park's stormwater drainage system would have a beneficial impact to the park's water quality. Compliance with Guidelines NR 2.1 and 3.2 would enable the development of stormwater systems that are appropriately sized to handle stormwater runoff at the park in a manner that would improve water quality.

As discussed in Section 4.4.4, improving the stormwater drainage system in the park with BMP improvements, which could include connections to the sewer system, would improve water quality at the park. Guidelines NR 2.1 and 3.2 recommend studying the park's drainage system and identifying feasible BMPs. By proactively participating in the planning and improvement of the park's drainage system, the system can be adequately sized to handle the drainage needs of the park. Connections to the sewer system would be designed to handle non-storm related runoff and, thus, would not significantly impact the local SERRA sewage treatment facilities.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for potential impacts involving public utilities is provided in Section 3.5 through general plan implementation and procedures such as Management Plans (Section 3.5.1), Specific Project Plans (Section 3.5.2), and Environmental

Conditions Monitoring and Assessment Programs (Section 3.5.3). These procedures would be followed in implementing Guidelines PD 3.2, CAMP 1.2, NR 2.1, and NR 3.2. No further mitigation is required.

4.4.9 Aesthetics

Introduction

This section analyzes impacts to visual resources that would result from the implementation of the General Plan. Please refer to Chapter 2 of this General Plan for a description of existing environmental conditions.

Thresholds of Significance

The aesthetics analysis uses criteria from the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. According to the thresholds of significance that are relevant to the Doheny SB project, implementation of the General Plan would have a significant impact related to visual resources if it would:

- have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista,
- substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway,
- substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings, or
- create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Impact Analysis

Implementation of the proposed general plan would include construction of a new, larger Visitor Center adjacent to San Juan Creek and the existing campground would be expanded to the southeast. Existing views into the park and to the ocean need to be preserved from encroachment by visually incompatible structures or landscaping. Compliance with Goals NR 1 and AR 1, and Guidelines AR 1.1 and AR 1.2, would assure that the existing visual quality of the park will not be reduced.

Doheny SB is located in an urbanized area of Dana Point. Negative visual conditions that exist outside the park include the railroad line and overhead utilities along Coast Highway. The nearest residential use is a mobilehome park located across from the park on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway. Other residential uses are primarily located on the coastal bluffs above Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway to the north and east. Hotels and motels are also located nearby with views of the park from the north and northwest. Public parks with views of Doheny SB are located to the west, northwest, and at the downcoast end of the park. There are also public “pocket parks” that provide overlooks to the ocean from the palisades to the north. Pacific Coast Highway is

designated as a Scenic Highway corridor on the Dana Point Circulation Element and a Viewscape Corridor on the Orange County Circulation Element.

Potential park improvements that would be visible from offsite areas would include the relocated Visitor Center and expanded campground. Neither of these improvements would be expected to obstruct or detract from existing views or have negative visual features due to size, height, or architectural treatment that would be out of character with the area. In addition, neither would impact natural resource areas of the park. A specific project plan would be prepared at the time that details of these improvements are known and further environmental review would also be conducted at that time.

Goal NR 1 states that the size of natural resource areas within the park should not be reduced for the purpose of increased recreational use. Goal AR 1 provides that the park continue to be an aesthetic resource for the community and cooperates with the City on viewscape improvements along Pacific Coast Highway and Coast Highway. Guideline AR 1.1 requires a scenic resources evaluation to identify areas for visual enhancement and screening; and AR 1.2 recommends that the South Coast Water District sewer pump station in the South Day Use Area either be removed or redesigned and landscaped. Implementation of the General Plan in accordance with these goals and guidelines would avoid significant aesthetic impacts from future park improvement projects.

Mitigation Measures

No park improvements are proposed that would obstruct or detract from existing views or have negative visual features. Mitigation for existing or potential future adverse impacts to aesthetics and local views of the park is provided by Goals NR 1 and AR 1, and Guidelines AR 1.1 and AR 1.2. No further mitigation is required.

4.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Chapter 4 identified project-specific impacts in each issue area. Such project-specific effects, however, are not the only factors in the project vicinity affecting the human and natural environment. The effects of past and present land uses in the project vicinity are felt in the vicinity, and future land development projects will have further associated effects. These future uses could include reasonably foreseeable actions, such as development of infrastructure improvements based on site-specific or regional plans. The combined effects of these past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future developments, together with the incremental effect of the proposed project, are referred to as cumulative impacts. It is possible for a project to have only minor or incremental impacts, yet when considered with impacts from closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, the overall cumulative impacts may be significant.

Development in the local project area is expected to occur primarily through infill development of residential and commercial uses consistent with the general plans of Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente. Two major land use planning and development projects that are known for the immediate project area are considered to be cumulative projects in relation to the Doheny State Beach General Plan. These projects are the Dana Point Harbor Master Plan and the Headlands Development and Conservation Plan. These two development plans are described below.

- **Dana Point Harbor Master Plan**

The Commercial Core Concept Plan would add approximately 25,000 square feet of new retail space, nearly 400 additional parking spaces and improved landscaping throughout the area. Walkways will be widened and upgraded. New buildings will be constructed to replace some existing structures, while other structures will be refurbished and modernized. The retail areas and especially the restaurants are expected to have improved harbor views. The Concept Plan also includes updating, replacing and/or refurbishing docks, ramps, showers and bathrooms used primarily by boaters. There will be additional boat-trailer parking and new dry-boat storage spaces. Additional short- and long-term parking areas are also planned.

- **Headlands Development and Conservation Plan**

The Headlands Development and Conservation Plan (HDGP) proposes development of 125 single-family residential lots, a maximum 110,750 sq. ft. of Visitor/Recreational Commercial land uses composed of a 65 room inn, and a 40,000 sq. ft. commercial site, at the corner of Green Lantern and Pacific Coast Highway. Other components of the project include 30.3 acres of Conservation Open Space and 31.7 acres of recreation open space. Onsite circulation and parking are provided for these uses. Vehicular access will occur through a new intersection at Pacific Coast Highway, an extension at Selva Road and Cove Road, and an extension of Street of the Green Lantern.

Impact Analysis

The purpose of the General Plan for Doheny SB is to improve and enhance the existing facilities at the park. The General Plan would not act to increase the number of visitors using the park, but rather to better enhance the park experience. The analysis of issue areas throughout Chapter 4 identified no significant impacts that would result from implementation of the General Plan. Regional growth is occurring in the area and the population of Dana Point is projected to increase from 35,110 in 2000, to 40,900 in 2010, and to 42,100 by 2020. This growth will continue to result in increasing cumulative impacts to the region; however, the General Plan would not provide additional facilities that would contribute to an increase in this expected rate of growth, nor would it expand existing uses or create new uses that are intended to attract additional park visitors.

The HDCP EIR found that the development project would result in cumulatively significant impacts to air quality and noise based on increased traffic in the area. The Doheny State Beach General Plan provides measures to reduce noise in the park area by providing electrical hookups at the campground and prohibiting the use of generators. Currently, the generators are a major source of internal park noise. As stated above, planned park improvements are also not designed to attract substantial new visitors that would add to local traffic and associated traffic noise. However, new residential development in southern Orange County would increase the number of potential park visitors. The park's proposed improvements are designed to improve their enjoyment of the park, rather than increase the number of visitors to the park. Proposed improvements at the park include improved accessibility and circulation for nonmotor vehicle park users and to better accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians, and skaters who travel through the park for recreation or to reach other destinations. Therefore, the Doheny State Beach General Plan would not add to the cumulative noise environment and no cumulatively significant noise impact would result.

Traffic generation and air quality and were not found to be a significant issue for the Doheny State Beach General Plan and are not analyzed in this chapter since the plan is not designed to attract a significant number of new visitors. The roads surrounding Doheny SB are currently heavily traveled, specifically Pacific Coast Highway, which experiences 42,000 ADT. During the process of updating the Doheny State Beach General Plan, Dana Point Harbor officials were contacted in an effort to coordinate improved circulation for nonmotor vehicle users in the immediate area of the two projects. Improved internal circulation and better access for people to use nonmotorized transportation could help to improve local air quality. As noted above, regional growth is occurring throughout southern Orange County; however, the General Plan would not attract substantial new visitors that would measurably worsen traffic and air quality, and no cumulatively significant impacts would result from implementation of the Doheny State Beach General Plan project.

The Doheny State Beach General Plan is consistent with the designation of Recreation/Open Space for the park on the Dana Point General Plan/Local Coastal Program. The Doheny State Beach General Plan and existing park improvements are also consistent with the CCA. There would be no cumulative impact to land use because the park is consistent with the applicable plans and policies.

Important biological resources exist within Doheny SB and the General Plan requires that park management activities include attention to wildlife habitat considerations, protect federal and state listed species, and document and monitor changes in the park's natural resources and habitat quality. In addition, Goal NR 1 states that the size of natural resource areas within the park should not be reduced for the purpose of increased recreational use. With these

management practices and policies, no cumulative impacts to biological resources would occur with implementation of the General Plan.

Cultural resources are present in Doheny SB in the form of CCC-era structures. The General Plan requires that these structures be properly maintained and visitor information be further enhanced; therefore, no cumulative impacts to cultural resources would result.

Water quality is a prime concern as the local community character is strongly associated with the waterfront location. With implementation of the General Plan, the use of the park would not change and no new activities harmful to local water quality would be introduced. Guidelines in the plan call for studies to determine how to better control runoff, particularly through the storm water system. In addition, the General Plan recommends periodic removal of the sand plug at the mouths of San Juan Creek and North Creek that would facilitate tidal exchange and improve water quality in the lagoons and ocean. However, this action also has the potential to affect the ecology of the creek mouths, and potential impacts should be further studied before implementing specific projects. The General Plan would not result in a cumulative impact on water quality.

There would be no potential cumulative hazards impact because the General Plan includes provisions to ensure that adequate emergency response facilities and staff are available and to evaluate potential pedestrian and bicycle safety issues and improve those conditions.

The General Plan does not include facilities that would substantially burden existing local or regional public services or utilities. The General Plan provides for the installation of electrical hookups in the Campground to eliminate RV generators; however, the use of these electrical hookups, typically during off-peak hours, would not cumulatively impact electrical service provided to the park or the region by SDG&E. The General Plan would also investigate improvements to the stormwater drainage system. These improvements would adequately handle the parks drainage needs and would not burden the existing system since the park is located at the ocean outfall and no off-park facilities would be impacted. In addition, since the park would not expand its visitor capacity, requirements for local utility services would not be increased. Thus, no cumulative impact to public services and utilities would result from the General Plan project.

The aesthetic features of Doheny SB would remain generally the same with the implementation of the General Plan. Although a new, expanded Visitor Center and larger campground are proposed, the General Plan does not include features that would change or alter the overall visual character of the local area and no cumulative aesthetic impact would result.

4.6 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

To more fully evaluate proposed projects, CEQA mandates that alternatives be discussed. These alternatives should focus on the elimination of identified significant adverse effects or on the reduction of these effects to a level of insignificance. While the proposed project as evaluated in Section 4.4 would not result in any significant impacts, two project alternatives are discussed in this section for consideration during the public review and public hearing processes.

4.6.1 Alternative 1 – Campground Relocation and Expansion

Description

This alternative (Map 9) would relocate the campground to a portion of the North Day Use Area, which would allow it to be expanded from approximately 8 acres in its current location, to approximately 13 acres – an increase in size of 62.5 percent. Presumably the number of campsites could be correspondingly increased, which would add approximately 75 new campsites. More realistically, the additional area would enable an increase in the size of individual campsites and the total number of campsites would be increased by not more than one-third, or from 120 existing spaces to approximately 160 spaces under this alternative. Additional group open space and a group campground could also be provided with this alternative.

The existing campground would be converted to picnic sites and day use parking. An area for day use would be retained in the northern area of the park, including a parking area that could be accessed directly from the park entrance road and converted to self-pay daily or hourly parking. This remaining northerly day use area would appeal primarily to surfers since the best waves for surfing are at the north end of the park.

In addition to the opportunity to provide an increased number of campsites, another benefit of this alternative is that it would consolidate more of the day use activities together at the downcoast end of the park for more efficient park staff patrols.

Environmental Analysis

In comparison to the proposed project, Alternative 1 would also be consistent with land use planning by the city of Dana Point and the CCA and could also incorporate the same measures to improve nonmotor vehicle circulation, enhancement of natural habitat conditions, preservation of cultural resources, improvements to water quality, reduction in public safety concerns and noise, improved public facilities, and avoidance of visual impacts. Although increased traffic would result from an expanded campground, it would be an insignificant portion of the park's overall traffic in comparison to day use traffic, which would not be increased. Thus, the impacts associated with this alternative would be

less than significant with the same mitigation that has been incorporated into the proposed Park Plan in Chapter 3.

4.6.2 Alternative 2 – Environmental Enhancement

Description

This alternative (Map 10) would convert, restore, and enhance through selective revegetation a total of approximately 5.6 acres to natural habitat conditions within the park for local wildlife species. The main features of this alternative are: the shoreline area along both sides of San Juan Creek (approximately 1.6 acres) would be restored to provide more suitable area for bird foraging and nesting, including shifting the existing regional bicycle trail farther from the edge of the lagoon; the existing maintenance area would be relocated (preferably to an offsite location) and the area restored for native wildlife habitat, together with the area of the existing Butterfly Garden that presently contains native species and the portion of North Creek north of the park entrance road, for a total of approximately 2.1 acres; and the portion of North Creek located southwest of the park entrance road would be restored, together with additional habitat restoration along the east side of the creek and an expanded dune restoration site, for a total of approximately 1.9 acres.

Environmental Analysis

In comparison to the proposed project, Alternative 2 would not substantially reduce active recreational areas of the park and would be consistent with Dana Point's land use plans and the CCA and could also incorporate the same measures to improve nonmotor vehicle circulation, enhancement of natural habitat conditions, preservation of cultural resources, improvements to water quality, reduction in public safety concerns and noise, improved public facilities, and avoidance of visual impacts. In addition, the Environmental Enhancement Alternative would provide relatively minor benefits to biological resources, water quality, and aesthetics in comparison to the proposed project. Thus, the impacts associated with this alternative would be less than significant with the same mitigation that has been incorporated into the proposed Park Plan in Chapter 3.

4.6.3 No Project Alternative

Description

The No Project Alternative is required by CEQA to consider the potential effects of no change in existing conditions at the park. Under the No Project Alternative, the General Plan would not be updated. This, however, would not preclude improvements to the park, which would require evaluation for environmental effects in project-specific environmental documents. These individual projects would not have the benefit of the goals and guidelines of the proposed General Plan that would assist in the planning of future projects.

Environmental Analysis

The No Project Alternative would have no direct significant environmental impacts. However, the benefit of a comprehensive evaluation of park improvement needs to guide future park improvement decisions could result in incremental degradation of the park's natural resources and delay other needed improvements to park infrastructure such as stormwater management and nonmotor vehicle circulation.

4.7 LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.7.1 Growth Inducing Impacts

Implementation of the Doheny State Beach General Plan would not remove an obstacle to population growth or otherwise induce population growth. The dominant use of the park as envisioned by the General Plan would continue to be for recreational activities. The park provides a retreat from the surrounding built-up cities and its presence prevents the encroachment of urbanized developments on this stretch of the coastline.

The planning guidelines presented in this General Plan lay the framework for the general approach that will be taken to achieve the park's purpose and vision, as described in Section 3.1. Population growth is not part of that vision. The infrastructure improvements recommended within the park are intended to serve the existing and anticipated needs of park visitors for the next 20 years or more.

4.7.2 Significant Unavoidable Environmental Effects

All significant environmental effects can be mitigated to a less than significant level by implementing the guidelines found in Section 3.3.

4.7.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

A significant irreversible environmental change includes the use of nonrenewable resources in such a way that makes removal of improvements or nonuse of a property thereafter unlikely. Significant irreversible environmental changes also include secondary impacts that generally commit future generations to certain uses of resources. For example, the construction of a highway to a previously inaccessible area would permanently change the use of the area.

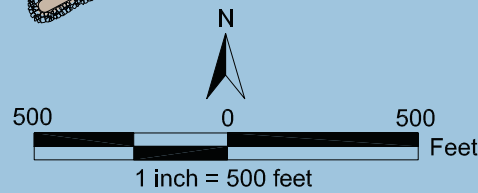
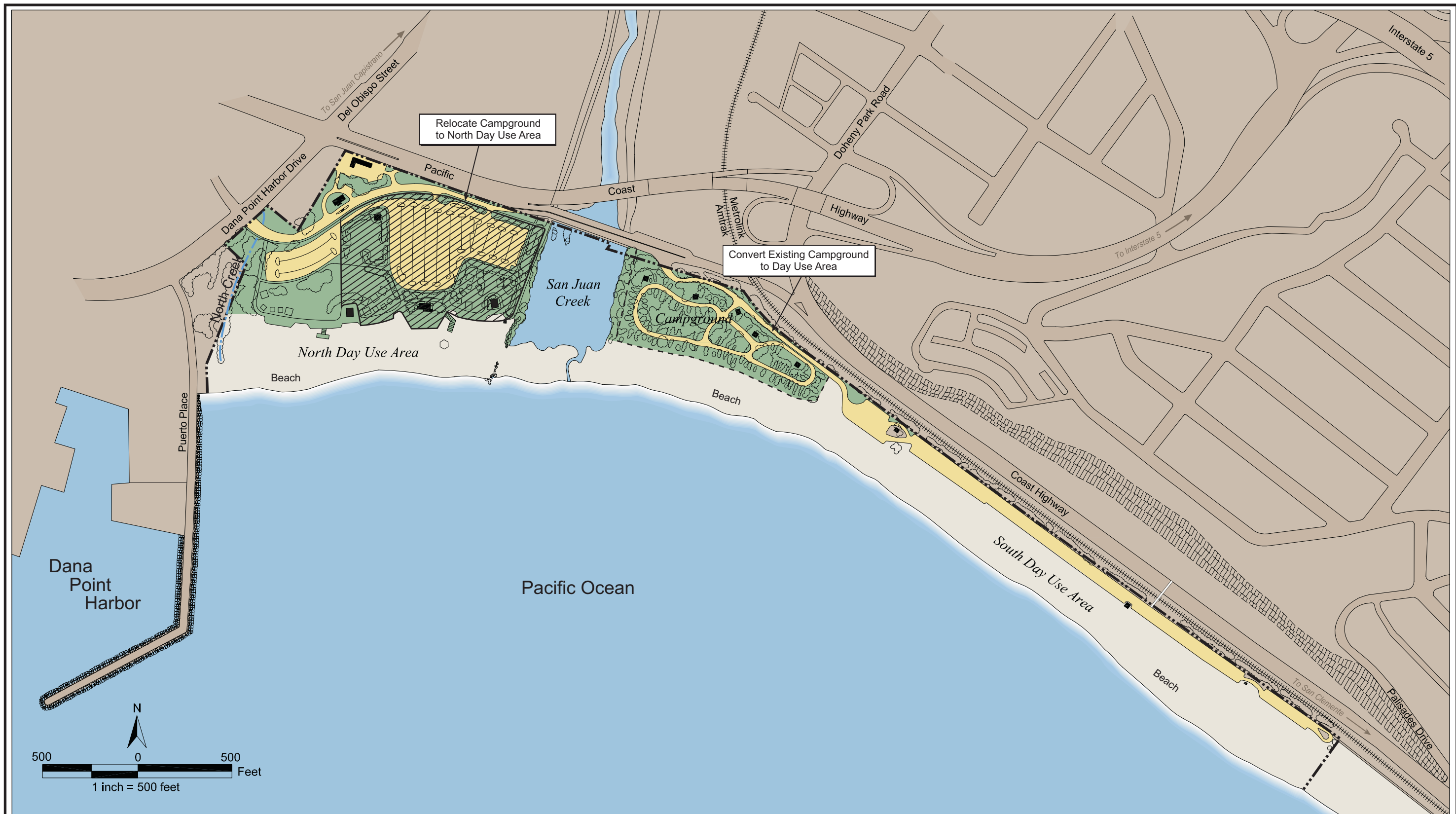
The Doheny State Beach General Plan provides a comprehensive framework that guides the park's overall development, which includes the development of specific projects. Major programs and projects that will be implemented during the lifespan of the General Plan will require additional planning and environmental review. This broad-based approach to park planning allows projects implemented at different times to become part of a coherent development. Thus, unintentional irreversible environmental changes resulting from piecemeal project development are minimized.

The park improvements recommended by the General Plan guidelines would commit nonrenewable resources, such as concrete, steel, and petrochemicals for the construction of facility and infrastructure improvements. These improvements are justified by the recreational, social, and public safety benefits that would be created. In addition, the park would remain primarily open space with only a very limited area covered by buildings. Thus, changes that would result from implementation of the General Plan would not be irreversible.

4.8 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

The initial evaluation of potentially significant environmental effects resulted in a determination that the following issues would not be potentially significant: Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, and Transportation/Traffic. No further environmental review was conducted for these issues.

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LEGEND	
	Relocated Campground
EXISTING USE AREAS	
	Park Roads and Parking Areas
	Creek, Harbor, and Ocean
	Recreation and Landscape Areas
	Beach

- Relocate campground to North Day Use Area
- Retain smaller day use area and parking adjacent to North Creek
- Redevelop campground for picnic sites
- Convert north parking lot to self-pay with direct access to park entrance



Doheny State Beach

**MAP 9
Relocated Campground Alternative**



LEGEND

Environmental Enhancement Areas

EXISTING USE AREAS

Park Roads and Parking Areas

Creek, Harbor, and Ocean

Recreation and Landscape Areas

Beach

- Increase the area of suitable habitat for local wildlife
- Remove non-native species adjacent to San Juan Creek and replace with natives
- Shift bicycle path farther away from lagoon and increase shoreline habitat area
- Remove maintenance area, preferably to off-site location and restore area with native vegetation
- Enhance North Creek with additional riparian vegetation and other native species
- Expand area of existing dune restoration site


Doheny State Beach
MAP 10
 Environmental Enhancement Alternative

Chapter 5 – Report Contributors

Preparation of the General Plan was accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the following individuals. In addition, the *Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association* provided valuable input during the public meetings.

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Chapter 7 – Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	average daily trips
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CCA	California Coastal Act
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHTF	California Heritage Task Force
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAMP	Drainage Area Management Plan
Department	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Doheny SB	Doheny State Beach
DSBIA	Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HDCP	Headlands Development and Conservation Plan
MMRP	mitigation monitoring and reporting program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSAA	Master Streambed Alteration Agreement
NCCP	Natural Communities Conservation Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
OCTA	Orange County Transportation Authority
PRC	California Public Resources Code
RV	recreational vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAMP	Special Area Management Plan
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SERRA	South East Regional Reclamation Authority
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Chapter 8 – Glossary of Terms

Adaptive Management: the practice of monitoring sensitive resources or progress in meeting other desired performance objectives and adjusting management practices to better achieve predetermined environmental goals or performance objectives.

Adaptive Use: use of a historic structure for a purpose other than for which it was originally intended.

Aesthetics: refer to the visual, audible, and other sensory factors within the park setting and its surrounding landscapes that, taken together, establish character or sense of place.

Ambient Air Quality: the atmospheric concentration (amount in specified volume of air) of a specific compound as actually experienced at a particular geographic location that may be some distance from the source of the relevant pollutant emissions.

Ambient Noise Level: the composite of noise from all sources near and far.

Archaeological: pertaining to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

Best Management Practices (BMP): the most current methods, treatments, or actions in regards to environmental mitigation responses.

Bikeways: bicycle travel way, encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths, and bicycle routes.

Biodiversity: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals, as well as the relative abundance of all the species within a given area.

Biological corridor: A linear landscape feature that provides a link for faunal and floral movement between two patches of comparatively undisturbed habitat, such that both faunal and floral species can migrate to repopulate or maintain current populations in more restricted habitat areas.

Buffer: land that protects natural and/or cultural values of a resource or park from adverse effects arising outside the buffer.

California Coastal Commission: established by the 1972 Coastal Act to review and approve projects and actions within a defined zone along the California coastline for compliance with the Coastal Act.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): a state law (PRC §21000 et al.) requiring state and local agencies to take actions on projects with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General Plans require a “program EIR” and park development projects require a project environmental document.

California State Park and Recreation Commission: established in 1927 to advise the Director of Parks and Recreation on the recreational needs of the people of California. In 1928 it gathered support for the first state park bond issue. The Commission schedules public hearings to consider classification or reclassification and the approval of State Parks’ general plan (and amendments) for each park unit.

Classification: official designation of units of the State Park System. Classification are established by the State Parks and Recreation Commission at the recommendation of Department staff and are based on the sensitivity and kind of unit’s most important resources and what types of use the unit will receive from the public.

Clean Water Act (CWA): enacted in 1972 to create a basic framework for current programs to control water pollution; provide statutory authority for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Concession: a contract with persons, corporations, partnerships, or associations for the provision of products, facilities, programs, and management and visitor services that will provide for the enhancement of park visitor use, enjoyment, safety, and convenience. Concession developments, programs, and services must be compatible with a park unit’s classification and general plan provisions.

Constraints: environmental or physical conditions that restrict or limit existing or planned uses in order to avoid adverse effects or degradation of the existing condition.

Cultural Resource: a resource that exists because of human activities. Cultural resources can be prehistoric (dating from before European settlement) or historic (post-European contact).

Cumulative Impact: as defined by the state CEQA Guidelines (§15355) two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Degradation: the reduction of environmental quality in an area through a lessening of diversity, the creation of growth anomalies, or the supplanting of native species by nonnative plant and animal species.

Demographic: having to do with a particular characteristic of a segment of the public at large; may be connected to the group’s age, the region where the group resides, a particular recreational interest, economic status, etc.

Ecology: the study of the interrelationship of living things to one another and their environment.

Ecosystem: a community consisting of all biological organisms (plant, animals, insects, etc.) in a given area interacting with the physical environment (soil, water, air) to function together as a unit of nature.

Ecotone: a transition area between two adjacent ecological communities, usually exhibiting competition between organisms common to both; often a rich biological area.

Effect/Impact: an environmental change; as defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15358: (1) Direct or primary effects are caused by the project and occur at the same time and place (2) Indirect or secondary effects that are caused by the project and are late in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect or secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water quality and other natural systems including ecosystems.

Endangered Species: a species of animal or plant is considered to be endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Endemic: indigenous to, and restricted to, a particular area.

Environment: as defined in State CEQA Guidelines §15360, “the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, mineral, flora, fauna, noise, and objects of historical and aesthetic significance.”

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): a report required by CEQA that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects of impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. If a proposed activity may result in a significant adverse effect on the environment, an EIR must be prepared. General plans require the preparation of a “program” EIR appropriate to its level of specificity.

Environmentally Sensitive: an area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their role in an ecosystem. Such areas can be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

Ethnographic: a multi-format group of materials gathered and organized by an anthropologist, folklorist, or other cultural researcher to document human life and traditions.

Exotic Species: a species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range that has been intentionally introduced to or have inadvertently infiltrated into the system. Also known as non-native, ornamental, or introduced species. Exotic animals prey upon native species and compete with them for food and habitat. Exotic plant species can convert native ecosystems into a non-native dominated system that provides little benefit to other species in the ecosystem.

Floodplain: a lowland or relatively flat area adjoining inland or coastal waters that is subject to a one or greater chance of flooding in any given year (i.e., 100-year flood).

Floodway: the channel of a natural stream or river and portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel, which are reasonable required to carry and discharge the floodwater or flood flow of any natural stream or river.

General Plan: a general plan is a legal planning document that provides guidelines for the development, management, and operation of a unit of the state park system. A general plan evaluates and defines land uses, resource management, facilities, interpretation, concessions, and operations of a park unit as well as addressing environmental impacts in a programmatic manner. A park unit must have an approved general plan prior to implementing any major development project.

Geology: the scientific study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.

Grade: the degree of rise or descent of a sloping surface.

Habitat: the physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs. It involves an environment of a particular kind, defined by characteristics such as climate, terrain, elevation, soil type, and vegetation. Habitat typically includes shelter and/or sustenance.

Hazardous Material: any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant presence or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment. Lead-based paint is an example of a hazardous material.

Historic Character: the sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and species associated with a structure or cultural landscape's history, i.e., the original configuration together with losses and later changes. These qualities are often referred to as character defining.

Hydrology: pertaining to the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying geology, and in the air.

Impervious surface: any material, which reduces or prevents absorption of water into land.

Infrastructure: public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water supply systems, other utility systems, road and site access systems.

Initial Study: as defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15365, an analysis of a project's potential environmental effects and their relative significance. An initial study is preliminary to deciding whether to prepare a negative declaration or an EIR.

Interpretation: in this planning document, it refers to a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, through involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, sties, and oral histories.

Landform: configuration of land surface (topography).

Mean Sea Level: the average altitude of sea surface for all tidal stages.

Mitigation Measure: a measure proposed that would eliminate, avoid, rectify, compensate for, or reduce significant environmental effects (see State CEQA Guidelines §15370).

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): the official federal list of buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts worthy of historic preservation. The register recognizes resources of local, state, and national significance. The register lists only those properties that have retained enough physical integrity to accurately convey their appearance during their period of significance. Crystal Cove was listed on the NRHP as a Historic District on June 15, 1976.

Native Species: a plant or animal that is historically indigenous to a specific site area.

Natural Preserve: a subclassification within a unit of the State Park System that requires parks and Recreation Commission approval. Its main purpose is to maintain such features as rare and endangered plants and animals and their supporting ecosystems in perpetuity.

Negative Declaration: when a project is not exempt from CEQA and will not have a significant effect upon the environment a negative declaration must be written (see State CEQA Guidelines §15371).

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP): the governmental agency primarily responsible for the statewide administration of the historic preservation program

in California. Its responsibilities include identifying, evaluating, and registering historic properties and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulatory obligations.

Open Space: an area with few or no paved surfaces or buildings, which may be primarily in its natural state or improved for use as a park.

Project: as defined by the State CEQA Guidelines §15378, a project can be one of the following a) activities undertaken by any public agency; b) activities undertaken by a person which are supported in whole or in part through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies; c) activities involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

Public Resources Code (PRC): in addition to the State Constitution and Statutes, California Law consists of 29 codes covering various subject areas. The PRC addresses natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources of the State.

Riparian: riparian habitat represents the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams and are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near fresh water.

Riprap: a loose assemblage of broken rock or concrete often used to prevent erosion.

Runoff: that portion of rainfall or surplus water that does not percolate into the ground and flows overland and is discharged into surface drainages or bodies of water.

Shoulder Season: the months of the year immediately before and after the park's busy recreation season. This term generally refers to April and October, but could also shade into late March and early November, depending upon activities under discussion.

Significant Effect on the Environment: as defined by State CEQA Guidelines §15382, substantial or potentially substantial, adverse change on any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to physical change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant.

Special Status Species: plant or animal species that are typically listed (State and Federal) as endangered, rare and threatened, plus those species considered by the scientific community to be deserving of such listing.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): the chief administrative officer for the OHP and is also the executive secretary of the State Historic Resources Commission.

Threatened Species: an animal or plant species that is considered likely to become endangered throughout a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future because its prospects for survival and reproduction are in jeopardy from one or more causes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game make this designation.

Topography: graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations.

Trailhead: the beginning of a trail, usually marked by information signs.

Viewshed: the area that can be seen from a specified location.

Watershed: the total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to the flow of the watercourse; entire region drained by a watercourse.

Wetland: includes the environment of subtidal, mudflats, tidal salt marsh, periodically inundated or brackish marsh, diked marshland, associated upland, and freshwater marsh.

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Appendix A – Floral Species at Doheny State Beach

Scientific Name	Common Name
CONIFERAE	
Cupressaceae - Cypress Family <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> <i>Cupressus sp.*</i>	Monterey Cypress Cypress
Pinaceae - Pine Family <i>Metrosideros tomentosa*</i> <i>Pinus halepensis*</i> <i>Pinus sp.*</i> <i>Pinus torreyana ssp. torreyana</i>	New Zealand Christmas Tree Aleppo Pine Pine Torrey Pine
ANGIOSPERMAE	
Dicotyledoneae	
Aizoaceae - Fig-Marigold Family <i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*</i>	Crystalline Iceplant
Anacardiaceae - Sumac Family <i>Malosma laurina</i> <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> <i>Schinus molle*</i> <i>Schinus terebinthifolius*</i>	Laurel Sumac Lemonadeberry Peruvian Pepper Tree Brazilian Pepper Tree
Asclepiadaceae - Milkweed Family <i>Asclepias curassavica*</i>	Milkweed
Asteraceae - Sunflower Family <i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> <i>Artemisia californica</i> <i>Artemisia douglasiana</i> <i>Baccharis pilularis var. consanguinea</i> <i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> <i>Baccharis sarothroides</i> <i>Coreopsis maritima</i> <i>Encelia californica</i> <i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i> <i>Isocoma menziesii var. vernonioides</i> <i>Jaumea carnosa</i> <i>Osteospermum ecklonis*</i> <i>Stephanomeria sp.</i> <i>Xanthium strumarium var. canadense</i>	Western Ragweed California Sagebrush Mugwort Coyote Brush Mule Fat Broom Baccharis Sea Dahlia California Encelia Telegraph Weed Goldenbush Salty Susan African Daisy Wreath-plant Eastern Cocklebur
Araliaceae - Ginseng Family <i>Hedera helix*</i>	English Ivy
Berberidaceae - Barberry Family <i>Berberis sp.*</i>	California Holly Grape
Betulaceae - Birch Family <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White Alder
Brassicaceae - Mustard Family <i>Cakile maritima*</i>	Sea Rocket
Cactaceae - Cactus Family <i>Opuntia littoralis</i>	Coastal Prickly-pear

Scientific Name	Common Name
Capparaceae - Caper Family <i>Isomeris arborea</i>	Bladderpod
Caprifoliaceae - Honeysuckle Family <i>Lonicera subspicata</i> <i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Chaparral Honeysuckle Mexican Elderberry
Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family <i>Atriplex canescens</i> ssp. <i>canescens</i> <i>Atriplex lentiformis</i> <i>Cistus</i> sp.* <i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i> *	Four-winged Saltbush Saltbush Rock Rose Mexican Tea
Convolvulaceae - Morning Glory Family <i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Island Morning Glory
Crassulaceae - Stone-Crop Family <i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i> ssp. <i>pulverulenta</i>	Chalk Lettuce
Elaeagnaceae - Oleaster Family <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> *	Thorny Elaegnus
Fabaceae - Pea Family <i>Acacia cultriformis</i> * <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> <i>Lotus scoparius</i> <i>Melilotus alba</i> *	Knife Acacia False Indigo Deerweed White Sweetclover
Grossulariaceae - Gooseberry Family <i>Ribes indecorum</i> <i>Ribes malvaceum</i> <i>Ribes thacherianum</i>	Winter Currant Chaparral Currant Santa Cruz Island Gooseberry
Grossulariaceae - Gooseberry Family <i>Ribes indecorum</i>	White Flowering Currant
Hydrophyllaceae - Waterleaf Family <i>Eriodictyon californicum</i>	Yerba Santa
Lamiaceae - Mint Family <i>Monardella villosa</i> <i>Salvia apiana</i> <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> <i>Salvia leucophylla</i> <i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Coyote Mint White Sage Cleveland Sage Purple sage Black Sage
Malvaceae - Mallow Family <i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i> <i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	Hybrid Tree Mallow Chaparral Mallow
Moraceae - Mulberry Family <i>Ficus pumila</i> var. <i>minima</i> *	Creeping Fig
Myoporaceae - Myoporum Family <i>Myoporum laetum</i> *	Myoporum
Myricaceae - Wax Myrtle Family <i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific Way Myrtle
Myrtaceae - Myrtle Family <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i> * <i>Eucalyptus torquata</i> * <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> *	Red Box Coolgardie Gum Tree Australian Tea Tree
Nyctaginaceae - Four O'Clock Family <i>Abronia maritima</i> <i>Abronia umbellata</i> ssp. <i>umbellata</i>	Purple Sand Verbena Sand Verbena

Scientific Name	Common Name
Onagraceae - Evening Primrose Family <i>Camissonia cheiranthifolia</i> <i>Epilobium canum</i> <i>Oenothera elata</i> ssp. <i>hirsutissima</i>	Beach Evening Primrose California Fuchsia Evening Primrose
Papaveraceae - Poppy Family <i>Romneya trichocalyx</i> <i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Hairy Matilija Poppy Coulter's Matilija Poppy
Pittosporaceae - Pittosporum Family <i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> *	Pittosporum
Platanaceae - Sycamore Family <i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California Sycamore
Plumbaginaceae - Leadwort Family <i>Limonium californicum</i>	Western Marsh-Rosemary
Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family <i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> ssp. <i>fasciculatum</i>	Flat-top Buckwheat
Rhamnaceae - Buckthorn Family <i>Ceanothus</i> sp. <i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Wild Lilac California Coffeeberry
Rosaceae - Rose Family <i>Cotoneaster pannosa</i> * <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>lyonii</i> <i>Rosa californica</i>	Parney Cotoneaster Toyon Catalina Cherry California Rose
Salicaceae - Willow Family <i>Populus fremontii</i> <i>Salix exigua</i> <i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Western Cottonwood Narrow-leaved Willow Arroyo Willow
Saururaceae - Lizard-Tail Family <i>Anemopsis californica</i>	Yerba Mansa
Scrophulariaceae - Figwort Family <i>Keckiella cordifolia</i> <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> <i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i> <i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> <i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Heart-leaved Penstemon Yellow Bush Monkeyflower Scarlet Buglar Foothill Penstemon Showy Penstemon
Solanaceae - Nightshade Family <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> * <i>Solanum xantii</i>	Tree Tobacco Purple Nightshade
Urticaceae - Nettle Family <i>Urtica</i> sp.	Stinging Nettle
Verbenaceae - Vervain Family <i>Lantana camara</i> * <i>Lantana montevidensis</i> * <i>Verbena lilacina</i> *	Yellow Lantana Purple Lantana Lilac Verbena
Monocotyledoneae	
Arecaceae - Palm Family <i>Washingtonia robusta</i> * <i>Washingtonia</i> sp.	Mexican Fan Palm California Fan palm
Cyperaceae -Sedge Family <i>Scirpus</i> sp.	Bulrush
Liliaceae - Lily Family (= Agavaceae, = Amaryllidaceae) <i>Aloe saponaria</i> * <i>Yucca whipplei</i> ssp. <i>whipplei</i>	Aloe vera Our Lord's Candle

Scientific Name	Common Name
Iridaceae - Iris Family <i>Iris douglasiana</i> <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
Poaceae - Grass Family <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> * <i>Distichlis spicata</i> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> <i>Paspalum distichum</i> <i>Zoysia tenuifolia</i> *	Bermuda Grass Saltgrass Deergrass Dallis Grass Korean Grass
Typhaceae - Cattail Family (= Sparganiaceae) <i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broad-leaved Cattail

*non-native species

Appendix B – Plant Species at Doheny State Beach Butterfly Garden

Scientific Name	Common Name	Common Butterfly Visitors (Uses*)
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	California Dogface (F) Hairstreak (F)
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing Saltbush	Pigmy Blue (F)
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Milkweed	Monarch (N)
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule fat	Dusky Metalmark (F)
<i>Ceanothus</i> sp.	California Lilac	Many Species (N)
<i>Coreopsis maritime</i>	Sea Dahlia	Many Species (N)
<i>Encelia californica</i>	Coast Sunflower	Metalmarks (F) Checkerspots (F)
<i>Eriodictyon californicum</i>	Yerba Santa	Western Tiger Swallowtail (N)
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California Buckwheat	Hairstreaks (N) Blues (N) Metalmarks (N)
<i>Isomeris arborea</i>	Bladderpod	Beckers White (F)
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	Deerweed	Funeral Duskywing (F) Marine Blue (F)
<i>Malacothamnus</i> sp.	Mallow	West Coast Lady (F) Painted Lady (F)
<i>Mimulus</i> sp.	Monkey Flower	Chalcedon Checkerspot (F)
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Showy Penstemon	Hummingbirds
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	California Coffeeberry	Pale Swallowtail (F)
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Matilija Poppy	Many Species (N)
<i>Salix exigua</i>	Narrow-leaved Willow	Mourning Cloak (F)
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo Willow	Anise Swallowtail (F) Many Species (N)
<i>Salvia</i> sp.	Sage	Many Species (N)
<i>Urtica</i> sp.	Stinging Nettle	Red Admiral (F)
<i>Verbena lilacina</i>	Lilac Verbena	Fiery Skipper (F)

*Uses:

N = Nectar in adult stage

F = Food in caterpillar stage

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Appendix C – Sensitive Plant and Animal Species with Known or Potential Occurrence Within or Near Doheny State Beach

NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	STATUS ONSITE
Plants			
Coulter's saltbush <i>Atriplex coulteri</i>	CNPS: 1B	Found in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach. No appropriate habitat for this species occurs within the park. This species is presumed extant and was not observed during the October 2002 survey.
Thread-leaved brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	FT, SE, CNPS: 1B	Found in open chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, vernal pools, playas, and clay soils. Blooms March-June.	Low probability to occur within Doheny State Beach. No known populations in the vicinity of the park. Appropriate habitat not present within the area. Not detected during October 2002 survey.
Sea dahlia <i>Coreopsis maritime</i>	CNPS: 2	Found in coastal sage scrub and sandstone cliffs of coastal bluff scrub. Blooms March-May.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach but not naturally. Native shrub was planted within park's butterfly garden sanctuary.
Blochman's dudleya <i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>	CNPS: 1B	Found in coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal scrub, foothill and valley grassland, rocky often clay or serpentinite soils. Blooms April-June.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach. No appropriate habitat for this species occurs within the park. This species was not observed during the October 2002 survey.
Cliff spurge <i>Euphorbia misera</i>	CNPS: 2	Found in rocky soils of coastal sage scrub and coastal bluff scrub. Blooms December-August.	Low to moderate probability to occur within Doheny State Beach. Historical population known from the park. This species has the potential for occurrence in rocky areas adjacent to the San Juan Creek but these areas are well disturbed. Not observed during October 2002 survey, which was not conducted during this species' traditional flowering period.
Torrey pine <i>Pinus torreyana</i> ssp. <i>Torreyana</i>	CNPS: 1B	Found in coastal closed-cone coniferous forest and chaparral.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach but not naturally. Native trees were transported and planted within Doheny State Beach.
Nuttall's scrub oak <i>Quercus dumosa</i>	CNPS: 1B	Found in sandy clay loam of closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal sage scrub. Blooms February-April.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach. No appropriate habitat for this species occurs within the park due to the disturbances. This species was not observed during the October 2002 survey.

NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	STATUS ONSITE
Rayless ragwort <i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	CNPS: 2	Found in coastal scrub and cismontane woodland often in drying alkaline flats	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach. No appropriate habitat for this species occurs within the park. This species was not observed during the October 2002 survey.
Animals			
White abalone <i>Haliotis sorenseni</i>	FT	Inhabits rocky reefs with understory kelps.	Known to occur within Doheny Marine Life Refuge.
Southern steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FE, SSC	Found in warm, freshwater streams and marine waters.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of suitable habitat.
Arroyo chub <i>Gila orcutti</i>	SSC	Found in slow moving sections of permanent small to moderate-sized streams with moderate to high gradients.	High probability to occur within Doheny State Beach because of recent sightings within San Juan Creek.
Giant sea bass <i>Stereolepis gigas</i>	AFS:V	Inhabits rocky reefs, kelp forests, sand and mudflats, and occasionally open ocean.	Known to occur within Doheny Marine Life Refuge.
Tidewater goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	FE, SSC, AFS:E	Found in small coastal lagoons, the uppermost portions of large bays, and the lower, slow moving reaches of streams.	Low probability to occur within Doheny State Beach because it has not been reported from the area for many years.
Arroyo toad <i>Bufo californicus</i>	FE, SSC, SP	Prefers sandy or gravelly soil in grasslands, open chaparral, and pine-oak woodlands. Breeds in quiet streams with gravel or cobble substrate.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of breeding habitat and distance of upland wintering habitats relative to known breeding locations.
Common loon <i>Gavia immer</i>	SSC, MNBMC	Prefers shallow, marshy areas along the banks of freshwater rivers and lakes, and also near estuaries and lagoons.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
California brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FE, SE, SFP, MNBMC	Nests on offshore islands. Occurs on coastal saltwater and on the open ocean, particularly within a few miles of shore.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Double-crested cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	SSC	Found near fresh and saltwater near coastline, inshore waters, beaches, inland rivers, and lakes.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
American bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	MNBMC	Found primarily in large freshwater and brackish marshes, including pond and lake edges.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
White-faced ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	SSC, MNBMC	Nests and forages in freshwater lagoons, rivers, lakes, wet agricultural fields, and occasionally salt marshes.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	SSC	Breeds and forages in marshes, grasslands, open coastal sage scrub, and agricultural fields.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus majusculus</i>	SFP, MNBMC	Inhabits riparian or oak woodland adjacent to grassland or open fields where it hunts rodents.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Sharp-shinned hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	SSC	Occupies woodlands and a variety of habitats surrounding those wooded areas, and requires a certain amount of dense cover.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.

NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	STATUS ONSITE
Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	SSC	Prefers to breed in dense stands of oak or riparian woodland and, on a limited basis, suburban exotic woodlands.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SSC	Forages in coastal estuaries, large lakes, and reservoirs that support forage fish populations. Nests in these habitats in large, dead-topped trees, snags, cliffs, and man-made structures.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	SSC	Inhabits grasslands and agricultural fields.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
American peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	SE, SFP	Often observed along or near the coast, especially around mudflats, shores, or ponds where large numbers of water birds congregate. Occasionally seen further inland on the coastal slopes.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Light-footed clapper rail <i>Rallus longirostris levipus</i>	FE, SE, SFP	Occurs in salt marshes traversed by tidal sloughs where <i>Spartina foliosa</i> and <i>pickleweed</i> are dominant vegetation. Requires dense vegetation for nesting and/or escape cover.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of suitable habitat.
Western snowy plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FT, SSC, MNBMC, PIF	Can be found on sandy beaches on marine and estuarine shores, salt pond levees, and the shores of large alkali lakes. Requires sandy or gravelly soils for nesting.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	SSC, MNBMC, PIF, AUD	Can be found on sandy beaches on marine and estuarine shores, salt pond levees, and the shores of large alkali lakes. Requires sandy or gravelly soils for nesting.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
California gull <i>Larus californicus</i>	SSC	Inhabits coasts, estuaries, lakes, and rivers where it uses shorelines and islands to roost.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Elegant tern <i>Sterna elegans</i>	SSC, MNBMC	Habitats include estuarine and intertidal zones, beaches, mudflats, and lagoon shorelines.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Forster's tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	AUD	Nests on inland lakes and marshes and on salt marshes along the coast. Forages in intertidal and estuarine waters.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
California least tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	FE, SE, SFP, MNBMC	Breeds on bare or sparsely vegetated flat sandy beaches, alkali flats, land fills, or paved areas.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Black skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	SSC	Inhabits beaches, coastal lagoons, marshes, and estuaries.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Rhinoceros auklet <i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	SSC	Nests in burrows, mainly on grassy or shrubby sea-facing slopes or level area.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Vaux's swift <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	SSC, MNBMC, AUD	Found in mature forests. Forages over open country, land, and water.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.

NAME	STATUS	HABITAT	STATUS ONSITE
Costa's hummingbird <i>Calypte costae</i>	MNBMC	Found in desert, brushy foothills, and chaparral. During migration and winter in adjacent mountains, open meadows, and gardens.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Allen's hummingbird <i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	MNBMC, PIF	Inhabits chaparral, thickets, brushy hillsides, open coniferous woodlands, and gardens near the coast.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Pacific slope flycatcher <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	MNBMC	Found in warm forest and woodland, especially near shaded cliffs, stream banks, and human dwellings.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Rare.
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE, SE	Restricted to willow-dominated riparian habitats, usually in proximity to water.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of suitable habitat.
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE, SE, MNBMC, PIF	Found in low riparian growth in the vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms. Nests are placed along the margins of bushes, usually <i>Salix</i> , <i>Baccharis</i> , or <i>Prosopis</i> .	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of suitable habitat.
Coastal cactus wren <i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus couesi</i>	SSC	Occurs in coastal sage scrub with tall opuntia cactus for nesting and roosting.	Known to nest within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	FT, SSC	A permanent resident of coastal sage scrub in arid washes, mesas, and slopes.	Known to nest within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Yellow warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	SSC	Occupies marshes, swamps, streamside groves, willow and alder thickets, open woodlands with thickets, orchards, gardens, and open mangroves.	Known to occur within Doheny State Beach. Common.
Pacific pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>	FE, SSC	Occurs on fine, sandy soils within 2 to 4 miles of the Pacific Ocean.	Not expected to occur within Doheny State Beach due to lack of suitable habitat.

Sensitivity Status Key:

FE	Federally endangered
FT	Federally threatened
SE	State of California endangered
ST	State of California threatened
SFP	State of California fully protected
SP	State of California protected
SSC	State of California species of concern
MNBMC	Federal nongame species of management concern
AUD	Audubon Society WatchList
PIF	Partners in Flight WatchList
AFS: V	American Fisheries Society vulnerable
AFS: E	American Fisheries Society endangered
CNPS: 1B	California Native Plant Society List 1B species (considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere)
CNPS: 2	California Native Plant Society List 2 species (considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere)

Appendix D – Wildlife Species Known to Occur Within or Near Doheny State Beach

Common Names	Scientific Names
Invertebrates	
Common green darner	<i>Anax junius</i>
Fiery skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Cabbage white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Fish	
Southern steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Arroyo chub	<i>Gila orcutti</i>
Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>
Amphibians	
Arroyo toad	<i>Bufo californicus</i>
Tadpole	
Reptiles	
Gopher snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>
Birds	
California brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Brandt's cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>
Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Black-crowned night heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>
American coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>
Light-footed clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>
Black-bellied plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Ring-billed gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>
Western gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>
Heermann's gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>

Common Names	Scientific Names
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Yellow-rumped warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>
Common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
White-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>
Mammals	
Virginia opossum	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>
Audubon's cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>
California ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>
Pacific pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris pacificus</i>
Mouse sp.	
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Domestic dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
Striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>
Bobcat	<i>Felis rufus</i>
Domestic cat	<i>Felis catus</i>

Appendix E – Aquatic Species Known to Occur Within Doheny Beach Marine Life Refuge

Common Name	Scientific Name
Invertebrates	
Common green darner	<i>Anax junius</i>
Fiery skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>
Sea cauliflower	<i>Leathesia difformis</i>
Sea lettuce	<i>Ulva lactuca</i>
Feather boa kelp	<i>Egregia menziesii</i>
Giant kelp	<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>
Porifera	
Purple encrusting sponge	<i>Haliclona permolis</i>
Cnidaria	
Strawberry anemone	<i>Corynactis californica</i>
Aggregating anemone	<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i>
Gorgonian sea fan spp.	
Annelida	
Unidentified worm sp.	
Mollusca	
Chiton spp.	
Limpet spp.	
Giant keyhole limpet	<i>Megathura crenulata</i>
Black turban snail	<i>Tegula funebris</i>
Chestnut cowry	<i>Cyprala spadicea</i>
Checkered periwinkle	<i>Littorina scutulata</i>
Black abalone	<i>Haliotis cracherodii</i>
White abalone	<i>Haliotis sorenseni</i>
Navanax	<i>Navanax inermis</i>
California brown sea hare	<i>Aplysia californica</i>
California mussel	<i>Mytilus californicus</i>
Pacific little neck clam	<i>Potonthaca staminea</i>
Two spot octopus	<i>Octopus bimaculoides</i>
Arthropoda	
Acorn barnacles	<i>Balanus glandula</i>
Blue band hermit crab	<i>Pagurus samrelis</i>
Pelagic red crab	<i>Pleuroncodes planipes</i>
Purple shore crab	<i>Hemigrapsus nudus</i>
Striped shore crab	<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i>
Sheep crab	<i>Loxorhynchus grandis</i>
Northern kelp crab	<i>Pugettia producta</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Squat lobster	<i>Munida quadrispina</i>
California spiny lobster	<i>Panulirus interruptus</i>
Shrimp sp.	
Echinodermata	
Purple sea urchin	<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>
Leather sea star	<i>Dermasterias imbricata</i>
Ochre sea star	<i>Pisaster ochraceous</i>
Short spined sea star	<i>Pisaster brevispinus</i>
Giant spined sea star	<i>Pisaster giganteus</i>
Bat star	<i>Asterina miniata</i>
Fragile rainbow star	<i>Astrometis sertulifera</i>
Pacific blood star	<i>Henricia leviuscula</i>
Smooth brittle star	<i>Ophioplocus esmarki</i>
Spiny brittle star	<i>Ophiothrix spiculata</i>
Warty sea cucumber	<i>Parastichopus parvimensis</i>
Chordata	
Horn shark	<i>Heterodontus francisci</i>
Leopard shark	<i>Triakis semifasciata</i>
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
Shovelnose guitarfish	<i>Rhinobatos productus</i>
Round sting ray	<i>Urolophus halleri</i>
California halibut	<i>Paralichthys californicus</i>
Painted greenling	<i>Oxylebius pictus</i>
Blenny spp.	<i>Hypsoblennius spp.</i>
Black surfperch	<i>Embiotica jacksoni</i>
Blackeye goby	<i>Coryphopterus nicholsi</i>
Sargo	<i>Anisotremus davidsoni</i>
Salema	<i>Xenistius californiensis</i>
Opaleye	<i>Girella nigricans</i>
Halfmoon	<i>Medialuna californiensis</i>
California sheephead	<i>Semicossyphus pulcher</i>
California moray	<i>Gymnothorax mordax</i>
Giant sea bass	<i>Stereolepis gigas</i>
Diamond turbot	<i>Hypsopsetta guttulata</i>
Blacksmith	<i>Chromis punctipinnis</i>
Garibaldi	<i>Hypsypops rubicunda</i>
Barred sand bass	<i>Paralabrax nebulifer</i>
California scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena guttata</i>
Tidepool sculpin	<i>Oligocottus maculosus</i>
Rockfish spp.	<i>Sebastes spp.</i>
Treefish	<i>Sebastes serriceps</i>
California sea lion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Harbor seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>
Gray whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>
Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>