

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

# Final General Plan & Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

SCH # 2002021060

*Approved by the State Park & Recreation Commission on:*

**February 11, 2005**



*ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER*

*MIKE CHRISMAN*

*RUTH COLEMAN, DIRECTOR*

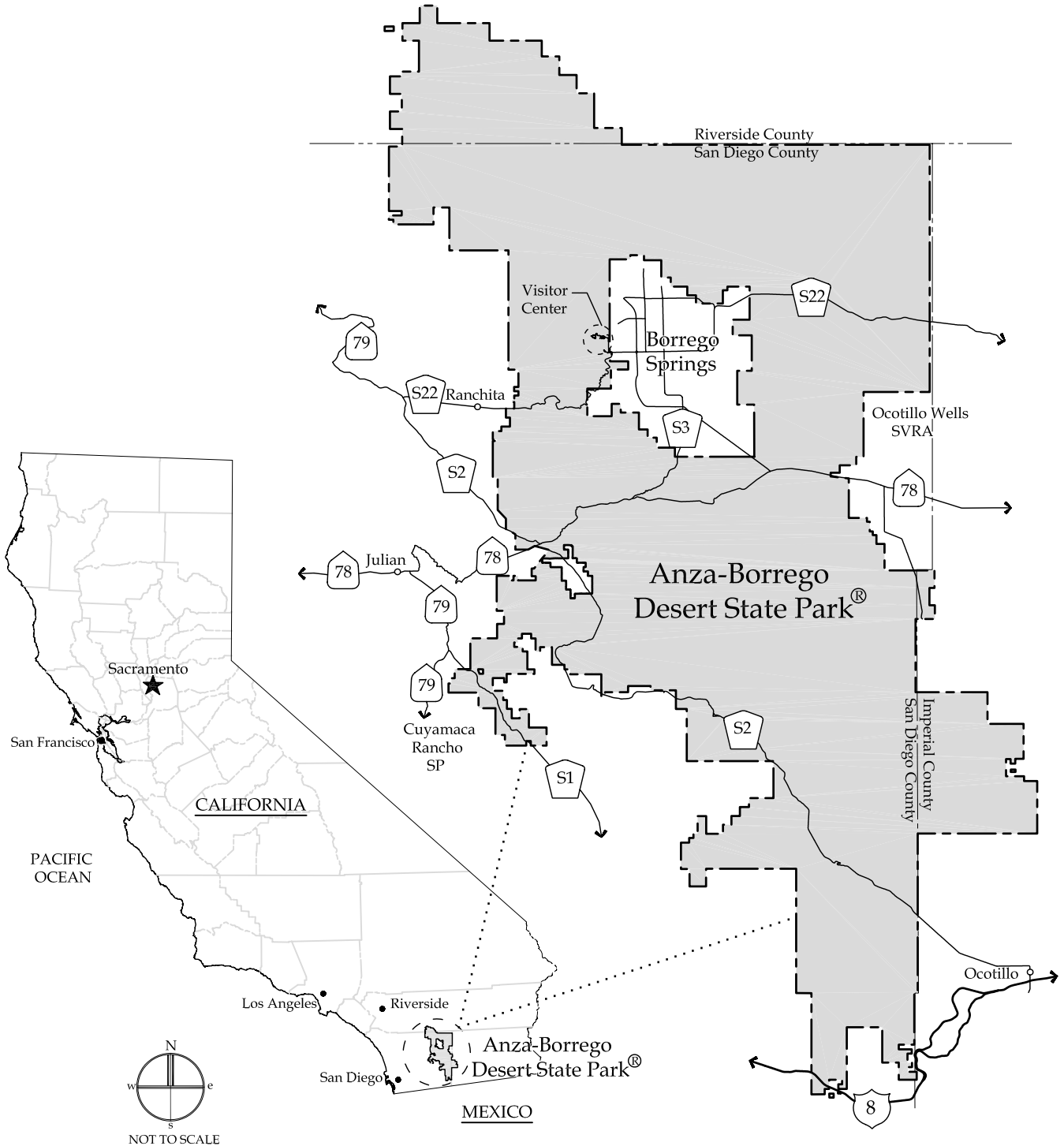
*GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA*

*SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES*

*CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS*

PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

# Location Map



This map depicts general mapping boundaries. Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this map. However, this map and data are generalized and not survey based. Private land/ inholdings may not always be indicated on these maps.

## Table of Contents (abbreviated)

---

Table of Contents (expanded)	v
Executive Summary	xí
Preface	xv
1. Introduction	1-1
2. Existing Conditions	2-1
3. The Plan	3-1
4. Environmental Analysis	4-1
5. Tables	5-1
6. Figures	6-1
7. Bibliography	7-1
8. Appendices	8-1
9. Acronyms, Index, & Credits	9-1



# Table of Contents (expanded)

---

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE PARK</b> .....	<b>1-3</b>
	1.1.1 DESCRIPTION	1-3
	1.1.2 LOCATION	1-4
	1.1.3 PURPOSE ACQUIRED	1-4
	1.1.4 SPIRIT OF PLACE	1-5
<b>1.2</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF GENERAL PLANS</b> .....	<b>1-6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Existing Conditions</b> ( <i>Environmental Setting</i> )	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>PARK SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>2-3</b>
	2.1.1 LAND USE	2-3
	2.1.2 FACILITIES	2-3
	2.1.3 ADJACENT LAND USE	2-3
	2.1.3.1 Native American Land	2-3
	2.1.3.2 Federal Land	2-4
	2.1.3.3 Other Parks	2-5
	2.1.3.4 Other State-Owned Land	2-6
	2.1.3.5 Private Operations	2-6
	2.1.3.6 International Land	2-7
	2.1.3.7 Transportation/Utility Corridors	2-8
	2.1.4 LAND ACQUISITION	2-9
	2.1.5 PARK SUPPORT—ORGANIZATIONS & VOLUNTEERS	2-9
	2.1.5.1 Park Support Organizations	2-9
	2.1.5.2 Park Support Volunteers	2-10
<b>2.2</b>	<b>PRIMARY RESOURCES</b> .....	<b>2-11</b>
	2.2.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCES	2-11
	2.2.1.1 Topography	2-11
	2.2.1.2 Geology	2-12
	2.2.1.3 Soils	2-21
	2.2.1.4 Meteorology	2-22
	2.2.1.5 Hydrology	2-27
	2.2.2 BIOTIC RESOURCES	2-31
	2.2.2.1 Paleontology	2-31
	2.2.2.2 Biota	2-35
	2.2.2.3 Sensitive Biota	2-42
	2.2.2.4 Exotic Species	2-57
	2.2.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES	2-61
	2.2.3.1 Prehistoric & Ethnographic Overview	2-61
	2.2.3.2 Historical Summary	2-68
	2.2.3.3 Designated Historical Resources	2-76
	2.2.4 AESTHETIC RESOURCES	2-78
	2.2.4.1 Special Qualities	2-79
	2.2.5 INTERPRETIVE & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES	2-82
	2.2.5.1 Facilities	2-82

2.2.5.2	Personal Interpretive Programming	2-82
2.2.5.3	Self-directed Interpretive Programming	2-83
<b>2.2.6</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS RESOURCES</b>	<b>2-84</b>
2.2.6.1	Introduction	2-84
2.2.6.2	Major Interpretive Themes, Topics, &/or Periods of the Collection	2-85
2.2.6.3	Collection History	2-85
2.2.6.4	Collection Content Summary	2-86
2.2.6.5	Uses of the Collection	2-87
2.2.6.6	Relationship of Collection to Other State Parks & Non-State Park Institutions	2-87
<b>2.2.7</b>	<b>RECREATIONAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>2-88</b>
2.2.7.1	The Visitor Experience	2-88
2.2.7.2	Current Visitor Information	2-88
2.2.7.3	Recreational Infrastructure	2-89
<b>2.3</b>	<b>PLANNING INFLUENCES</b>	<b>2-93</b>
2.3.1	SYSTEM-WIDE PLANNING INFLUENCES	2-93
2.3.2	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES	2-94
2.3.3	REGIONAL PLANNING INFLUENCES	2-94
2.3.3.1	Regional Plans & Planning Efforts	2-94
2.3.3.2	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2-95
2.3.3.3	California Department of Fish & Game	2-95
2.3.3.4	Landscape Linkages	2-95
2.3.3.5	California Department of Transportation	2-96
2.3.3.6	Utilities	2-96
2.3.4	VISITATION	2-97
2.3.5	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	2-98
2.3.5.1	Visitor Study	2-99
<b>2.4</b>	<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>2-101</b>
2.4.1	PHYSICAL RESOURCE ISSUES	2-101
2.4.2	BIOTIC RESOURCE ISSUES	2-102
2.4.3	CULTURAL RESOURCE ISSUES	2-104
2.4.4	AESTHETIC RESOURCE ISSUES	2-105
2.4.5	INTERPRETIVE & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE ISSUES	2-106
2.4.6	COLLECTIONS ISSUES	2-107
2.4.7	RECREATIONAL ISSUES	2-107
2.4.8	FACILITIES & PARK OPERATION ISSUES	2-109
2.4.9	LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES	2-109
2.4.10	ADJACENT LAND USE ISSUES	2-110

### 3 Plan

<b>3.1</b>	<b>PLAN OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3-3</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>PARK-WIDE MANAGEMENT DEFINED</b>	<b>3-3</b>
3.2.1	DEPARTMENT MISSION	3-3
3.2.2	CLASSIFICATION	3-4
3.2.3	PARK PURPOSE, MISSION, & VISION	3-5
3.2.3.1	Declaration of Purpose	3-6

3.2.3.2	Park Mission Statement	3-7
3.2.3.3	Vision Statement	3-7
<b>3.2.4</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT ZONES</b>	<b>3-8</b>
3.2.4.1	Information/Entrance Zone	3-8
3.2.4.2	Focused-Use Zone I (FUZ I)	3-9
3.2.4.3	Focused-Use Zone II (FUZ II)	3-11
3.2.4.4	Backcountry Zone (BZ)	3-13
3.2.4.5	Wilderness Zone (WZ)	3-15
3.2.4.6	Cultural Preserve Zone	3-18
<b>3.3</b>	<b>GOALS &amp; GUIDELINES</b>	<b>3-19</b>
<b>3.3.1</b>	<b>PARK-WIDE GOALS &amp; GUIDELINES</b>	<b>3-19</b>
3.3.1.1	Data Driven Management Decisions	3-19
3.3.1.2	Physical Resources	3-20
3.3.1.3	Biotic Resources	3-22
3.3.1.4	Cultural Resources	3-30
3.3.1.5	Interpretation	3-35
3.3.1.6	Collections	3-39
3.3.1.7	Visitor-Use & Opportunities (Recreation)	3-40
3.3.1.8	Leadership	3-45
3.3.1.9	Community Involvement & Marketing	3-46
3.3.1.10	Real Property Additions & Management	3-48
3.3.1.11	Infrastructure & Operations	3-49
<b>3.3.2</b>	<b>AREA-SPECIFIC GOALS &amp; GUIDELINES</b>	<b>3-53</b>
3.3.2.1	Blair Valley & Little Blair Valley	3-54
3.3.2.2	Carrizo Impact Area	3-54
3.3.2.3	Coyote Canyon	3-55
3.3.2.4	Lucky 5 Ranch Area	3-57
3.3.2.5	Sentenac Canyon	3-58
3.3.2.6	Indian Canyon	3-58
3.3.2.7	Grapevine Canyon	3-59
3.3.2.8	Vallecito/Campbell Ranch	3-59
<b>3.4</b>	<b>FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS</b>	<b>3-61</b>
<b>3.4.1</b>	<b>CAMPING MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-62</b>
<b>3.4.2</b>	<b>ROADS MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-63</b>
<b>3.4.3</b>	<b>TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-63</b>
<b>3.4.4</b>	<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-64</b>
<b>3.4.5</b>	<b>NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-65</b>
<b>3.4.6</b>	<b>INTERPRETIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	<b>3-65</b>
<b>3.4.7</b>	<b>FACILITIES PLAN</b>	<b>3-66</b>

## 4 Environmental Analysis

<b>4.1</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>4-3</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>4-4</b>
<b>4.3</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING</b>	<b>4-4</b>
<b>4.4</b>	<b>PLAN ALTERNATIVES</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>4.4.1</b>	<b>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE</b>	<b>4-5</b>
4.4.1.2	State Wilderness	4-5

4.4.1.3	Cultural Preserve	4-5
4.4.1.4	Backcountry	4-6
4.4.1.5	Focused-Use Zone I & Focused-Use Zone II	4-6
4.4.1.6	Information/Entrance Zone	4-6
4.4.2	ALTERNATIVE 1	4-6
4.4.3	ALTERNATIVE 2	4-7
4.4.4	ALTERNATIVE 3 – ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR	4-7
4.4.5	NO PROJECT	4-8
<b>4.5</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS</b>	<b>4-8</b>
4.5.1	PREFERRED PLAN—ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	4-8
4.5.2	UNAVOIDABLE & IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRON. EFFECTS	4-9
4.5.3	SIGNIFICANT EFFECT & PROPOSED MITIGATION	4-9
4.5.3.1	Geological Resources (GR)	4-9
4.5.3.2	Water Resources (WR)	4-10
4.5.3.3	Biological Resources (BR)	4-11
4.5.3.4	Paleontological Resources (PR)	4-12
4.5.3.5	Cultural Resources (CR)	4-13
4.5.3.6	Aesthetic Resources (AR)	4-15
4.5.3.7	Recreation Resources (RR)	4-15
4.5.4	EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT	4-17
4.5.4.1	Noise	4-17
4.5.4.2	Air Quality	4-17
4.5.4.3	Traffic	4-18
4.5.4.4	Hazardous Materials	4-18
4.5.5	GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS	4-19
4.5.6	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	4-19
4.5.7	BENEFICIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	4-20
4.5.8	MITIGATION & MONITORING	4-20
<b>4.6</b>	<b>PUBLIC COORDINATION</b>	<b>4-21</b>
4.6.1	JANUARY 2003 PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY	4-21
4.6.2	JULY 2004 PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY	4-22
4.6.3	NOTICE OF DETERMINATION	4-26
4.6.4	ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL	4-28
<b>4.7</b>	<b>PUBLIC COORDINATION</b>	<b>4-26</b>
4.7.1	NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD)	4-26
4.7.2	FINDINGS OF FACT	4-27
4.7.3	MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM & RECORD	4-28

## 5 Tables

<b>5.1</b>	<b>ADJACENT LAND USE</b>	<b>5-3</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>POTENTIAL SOIL SERIES</b>	<b>5-4</b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>PLANT &amp; ANIMAL SENSITIVITY CODES</b>	<b>5-5</b>
<b>5.4</b>	<b>SENSITIVE PLANTS</b>	<b>5-8</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>SENSITIVE ANIMALS</b>	<b>5-11</b>
<b>5.6</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT ZONE MATRIX</b>	<b>5-13</b>
<b>5.7</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVES MATRIX</b>	<b>5-15</b>



5.8	REASONABLE PROJECTION OF DEVELOPMENT .....	5-16
6	<b>Figures</b>	
6.1	FACILITIES	
6.2	ADJACENT LAND OWNERSHIP	
6.3	TOPOGRAPHY	
6.4	PALEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY	
6.5	GENERALIZED HABITAT	
6.6	MANAGEMENT ZONES (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)	
6.7	ALTERNATIVE 1	
6.8	ALTERNATIVE 2	
6.9	ALTERNATIVE 3	
	<i>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE CLOSE-UPS:</i>	
6.10	SENTENAC CANYON, TAMARISK GROVE, BLAIR VALLEY	
6.11	COYOTE CANYON	
6.12	CULP VALLEY, BORREGO PALM CANYON, MT. PALM SPRINGS	
6.13	VALLECITO VALLEY	
7	<b>Bibliography</b>	
7.1	GENERAL .....	7-3
7.2	RANGER REPORTS .....	7-3
7.3	GEOLOGY (§2.2.1.2) .....	7-4
7.4	SOILS, HYDROLOGY, & BIOTIC (§2.2.1.3, §2.2.1.5, §2.2.2) .....	7-5
7.5	PALEONTOLOGY (§2.2.2.4) .....	7-7
7.6	CULTURAL RESOURCES (§2.2.3) .....	7-12
7.7	HISTORY .....	7-17
7.8	COLLECTIONS (§2.2.5) .....	7-18
8	<b>Appendices</b>	
8.1	CULTURAL RESOURCES APPENDIX .....	8-3
8.2	HISTORICAL RESOURCES APPENDIX .....	8-14
8.3	SCOPE OF COLLECTIONS STATEMENT .....	8-25
8.4	NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) .....	8-31
8.5	VISITOR-USE SURVEY (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY) .....	8-51
8.6	COYOTE CANYON PUBLIC USE PLAN (EXEC. SUM.) .....	8-52
8.7	ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN COYOTE CYN. (EXEC. SUM.) .....	8-52
9	<b>Acronyms, Index, &amp; Credits</b>	

