

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
General Plan/EIR

February 2008



California Department of Parks and Recreation

General Plan Inquires

The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan was prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center. For general information regarding the document contact the Service Center at 619-220-5300, or direct correspondence to:

California Department of
Parks and Recreation
Southern Service Center
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, California 92108

Attention: Santa Susana Pass State Historic
Park General Plan Team

Publication Price and Order Information

Additional hard copies of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan can be obtained for \$25.00 each, plus \$2.50 per copy for postage. Additional digital copies on CD can be ordered for \$3.80 each. Make checks payable to California Department of Parks and Recreation, and send your order to the address denoted above.

*Front cover: Santa Susana Pass State Historic
Park overview from south with trail map.*





Resolution 3-2008
Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Chatsworth, California
February 29, 2008

**General Plan and Environmental Impact Report
for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park ("Park"); and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides conceptual parameters and guidelines for the long-term management, development, operations, and future public use and enjoyment of the park; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of a General Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15166 (California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines), providing discussion of the probable impacts of future development, establishing goals, policies and objectives, and addressing all the requirements of an EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and functions as a "tiered EIR" pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21093, covering general goals and objectives of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the Plan prior to approving the General Plan, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that mitigation measures or other changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Plan which will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts identified in the Plan; and be it

RESOLVED: That the location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceeding on which the Commission's decision is based is: California State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458;

Continued on page two:

Continued from page one:

AND BE IT RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park dated January 2008, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on February 29th, 2008 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at Chatsworth, California.

By: ORIGINAL SIGNED BY Date: 2-29-08

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Ruth Coleman, Director
California State Parks
Secretary to the Commission



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

SUBJECT: Filing of the Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

PROJECT TITLE: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan/ Final EIR
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2006061092

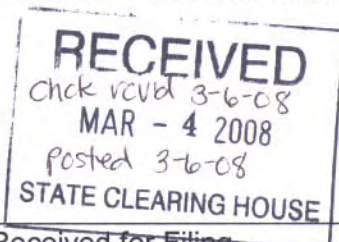
CONTACT PERSON: Tina Robinson, Environmental Coordinator **PHONE NO.:** (619) 220-5300
Department of Parks and Recreation, SSC
8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92108

PROJECT LOCATION: Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, in Los Angeles County, CA
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 4332, Title 14 of the California Administration Code, California Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared a General Plan for the Park. The Plan delineates a number of resource management zones, as well as goals and guidelines for each zone; the document will guide park management, specific project management, and implementation. These goals and guidelines address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities and constraints; consistent with the classification of *State Historic Park*, as set forth in Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code and with Department Resource Management Directives.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved this project on April 15, 2004, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
 The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Final Negative Declaration was prepared and adopted, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
 A Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed in compliance with CEQA, and has been presented to the decision-making body of this Department for its independent review and consideration of the information, prior to approval of the project.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made conditions of project approval.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were were not made on environmental effects of the project.

The EIR or Negative Declaration and record of project approval may be examined at the California Department of Parks and Recreation at the contact address listed above, on the website & by request.



Paul D. Romero,
Chief Deputy Director

Date Received for Filing

February 29, 2008
Date

**Santa Susana Pass
State Historic Park
General Plan/EIR**

SCH#2006061092



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources

Ruth Coleman
Director of Parks and Recreation

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California
94296-0001



Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

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Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

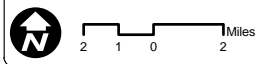
VICINITY MAP
Figure 1



Legend

- City/Community
- Park Boundary
- ▭ California Counties

- Major Roads
- ▬ Interstate Hwy
 - ▬ US Hwy
 - ▬ State Hwy
 - ▬ County Hwy



**SANTASUSANAPASS
STATE HISTORIC PARK**





Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

Executive Summary

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (the Park) is approximately 680 acres in size, located on the boundary between Ventura and Los Angeles Counties and between the communities of Chatsworth and Simi Valley (Figure 1).

Street access to the Park is from Santa Susana Pass Road in the north; Lilac Lane in the west; Devonshire Street, Jeffrey Mark Court, or Larwin Avenue in the east; and Andora Avenue and Valley Circle Boulevard in the south. Freeway access is from State Route 118 in the north or US Highway 101 in the south via Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Route 27).

In accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 5002.2 of the Public Resources Code and Section 4332 Title 14 of the California Administration Code, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) is required to prepare a General Plan for the Park prior to permanent park development. The General Plan provides guidelines for future land-use management within a park in the Plan Section, including land acquisitions and the facilities required to accommodate an expected visitation increase. The General Plan does not provide detailed management recommendations, but rather provides conceptual parameters for future management actions. General planning provides an opportunity to assess a park's resource stewardship and interpretation, regional significance, facilities development, and recreational opportunities (discussed in the Existing Conditions Section as well as in the Appendices and the Resource Inventory).

A first-tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as defined in Section 15166 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines is also incorporated into this General Plan. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency for this EIR. Please refer to the Introduction for a description of how the General Plan functions as a joint General Plan/EIR. The EIR addresses the broader impacts of plan implementation in the Environmental Analysis Section, and does not address specific projects, which may be proposed in the future.

A Declaration of Purpose has been created for the Park as part of this General Plan process. The Declaration of Purpose reflects a strong philosophy of park stewardship while describing the Park's unique qualities and character. The Declaration of Purpose is as follows:

The purpose of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is to preserve and explore crucial links, both to California's past and to dwindling wildlife habitats, while providing visitors with quality recreational and educational experiences along its historic trails.

Framed by sculptural sandstone escarpments reminiscent of early California, the Park's boulder-strewn landscape contains significant natural and cultural resources. Among these are critical wildlife habitats and linkages, segments of a historic Overland Stagecoach route, and other evidence of human occupation and activity dating back to precontact times.

Although named for the historic stage route, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park also offers links to many historic features within the greater Los Angeles Basin. In addition, the Park will solidify the vital role California State Parks has in maintaining diverse plant and wildlife populations in the face of expanding urban development and habitat fragmentation in southern California's Transverse Mountain Ranges.

Its open space is a valuable resource as well as a welcoming sanctuary with outstanding recreational potential and links to adjacent open spaces.

The Plan Section of the GP/EIR delineates six management zones and a set of goals and guidelines that will guide park management, as well as specific project management and implementation. These goals and guidelines address recreational, operational, interpretive, and resource management opportunities and constraints consistent with the classifications of State Historic Park, as set forth in sections 5019.53 and 5019.68 of the Public Resources Code and with CDPR policies. Relevant CDPR policies include CEQA compliance as set forth in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) 0600 and resource policies including DOM Section 0300, Natural Resources; DOM Section 0400, Cultural Resources (under revision 2007); the Cultural Resources Management Handbook; and other policies set forth in Department Resource Management Directives. Please see page 49, under Planning Influences for additional information. The General Plan usually does not locate or design facilities, but instead provides goals and guidelines for the appropriate types, locations, and designs of those that may be proposed in the future. The General Plan also establishes the primary interpretive themes for interpretive programs and activities. Because Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park has a system of existing trails as one of its key features, this General Plan names and locates the primary trails so that they may be designated and adopted. Park management may then remove or close duplicate or informal trails.

The General Plan (Preferred Plan) proposes to:

- Provide a visitor-use experience, reflective of the Park's significant cultural and natural resources, by proposing the appropriate park infrastructure for example, a defined gateway into the Park and a defined trail system. The General Plan will create a 155-acre Primary Historic Zone, encompassing portions of the existing National Register of Historic Places site boundary,



which will provide the appropriate protection of the cultural resources while creating numerous interpretive opportunities for the Park.

- Establish other management zones for resource management, visitor use, and accessible interpretive and recreational programs for the public.
- Establish management goals and guidelines.

Management zones in this General Plan describe the overall management purpose and intent of specific regions within the Park as well as depict their intended uses. Each zone provides direction for the general level and type of development and use within the Park. The management zones are ordered, in general, from the highest intensity of visitor use to the lowest. The six management zones are as follows: Gateway, Secondary Access Points, North Forty, Scenic Ridge, Primary Historic, and Riparian.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency responsible for preparation of the proposed General Plan in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as required by the Public Resources Code Section 5002.2 and Section 21000 et seq. The Environmental Analysis Section and other sections of the General Plan document constitute the first tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as defined in Section 15166 of the CEQA Guidelines. It should be recognized that the level of detail addressed by this EIR is comparable to the level of detail provided in the land-use proposals of the General Plan. As subsequent management plans and site-specific projects are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review.

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New development and recreational activities allowed by the General Plan have the potential to cause impacts to the environment. These impacts could include soil disturbance, exposure to hazardous substances, erosion, lowered water quality, degradation of cultural resources, degradation of aesthetic resources, and degradation of sensitive plant and animal populations or their habitats. However, the goals and guidelines proposed in the General Plan will provide avoidance and mitigation measures to reduce potentially adverse environmental effects. Chapter 4, Environmental Analysis, on pages 101 to 118 addresses the potentially significant effects and proposed mitigation to reduce these effects. These include potentially significant effects to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geologic resources, recreation, and water resources. The Preferred Plan management zones, goals, and guidelines have been developed to provide the greatest recreational benefit while providing protection to the Park's resources. Sensitive design of proposed improvements will mitigate many of the potential impacts. Implementation of the proposed General Plan was found to have insignificant environmental effects on air quality, fire hazard, hazardous materials,

noise, paleontological resources, public services, traffic, growth inducement and cumulative effects when compared to the existing environment.

Additionally, there are existing conflicts between some park users and neighboring residences. Therefore, the General Plan proposes to reduce the potential social and economic effects (please see page 116) of future conflicts between park users and neighboring residences by relocating public access to the Park in one location. As a program level (first-tier) EIR (see CEQA Guidelines §15166 and §15168), the General Plan identifies broad, park-wide environmental impacts and mitigation measures that address such impacts. Any future management plans, new activities, and specific development projects will be subject to additional environmental review in order to identify specific impacts and appropriate mitigation and monitoring plans.

Alternatives

During the General Plan process, three Plan Alternatives were considered including Alternative 1, the Environmentally Superior Alternative, Alternative 2, the High Level of Use Alternative, and a third alternative: the No Project Alternative. These alternatives are discussed on page 102 and in Table 4—the Alternatives Matrix (page 103). The primary distinctions between the alternatives are the allowable activities and facilities in each of these land use areas. The Preferred Plan was developed as a combination of Alternatives 1 and 2, and modified after a series of public meetings and focus groups meetings, which brought forth additional information.

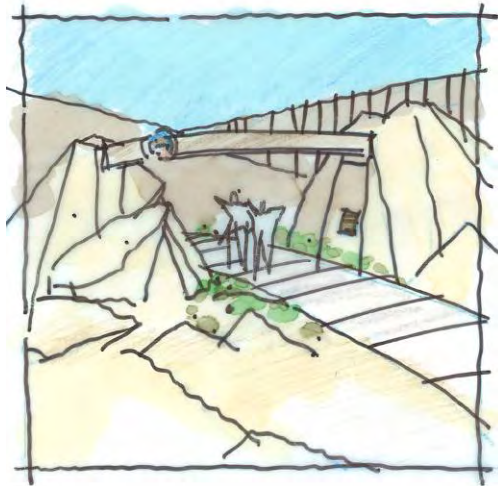
Alternatives 1 and 2 and the No Project Alternative, are no longer under consideration upon completion of the January 2008 Final Environmental Impact Report and approval of the General Plan/EIR.

Final EIR

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was released for public review beginning on July 5, 2007 and ending on August 20, 2007. Please see the Public Coordination section of Chapter 4 for additional information. Additionally, a chapter providing a summary of all public comments, issues and master responses, and individual comment letters and responses is located in Appendix F (under separate cover).

Findings regarding potentially significant impacts and appropriate mitigation measures to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geological Resources, Recreation, and Water Resources were made and are included in the Environmental Analysis, Chapter 4. All potentially significant impacts will either be avoided or mitigated below of level of significance under the General Plan/EIR. A Mitigation Monitoring Plan and Program is located in Chapter 4.





Secondary Access

Introduction

1



Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARK

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (the Park) is located in western Los Angeles County just west of the community of Chatsworth (Figure 1). The western boundary of the Park partially follows the Los Angeles-Ventura county line. Chatsworth Park South, a City of Los Angeles park, is almost completely surrounded by California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) lands in the eastern portion of the Park and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District holds lands to the west near the northwestern corner of the Park. Oakwood Memorial Park is to the east at the Park's southeast end (Figure 2).

Much of the Park's northern boundary runs along Santa Susana Pass Road, except for a parcel owned by the Church at Rocky Point, which operates a recreational center and facility called KidsFutureNow! Other adjacent and onsite land holdings and right-of-ways include the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District pump station, an underground Metropolitan Water District metering connection, a Calleguas Municipal Water District power generating facility, and Southern California Edison power lines and towers. The Southern Pacific Railroad runs east-west through the middle of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, although a majority of the railroad right of way is underground, through the Santa Susana Pass Tunnels. Private land holdings and residential neighborhoods also surround the Park.

Within an hour's drive of the Park are the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, Santa Clarita, Palmdale,



Park Overview

and the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Street access to the Park is from Santa Susana Pass Road in the north; Lilac Lane in the west; Devonshire Street, Jeffrey Mark Court, or Larwin Avenue, in the east; and Andora Avenue, Lassen Street, Baden Avenue, and Valley Circle Boulevard in the south. Freeway access is from State Route 118 (SR 118) in the north or U.S. Highway 101 in the south via Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Route 27).

Additional access points include trailheads located on adjacent properties. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks operate these trailheads, which connect to trails within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, thereby creating a regional trail system.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is approximately 680 acres in size. Elevations in the Park range from 950 feet to over 1,850 feet above mean sea level. The California Department

of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) acquired portions of the Park in 1979 with additional acquisitions following into the late 1990s. The California State Park and Recreation Commission officially named and classified the property as a State Historic Park in 1998. The Park is a unit of the Angeles District (the District) of CDPR.

Contained within the Park is a 174-acre National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Property (see Appendix D for definition). This property was listed on the NRHP in 1974 and consists of the stage route, historic features and deposits, and prehistoric village site remnants. The stage route was also declared Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument #92 (designated 01/05/1972) and Ventura County Historical Landmark #104 (designated 10/21/1986).

water, sanitation, interpretation, and picnicking. Upon approval by the commission, lands outside the primary historic may be selected or acquired, developed, or operated to provide camping facilities within appropriate historical units. Upon approval by the California State Park and Recreation Commission, an area outside the primary historic zone may be designated as a recreation zone to provide limited recreational opportunities that will supplement the public's enjoyment of the unit. Certain agricultural, mercantile, or other commercial activities may be permitted if those activities are a part of the history of the individual unit and any developments retain or restore historical authenticity. Historical units shall be named to perpetuate the primary historical theme of the individual units.

4

DEFINITION OF STATE HISTORIC PARK

As defined in Section 5019.59 of the Public Resources Code, Historical units, are:

...to be named appropriately and individually, consist of nonmarine areas established primarily to preserve objects of historical, archaeological, and scientific interest, and archaeological sites and places commemorating important persons or historic events. The areas should be of sufficient size, where possible, to encompass a significant proportion of the landscape associated with the historical objects. The only facilities that may be provided are those required for the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of the visitors, such as access, parking,

PURPOSE ACQUIRED

Beginning in 1969, local activists had sought to lobby for the protection of the area's historic stagecoach road, as well as other historic and scenic resources. As a result, in 1977 CDPR received an appropriation for acquisition from the 1976 Bond Fund. Additional monies were authorized in 1978 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund. With these funds, four parcels of land, consisting of approximately 300 acres, were acquired by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1979.

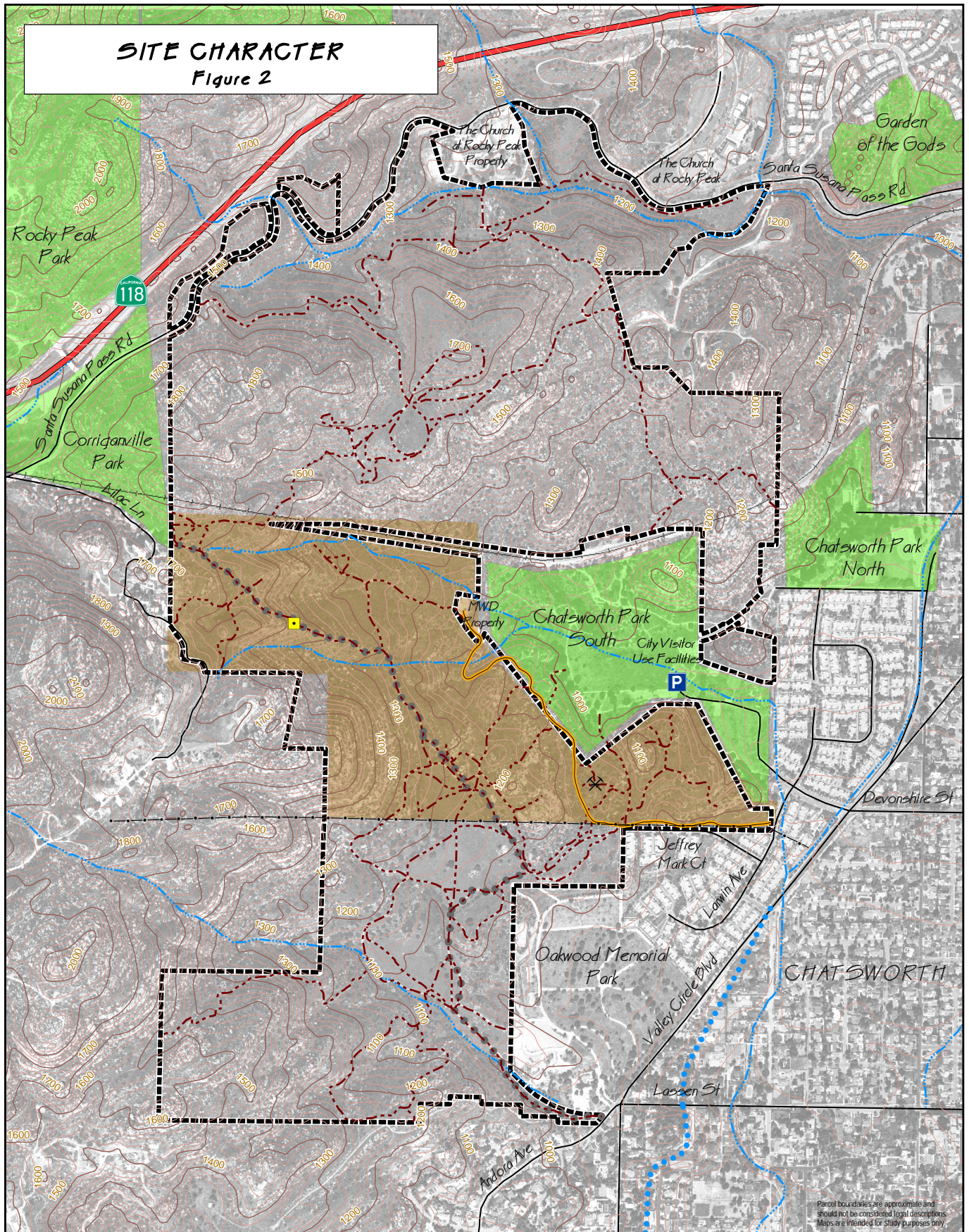
SPIRIT OF PLACE

The Santa Susana Pass area has been described as having a unique



SITE CHARACTER

Figure 2



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Legend

Contours

- 100ft Interval
- 25ft Interval

Hydrography

- Aqueduct or Pipeline
- Stream

- Stage Road Plaque
- Parking Lot
- Power Line
- Public Parkland
- National Register Area
- Historic Stage Route

- Quarry
- Existing Trails
- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Utility Road
- Railroad
- Park Boundary



SANTA SUSANA PASS STATE HISTORIC PARK





“freshness, openness, unplanned, and unstructured beauty” about it. This is reflected in its landscape, which offers the complex topography, massive boulders, and weathered rock outcrops of the Chatsworth Formation. The presence of rock dominates the Park and its surroundings, delineating ridgelines, defining peaks, and massing into great formations that tumble down the broad backs of mountains.

It is a steep, rugged landscape, created of materials deposited in deep marine canyons some 70 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. Immense geologic forces formed and heaved these deposits into the sun-bleached and wind-washed mountains. Rocky ridgelines rise in great earthen tiers westerly toward Ventura County and trend generally along a southwest/northeast diagonal. Water finds its way to every draw, fold, and crevice, and several well-defined drainages are carved into the terrain, descending in an easterly run to the lowlands of the San Fernando Valley.

A network of trails traverses much of the Park, offering first-hand experiences of the Park’s ever-changing topography. Visitors ascend and descend the steep terrain as it turns this way and that, sequentially opening to yet another orientation or spatial perspective—obscuring, then suddenly revealing views to landmark peaks or distant, broad valleys. Perhaps it is the persistent challenge of wayfinding that is so intriguing about this place. Perhaps it is the mountains’ patient yielding of its mysteries—the intricate layers of life-forms nested into its rocky nooks and crannies, the silent presence of those who came before us, or its geological sense of the “long” time beyond human history altogether.

Those who hike or ride regularly through the Park are familiar with its inexhaustible potential for new discoveries and remark that it takes many years to know such a place well. Others know this landscape merely as a scenic backdrop to the San Fernando Valley floor, the community of Chatsworth, or from the frames of old movies or television shows. For many it is a familiar presence in their daily lives. For millions of freeway travelers it forms one flank of the modern Santa Susana Pass, where for a brief few minutes it offers another portal—a rare opportunity to experience the scale and flavor of the Old West.

Over the centuries this mountainous landscape offered a formidable challenge to those traveling between San Fernando and Simi valleys, and to points beyond. The 21st Century finds it well-marked with tunnels, trestles, foot trails, and roadbeds—reading well as a visual reference to the area’s transportation history. There is a long human record notched into the rocky landscape, evident not only in the weathered mortars and cupules, niche



Scenic View

shelters and stone hearths, but also in quarry tailings, road cribbing, and the graffiti scratched into favored boulders. Old homestead sites hide in the hills, along with an abandoned reservoir or two. The hulks of a few old cars and trucks rust away in steep ravines, tangled in the mountain's shrubby growth and the mystery of how they got there. The long arms of utilities reach up and across the Park's open space with power lines stretching high overhead and pipelines buried deep below.

All of this and more—the mountain absorbs these things well. It is just so much bigger, and older, and longer lasting. Looking up at these hills and mountains or walking the paths worn into its sides, each person takes in whatever sustaining qualities are needed at that time. Some eagerly search out the spring's treasure of wildflowers and note the subtle shifts from green to gold as days lengthen and heat up. Some note the footprints of the mountain lion, the coyote, the bobcat. Others push their muscle strength against the mountains' or draw on its rugged self reliance. To many, the mountains in their quiet, timeless way shield and protect the valley and offer sanctuary from the relentless pressures of urban living. Again and again visitors seek the special portals and elevated views of favored vantage points. There they gain solace, inspiration, or right-perspective and measure their days against the passage of time.

PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

This General Plan was developed to serve as a long-range management tool that provides guidelines for achieving

the purpose of the Park. This document does not attempt to provide detailed management recommendations, but rather provides conceptual parameters for future management actions.

Specifics, such as the exact location of a visitor center or campground, will be determined by future management plans. These subsequent management plans will require additional data collections and public/internal reviews to ensure adherence to the goals and guidelines established within this General Plan.

This General Plan may need amending 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. However, the guidelines contained in the General Plan allow a degree of flexibility to accommodate new situations.

Partial funding for the Resource Inventory and General Plan for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is from the settlement with Southern California Edison (SCE) for damages to the Park's archaeological resources from unauthorized grading activities.

Combined Plan/EIR

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 established a requirement for state agencies to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed action. The environmental impact report (EIR), prepared by state and local governments, is usually a freestanding document intended to meet the requirements of CEQA. However, CEQA also encourages options to avoid needless redundancy and duplication, such as combining



General Plans and EIRs (CEQA Guidelines §15166) and the use of tiering, a process where a lead agency prepares a series of EIRs, progressing from general concerns to more site-specific evaluations with the preparation of each new document (CEQA Guidelines §15152). When the lead agency combines a General Plan and an EIR, all requirements of CEQA must be covered and the document must identify where the requirements are met. The following section provides a guide to the structure and contents of the General Plan/EIR, which meets the CEQA requirements.

As explained here, the General Plan/EIR in its whole constitutes the required content of an EIR; therefore this document refers to the “General Plan/EIR” to reinforce the concept of a single document fulfilling the dual requirements of park general planning and CEQA compliance.

Tiered CEQA Analysis

Tiering is defined as “the coverage of general matters and environmental effects in an environmental impact report prepared for a policy, plan, program, or ordinance followed by narrower or site-specific environmental impact reports...” (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21068.5; CEQA Guidelines §15385). While a tiered EIR may not defer all consideration of impacts to a point in the future, it can legitimately indicate that more detailed studies and project-specific impacts may be considered in future environmental documents. Generally, the courts have recognized that environmental studies at the general plan level will be general. It has been found acceptable, that a more detailed analysis be considered later in

the process. Subsequently, that analysis will be measured against specific performance criteria, formulated at the time of Plan approval.

The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan/EIR serves as a first-tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as defined in Section 15166 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Individual and/or site-specific projects and appropriate CEQA compliance will follow the General Plan/EIR. The analysis of broad potential environmental impacts discussed in the Environmental Analysis Section of this document will provide the basis for future second-level environmental review, which will provide more detailed information and analysis for facility development projects such as future visitor centers or camping/staging areas. Planning and feasibility studies for park management, recreation, and resource protection are ongoing.

This General Plan/EIR provides discussion of the probable impacts of future development and established goals, policies, and objectives to implementing such development in a manner which will avoid or minimize such environmental impacts. This approach is consistent with a tiered approach to EIRs.

The level of detail addressed in the Environmental Analysis section is comparable to the level of detail provided in the land-use proposals of the Plan. The Alternatives Matrix (Table 4) and Reasonable Development Projection Matrix (Table 5) in the Environmental Analysis section provide quantitative data relative to the

land-use proposals in the rest of the General Plan. What is critical, and what is set forth in the Plan, is the formulation and eventual adoption of a set of policies designed to minimize and mitigate impacts that might occur from the implementation of operations and projects under the General Plan. For example, the Plan divides the Park into management zones. Goals and policies are proposed for adoption for each of these zones which provide conceptual parameters for future management actions.

Where a proposed project covers a wide spectrum of action, from the adoption of a Plan, which is by definition tentative and subject to further refinement, to activities with a site-specific impact, CEQA requires that “environmental impact reports shall be tiered whenever feasible” (Public Resources Code §21093[b]).

General Plan/EIRs. This commission determines whether or not to:

- Accept the certified General Plan/EIR as a “Final EIR” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15166.
- Adopt the General Plan/EIR as a general plan under PRC 5002.2.
- This General Plan/EIR was adopted by the State park and Recreation Commission on February 29, 2008.

The Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan is the guiding policy document for subsequent operation and management of the Park. The Plan utilizes six management zones within the Park. These zones are described in detail on page 91 of this General Plan/EIR. Some of the provisions of any future focused management plans as well as development, maintenance, facility use, and recreational activities allowed by the General Plan have the potential to impact the environment. Prior to taking any further action, CDPR must evaluate whether that action constitutes a “project” under CEQA, whether it is categorically exempt (for example routine maintenance), whether it may have a significant impact on the environment and if so, whether a mitigated negative declaration is appropriate or an EIR needs to be prepared.

All future action by CDPR will need to be found consistent with the adopted Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan. The Plan’s management zones along with the Goals and Guidelines, define the main approach to avoid and mitigate subsequent actions and the General Plan/EIR establishes the baseline for future environmental review as a first tier program EIR.

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Structure and contents of the General Plan/EIR

This project is prepared in accordance with Article 9 of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations). Contents of Section 15120(c) state that EIRs shall contain the information required by Sections 15122 through 15131. Table 1 shows where the required items are found in this General Plan/EIR.

Uses of this General Plan/EIR

This General Plan/EIR has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Park Acquisition and Development Division, Southern Service Center with input and assistance from CDPR’s Angeles District. The California State Park and Recreation Commission has approval authority for all CDPR



Table 1—Location of EIR Required Content

CEQA Guidelines Content	Location in General Plan/EIR
15122 Table of Contents or Index	Beginning of this document
15123 Summary	Follows the Table of Contents
15124 Project Description	Ch. 3 The Plan (description), page 57 Page 58 Project Description (summarized) Ch. 1 Introduction (information about project objective & general plan process), page 3
15125 Environmental Setting	Ch. 2 Existing Conditions, page 15
15126 Consideration & Discussion of Environmental Impacts	Ch. 4 Environmental Analysis, page 101
(a) Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project.	Page 107 Significant Effects & Proposed Mitigation. Page 119 Findings (per Guidelines § 15084)
(b) Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided if the Proposed Project is Implemented.	Page 107 Unavoidable & Irreversible Significant Environmental Effects.
(c) Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would be Involved in the Proposed Project Should it be Implemented.	Page 107 Unavoidable & Irreversible Significant Environmental Effects.
(d) Growth-Inducing Impact of Proposed Project.	Page 116
(e) The Mitigation Measures Proposed to Minimize the Significant Effects.	Ch. 3 The Plan, page 57 Goals and Guidelines (intended to minimize adverse environmental effects) and Discussion of Guidelines as mitigation for subsequent action. Ch. 4 Environmental Analysis, page 101 Page 116 Mitigation Monitoring
(f) Alternatives to the Proposed Project.	Page 102 Plan Alternatives Table 4 “Alternatives Matrix—Proposed Uses & Environmental Impacts” page 103
15127 Limitations on Discussion of Environmental Impact	Page 107 (discussion - irreversible changes)

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Table 1—Location of EIR Required Content
(Continued)

CEQA Guidelines Content	Location in General Plan/EIR
15128 Effects Not Found to be Significant	Page 113 Effects found not to be significant Appendix F (the Initial Study checklist, under separate cover)
15129 Organizations and Persons Consulted	Page 50 Public Involvement Page 51 Native American Input & Park Support Page 120 Public Coordination Appendix E References Consulted Appendix F NOP & Responses, DEIR Comments & Responses Back Cover Report Preparers
15130 Discussion of Cumulative Impacts	Page 116
15131 Economic and Social Effects (optional topic)	Ch. 3 The Plan, page 57 Throughout the document under discussions of recreation & visitor experience

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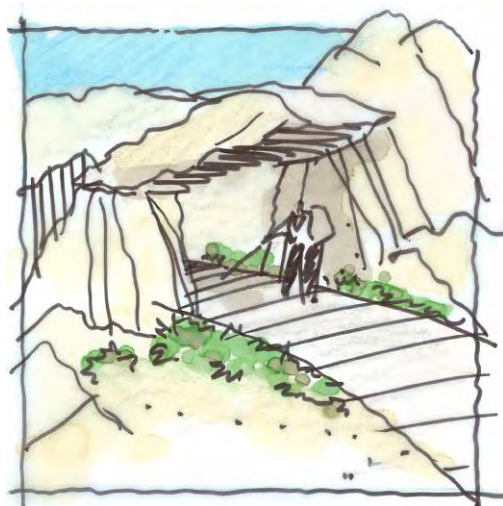
Environmental Review Process and Recirculation

The General Plan/EIR addresses the entire area and operation of the Park; hence, it is broad and comprehensive in scope. A series of meetings and a formal public process were used to determine the Plan and the content of the environmental analysis. An Initial Study and a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated to state agencies, local city, and county planning offices, interested public organizations, and interested individuals (see Appendix F).

This General Plan/EIR contains the Park Plan and environmental assessment. The public comments and responses from circulation of the Draft EIR are published under separate cover in Appendix F. After the public

comment period closed, CDPR staff prepared responses to comments and proposed text changes for the General Plan/Final EIR. The comment letters, CDPR responses, and the proposed text changes were published as part of the Administrative Draft/Final EIR and became part of the public record prior to the State Park and Recreation Commission hearing on February 29, 2008, in Chatsworth, California. The General Plan/EIR was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission at the public hearing, and this document is the final General Plan/EIR.





Secondary Access

Existing Conditions and Issues

2



PARK SUMMARY

The following section summarizes the existing land uses, facilities, and significant natural, cultural, aesthetic, interpretive, and recreational resources of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The information was adapted from the Resource Inventory (Appendix G, under separate cover) that was initiated for the General Plan process and provided the baseline data for developing the 1) management zones and 2) the goals and guidelines found within the Plan Section of this document.

EXISTING LAND USE

The Park's rugged terrain plays host to trail use for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and most recently added to the list: geocaching. Santa Susana Pass Road is used as a recreational bike route, as well as a recreational motorcycle route.

Visitors usually come from within a 10-mile radius of the Park, and nearby residents often take advantage of the trails to walk their dogs, which state law requires to be on a leash. Organized hikes by local trail groups are currently the only known ongoing, interpretive activity.

EXISTING FACILITIES

There are no developed facilities within the Park (no parking, camping, picnic or posted and maintained trail facilities). The Park is open for day-use visitors only, and most use either street parking or parking lots at Chatsworth Park South.

ADJACENT LAND USE

Land use to the north and west of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

consists mainly of open space and low-to medium-density residential neighborhoods. Chatsworth Park North and Chatsworth Park South, city parks operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, are to the east. Garden of the Gods, a 23-acre park operated by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, is located to the northeast of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, and lands affiliated with Corriganville Park, which is operated by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, are located adjacent to the northwestern corner of the Park.

Much of the northern boundary of the Park runs along Santa Susana Pass Road, and beyond that is State Route 118. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works right-of-ways exist along these roadways.

Oakwood Memorial Park is to the east at the southeast end of the Park. A parcel along the south side of Santa Susana Pass road, owned by the Church at Rocky Point contains a recreational center and facility called KidsFutureNow! Other adjacent and onsite land holdings and right-of-ways include the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District pump station, an underground Metropolitan Water District metering connection, Calleguas Municipal Water District power generating facility, and Southern California Edison power lines and towers. The Southern Pacific Railroad runs east-west through the middle of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, although a majority of the railroad right-of-way is underground, through the Santa Susana Tunnel.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Environmental Setting

The Park is located in a rural and unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County in the California Floristic Province, Southwest Region, Western Transverse Ranges Subregion. The climate is considered Mediterranean and fluctuates with the seasons, with hot dry summers and mild wet winters. Average annual rainfall is approximately 45.7 centimeters (≈ 18 in); which falls as rain primarily in the winter. The mean temperature is 16 degrees Celsius (61° F) with an average high of 23.7 degrees Celsius (74.6° F) and average low of 8.8 degrees Celsius (47.9° F). The freeze-free period is from 275 to 325 days.

Air Quality

Air pollutant emissions sources are typically grouped into two categories: stationary (point and area sources) and mobile sources (motorized vehicles). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established ambient air quality standards for the following air pollutants:

ozone (O₃)
nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
carbon monoxide (CO)
sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
lead (Pb)
inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀)

Additionally, the California Air Resources Board has also established ambient air quality standards for the six pollutants regulated by the USEPA. Some of the California ambient air quality standards are more stringent than the national ambient air quality standards. In addition, California has established ambient air quality

standards for the following pollutants or air quality conditions:

sulfates
vinyl chloride
visibility

The Park is within the South Coast Air Basin. Because of its location and close proximity to from major urban pollution sources, the Park often has poor air quality. A major portion of the air pollution affecting the Park is wind transported and likely arises from urban sources in the greater Los Angeles area. As of June 15, 2005, the South Coast Air Basin is in non-attainment for particulate matter (both PM-2.5 and PM-10), 1-hour ozone (extreme), 8-hour ozone (severe), and carbon monoxide (serious).

Hydrology

The Park is located within the Los Angeles River Hydrologic Unit. The Los Angeles River Hydrologic Unit consists of 74,622 hectares (184,395 acres) with the Los Angeles River being the major drainage in the unit. The Santa Susana Pass Wash, flowing west to east along the northern



Sandstone

border of the Park, is a first order stream and the only perennial water course flowing through the Park. It is generally characterized by a relatively narrow stream channel with a steeply incised bank, as it runs through the Park. Additionally, three unnamed ephemeral drainages, generally running west to east, flow through the Park (see Figure 2).

Geology and Geomorphology

The Park is located on the eastern edge of the Simi Hills. The Simi Hills is a small rocky mountain range on the northwestern edge of the San Fernando Valley, located within the Transverse Ranges. Sedimentary rock is most common on the western slopes while granitic and metamorphic rock dominate in the east. Elevations in the Park range from approximately 950 feet to over 1,850 feet above mean sea level. Topographic relief is diverse and in some cases extreme.

Soils

The Natural Resource Conservation Service has mapped six soil series (Anacapa, Balcom, Chualar, Gaviota, Gazos, and Saugus) in the Park. These soils vary widely in depth, fertility, permeability, and other important characteristics. There are no listed hydric soils found within the Park's boundaries.

- The Anacapa series consists of deep, well-drained soils that formed in alluvium derived from predominantly sedimentary rock sources.
- The Balcom series consists of moderately deep, well-drained soils that formed in material that weathered from soft, calcareous shale and sandstone.

- The Chualar series consist of very deep, well-drained soils that formed in alluvial material from mixed rock sources.
- The Gaviota series consists of very shallow or shallow, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from hard sandstone or meta-sandstone.
- The Gazos series consists of moderately deep to bedrock, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from sandstone and shale.
- The Saugus series consists of deep, well-drained soils that formed from weakly consolidated sediments.

Vegetation Communities

Initial surveys by CDPH Environmental Scientists identified nine vegetation communities (Figure 3) within the boundaries of the Park including chamise-redshank chaparral, coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, coastal oak woodland, valley foothill riparian (southern coast live oak riparian forest), fresh emergent wetland, annual grassland, eucalyptus, and barren/rock.

Chamise-Redshank Chaparral

Mature chamise chaparral is single layered and generally lacking well-developed herbaceous ground cover and overstory trees. Shrub canopies frequently overlap, producing a nearly impenetrable canopy of interwoven branches with very little herbaceous understory or litter. It is adapted to repeated fires by stump sprouting.

Chamise-dominated stands average 1 to 2 meters (3.3 to 6.6 ft) in height, but can reach 3 meters (9.8 ft). Total shrub cover frequently exceeds 80 percent, but may be considerably

lower on extremely xeric sites with poor soils.

The dominant over story species in the Park is chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). Associated species include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*), chaparral whitethorn (*Ceanothus leucodermis*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*). Chamise chaparral is found throughout the Park.

Coastal Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub systems are characterized by low- to moderate-sized shrubs with mesophytic leaves, flexible branches, semiwoody stems, and a shallow root system. Southern coastal scrub stands consist of a shrub layer up to 2 meters (7 ft) tall. Canopy cover usually approaches 100 percent but can be continuous or intermittent with bare areas present.

The dominant over story species in the Park is laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) with lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) also present. Common understory species include black sage, California sage (*Artemisia californica*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), California buckwheat, and deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*). Coastal sage scrub is found throughout the Park.

Mixed Chaparral

Mixed chaparral (MCH) is structurally homogeneous brushland dominated by shrubs with thick, stiff, and heavy cutinized evergreen leaves. Shrub height and crown cover can vary with age, last burn, and precipitation regime. At maturity, MCH is typically very dense with greater than 80 percent

absolute shrub cover. Mixed chaparral supports approximately 240 species of woody plants. Composition changes between northern and southern California, precipitation regime, aspect, and soils.

Common shrub species found in the Park include chaparral whitethorn, greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*) and Eastwood manzanita. Other associated species include chamise, poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), laural sumac, hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), California buckthorn (*Rhamnus californica*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Mixed chaparral is found throughout the Park.

Coastal Oak Woodland

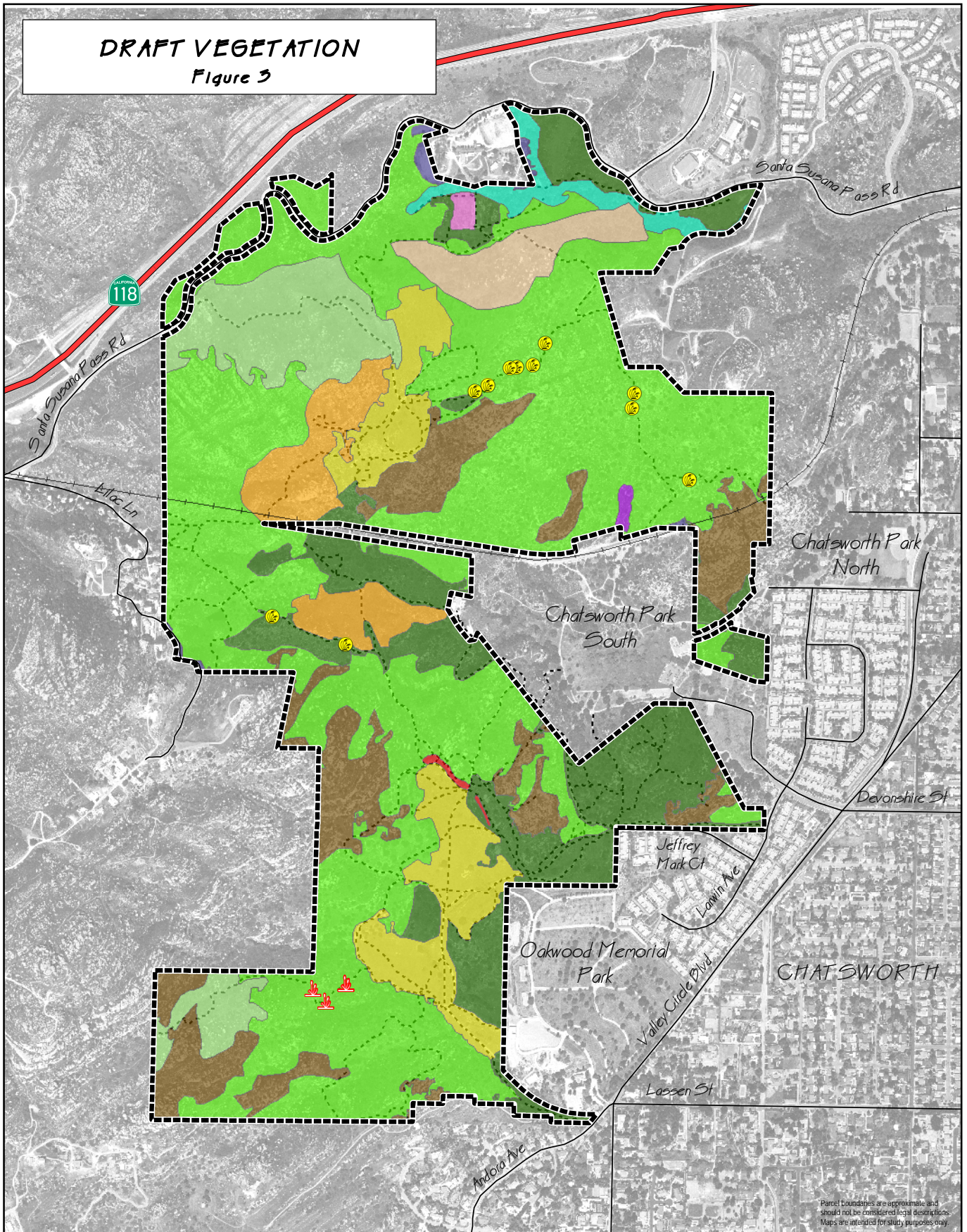
Coastal oak woodlands occupy a variety of Mediterranean type climates and are extremely variable. The overstory consists of deciduous and evergreen hardwoods occasionally mixed with conifers. In drier sites, trees are widely spaced and form an open woodland or savannah. Understory species vary depending on habitat conditions (soil, moisture regimes, etc.) and habitats juxtaposition to oak woodlands. Understory species composition is typically composed of grasses with scattered shrubs. Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is usually found on moisture sites and extends further inland in southern California.

In the Park, coastal oak woodlands are dense to open woodlands dominated



DRAFT VEGETATION

Figure 3



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Legend

Draft Vegetation

- Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS)
- Disturbed CSS
- Annual Grassland
- Mixed Chaparral
- Eucalyptus
- Live Oak Riparian Forest
- Olive
- Rock Outcrop
- Developed
- Mulefat Scrub
- Chamise Chaparral
- Oak Woodland

- Plummer's Mariposa Lily
- Santa Susana Tarplant
- Existing Trails
- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Park Boundary

SANTASUSANAPASS STATE HISTORIC PARK





by coast live oak. The shrub layer is poorly developed and includes poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) and laurel sumac, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), gooseberry (*Ribes* sp.), and occasionally Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).

Valley Foothill Riparian (Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest)

Southern coast live oak riparian forest is an open to dense evergreen forest with coast live oak either the sole or dominant overstory species. They are commonly found on steep slopes or raised stream banks and terraces. They occur from sea level to 5,000 feet. The shrub layer is usually sparse while the forb layer ranges from sparse to dense.

The overstory is dominated by coast live oak with a scattering of California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) also present. The shrub layer is moderately dense and dominated by poison oak with coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and black willow (*Salix gooddingii*) are also present in small numbers. Common species found in the forb layer include umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), purple nightshade (*Solanum xanti*), and California everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*). Southern coast live oak forest occurs within the Santa Susana Pass Wash along the northern border of the Park.

Fresh Emergent Wetland

Fresh emergent wetlands (FEW) are characterized by erect, rooted herbaceous hydrophytes. The roots of FEW vegetation thrive in an anaerobic environment and dominant vegetation

is generally perennial monocots. They are among the productive wildlife habitats in California. Common species found in FEW within the Park include umbrella sedge, mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), spike sedge (*Eleocharis montevidensis*), and cattail (*Typha latifolia*). Fresh emergent wetlands have been identified in the northeast corner of the Park.

California Annual Grassland

Nonnative grassland is dense to sparse cover composed primarily of introduced annual plant species. Many of these species also occur as understory in other habitats. Species composition is influenced by seasonal and annual fluctuations in weather patterns. Fall and winter rain causes germination of annual plant seeds, which grow slowly and low to the ground during cool winter months. Warmer spring temperature cause rapid growth and large amounts of standing dead plant material can be found during the summer months. Nonnative grassland is disturbance related and usually prevails in old fields or openings in native scrub habitats.

Typical nonnative grasses within the Park include wild oat (*Avena fatua*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*), and fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*). Other species include red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*). This vegetation appears to replace native grassland and coastal sage scrub habitat (most likely after regular fire

events) within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and are very dense in some areas.

Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus habitat ranges from monotypic thickets with little or no understory to scattered trees over a well-developed herbaceous and shrubby understory. It is more typically found in monotypic stands.

Stand structure varies considerably due to planting regimes (row for wind protection or dense stands for hardwood production). Tree heights range from 26 to 40 meters (87 to 133 feet). The understory is typically composed of introduced annual grasses and forbs. The shrub understory is usually very sparse or nonexistent due to the allelopathic nature of eucalyptus.

While not native to California, eucalyptus is an important roost, perch, and nest tree for raptors. Eucalyptus habitat occurs along the northern border of the Park just south of the Rock Creek Church caretaker’s residence. Additionally, there are scattered eucalyptus trees throughout the Park, primarily along the borders.

Fire

Vegetation plays an important role in the fire regime of the Park. Fire regime refers to the patterns of fire that occur over long periods of time, and the immediate effects of fire in the ecosystem in which it occurs. Fire regime is a function of the frequency of fire occurrence, fire intensity, and the amount of fuel consumed. The frequency is determined largely by the ecosystem characteristics, the duration and character of the weather (if the season is drier or wetter than normal, etc.) and ignition sources. The

intensity of a fire is determined by the quantity of fuel available, the fuels’ combustion rates, and existing weather conditions. Interactions between frequency and intensity are influenced by wind, topography, and fire history.

At least twenty fires are known to have burned through all or part of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park since the mid-1920s. Table 2 shows the Fire History of the Park.

Table 2: Fire History

Fire Name	Date	Acres
unknown	1927	386
SantaSusana-Vent.	July 1927	649
Manor Fire No. 144	July 1947	1,307
Scotty No. 110	June 1951	156
Twin Lakes	Sep 1954	698
unknown	Nov 1956	217
Santa Susana Pass	July 1957	4,733
unknown	July 1959	126
Devonshire-Parker	Oct 1967	23,093
Palmer Fire	Oct 1967	14,248
unknown	May 1970	15
unknown	May 1970	17
unknown	Aug 1970	43
Clampitt Fire	Sep 1970	115,537
Lilac Lane	Nov 1975	324
Oat Fire	Oct 1981	17,787
Farralone Fire	Aug 1992	43
Chatsworth Fire	Oct 1993	1,931
unknown	Aug 2003	+/- 16
Topanga Fire	Sep 2005	24,175

The information contained in this table includes California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and United States Forest Service (USFS) fires from 1950 to 2003, although some fires before 1950 are also included. A small 2003 fire and the Topanga Fire (2005) were included based on data on file at CDPR.



Plant species and vegetation have evolved to survive repeated fires. Some of these communities, such as chaparral and coastal scrub rely on occasional fires as part of their regeneration process even though the short-term impacts of fire in these communities can appear to be severe. On September 28, 2005, the Topanga fire burned through the Park. The entire Park burned except for small areas adjacent to Chatsworth Park South.

Biological Resources

Botanical Resources

Research was conducted prior to field surveys to determine the vegetation communities in the project area and the potential associated specific plants. This research involved querying the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind Database Version 3.0.5 (CDFG 2003) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants electronic database Version 6.3 (CNPS 2005) database for sensitive plants and



Tar Plant

natural communities, reviewing published and unpublished material, and contacting knowledgeable individuals.

Vegetative community, floristic, sensitive plant, and exotic plant surveys were performed during the 2006 field season. Known occurrences for any special status plant species were obtained from the CDFG CNDDDB Rarefind Database, from surveys conducted in 2006, and from CDPR files and personnel (Figure 3).

Sensitive Botanical Resources Surveys

A total of 14 special status plant species and 9 rare natural communities were identified as potentially occurring within the Park's boundaries (Appendix A). Southern coast live oak riparian forest was the only sensitive vegetation series observed within the Park's boundaries during surveys. Additionally, Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*) and Santa Susana tarplant (*Deinandra minithornii*) were observed during floristic surveys. Both of these species are listed as 1B (Appendix A) according to CNPS, which means they are considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. All occurrences for both species were mapped and sent to the CDFG, Wildlife Habitat Data Analysis Branch for addition into the CNDDDB.

Wildlife Resources

A query of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Program using the known habitats found within the Park identified 391 potentially occurring wildlife species. This includes 252 avian species,

77 mammals, 46 reptiles, and 16 amphibians.

Sensitive Wildlife Resources

The California Natural Diversity Database Version 3.0.5 was queried to compile a list of possible special status wildlife and fish species present in the project area. A total of 14 special status vertebrate species and three invertebrate species were identified as potentially occurring within the Park (Appendix B).

No special status vertebrate or invertebrate species was observed during any survey, but mountain lion are known to occur in Rocky Peak Park immediately north (across State Route 118) of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Two lions were collared and monitored by the National Park Service and both of these lions were observed using the Corriganville wildlife tunnel (approx 400 m [0.25 mi] west) under State Route 118 (SR 118) at least 18 times. Both of these lions subsequently died. It is very likely that those lions were using the Park for foraging and/or dispersal.

A fresh deer kill was observed in the northern section of the Park during botanical surveys on May 17, 2006. It is assumed that a mountain lion made this kill since it is the only mammal (potentially found in the Park) large enough to kill an adult deer, though, a small pack of coyotes may occasionally stalk deer. Breeding, foraging, and dispersal habitat for deer, lion, and coyote does exist within the Park's boundaries.



Western Toad

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The cultural resources of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park were researched, documented, and inventoried by CDPR archaeologists and historians and by private consultants. The resulting data were compiled into the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Resource Inventory (Appendix G, under separate cover). A short synopsis is presented below and in Appendix C (Cultural Resources in Context).

Archaeological and Ethnographic Overview

The archaeological record shows that people have been living in southern California for at least 9,000 years, with some evidence from the Channel Islands dating to 13,000 years ago. Most of the Native American archaeological sites within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park that have been scientifically dated are less than 900 years old and fall within the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric periods. Although the Park falls mostly within the traditional territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva or Fernandeano, the culture area boundaries of the Tataviam and the Ventureño Chumash are nearby, and most of the Park is within a transition zone where these groups interacted.

There is a large site near the middle of the Park that may have been the ethnographic village of *Momonga*; however, there is some uncertainty as to the location of this village. There are other locations in the general area that also have the potential to be *Momonga* and it may be that the site within the Park is a satellite settlement to one of those. According to interviews with local Fernandeano and Chumash

peoples conducted by J. P. Harrington in the early 1900s, the village area in the central portion of the Park was called *Las Pilitas* and the old stage route that included Devil's Slide was called *La Cuesta Vieja* or *kashi'wey* (see Appendix D for definitions).

Historic Overview

Tales of stagecoaches carrying mail, freight, and passengers over the steep and precipitous *Devil's Slide* within what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park are legendary. However, the Park's historical significance is more than that, having been a passive witness to over 230 years of western San Fernando Valley's transportation, settlement, stone quarry, motion picture, and crime history.

Native Chumash, Tongva, and Tataviam peoples pioneered game trails during late prehistoric and proto-historic times. Euro-American settlers would later take advantage of these trails. As a result, Santa Susana Pass would develop into a strategic, if precipitous means of traveling between the San Fernando and Simi valleys.

Spanish Colonial Period (1769-1822)

Early Spanish explorers and settlers first traveled along the San Fernando Valley in 1769. However, they chose the less restrictive *El Paso Conejo* corridor to the south on their way to Ventura. The latter would develop into a major transportation corridor, *El Camino Real* during the Spanish Colonial period, linking San Diego to Monterey and San Francisco. Santa Susana Pass would still play an important role in Spanish and later Mexican California's development.

The first recorded indication of Spanish interest in what is now Santa

Susana Pass was on April 27, 1804 when Father José Señan suggested to Governor José Joaquín de Arrillaga that there might be a viably shorter route between mission San Buenaventura and San Fernando via the Simi Valley. In his letter, Father Señan referred to possible route across the mountains as *El Paso de Santa Susana* “the Pass of Saint Susan.”

Mexican Republic Period (1822-1848)

In 1822 Governor Sola asked Father Ibarra to furnish men and tools from Mission San Fernando to “widen and improve the highway through the Santa Susana Pass” to accommodate ox-driven carts or *carretas*. In addition to carrying mission goods, the pass saw an increasing amount of traffic by local *Rancheros*, owners of large tracts of land moving huge herds of cattle and sheep between grazing ranges. This trend reflects a marked shift in the control of the region’s economic and political power from the former Spanish missions to private ranch owners. This was particularly true after 1821, when California became an independent province of Mexico, which secularized the former Spanish missions in 1833.

Interest in private ownership of the Santa Susana Pass area peaked in 1842, when Mexican governor Micheltorena granted fourteen leagues of land west of the Pass, *San José de Gracia de Simí*, to Manuel and Patricio Pico. Between 1840 and 1846 six ranchos, *Ex-Misión San Fernando Rey de España*, *Tujunga*, *El Escorpión*, *El Encino*, *La Providencia*, and *Cahuenga*, had been laid out east of the pass. Of these, Ranchos *Ex-Mission San Fernando* and *El Escorpión* reportedly extended into

what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. However, subsequent federal land surveys rejected these claims.

There was some conjecture during the 1930s whether Lieutenant Colonel John C. Frémont had utilized Santa Susana Pass during the War with Mexico. Frémont was leading American forces to engage General Andrés Pico at the Cahuenga Pass to the east. The result was the capitulation of Mexican forces in California on January 13, 1848. However, Frémont’s use of Santa Susana Pass has been disproved.

After the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, Mexico formally ceded California, along with the rest of its northern provinces, to the United States.

Early Statehood (1850-1860)

Santa Susana Pass’s strategic importance increased after California became part of the United States. As increasing numbers of settlers began arriving into the region, primarily during the 1849 Gold Rush, the territorial and later state and local governments realized the need for improved wagon roads between southern and northern California. Starting in 1851, road improvements were first made through the Cahuenga, San Fernando, and Tejon passes on the route between Los Angeles and the Central Valley. In 1858 the Butterfield Overland Mail Company initiated mail and passenger service along this route, linking San Francisco and Los Angeles to the East Coast.

The need to provide a more direct connection between Los Angeles and



the coastal towns led to the improvement of the former El Camino Real through the San Fernando Valley west to the Conejo Valley and beyond. Known invariably as the “Coast Road” or “El Camino Viejo,” its route basically follows today’s Ventura Boulevard and the 101 Freeway from the Cahuenga to the Conejo passes.

Improvements to the Santa Susana Pass Road (1859-1861)

Because the Coast Route was prone to flooding during storms and high tides, it was necessary to find an alternative bypass route. In 1859 the California Legislature appropriated \$15,000 towards improving the wagon road between the Santa Barbara County line and Los Angeles via Santa Susana Pass (Santa Barbara County included the present Ventura County at this time). An improved wagon road would also stimulate commerce and settlement between the San Fernando and Simi valleys.

In 1858 the Santa Barbara and Los Angeles county road commissioners awarded James P. Thompson a contract to improve the Santa Susana Pass road so that it could “accommodate a team of four horses pulling a wagon.” A local celebrity of sorts, while a Los Angeles Sheriff’s Deputy, Thompson had reportedly assisted in the capture of notorious highway bandit Juan Flores on or near Santa Susana Pass a year earlier. His past positions as Los Angeles County sheriff and tax collector may have influenced the road commissioners awarding him the contract. The new road south of the pass was also conveniently located next to an adobe occupied by his brother-in-law, Fabricio de la Osa. Fabricio’s mother,



Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road

the recently widowed María Rita Perez Guillen de la Osa, operated a way station at the road’s southern junction with the Coast Road at *Rancho El Encino*. No doubt an improved Santa Susana Pass road would increase the family’s fortunes by supplying horses, feed, and other supplies for another overland route.

From 1860 to 1861, Thompson’s work crew used steel drills, picks, and dynamite to blast out sections of the sandstone hillside as they widened the former *carretta* trail. Despite the road widening and other improvements, sections of the road were extremely precipitous. Several channels and steps, along with evidence of drill holes, pick marks, and blasted rock can still be seen along several stretches of surviving roadbed, especially along the infamous Devil’s Slide.

The Devil’s Slide (1861-1895)

The steepest and most notorious part of the Santa Susana Pass road, “The Devil’s Slide,” begins at a point near the present Lilac Lane and hugs the

pass' eastern flanks down to an open meadow. The route was so precipitous that stagecoach drivers were forced to employ various means to prevent runaways: from passengers placing rocks behind up-going wagons' rear wheels; to adding strong ropes, chains, or timbers through rear wheel spokes to facilitate downhill braking. Locked wheels invariably cut furrows, which still exist in the soft rock. Evidence of drill holes, pick marks, steps, and blasted rock walls can also be seen in a section of roadway above and parallel to a deep drainage leading toward Andora Avenue in the Park's southeastern section.

The Road's Strategic Importance during the Civil War (1861-1865)

On April 6, 1861, the first overland mail stagecoach to utilize the Santa Susana Pass Road did so on its 72-hour inaugural run between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Six days later the outbreak of the Civil War disrupted U. S. Mail service between Southern California and the Eastern United States. To compensate, the Butterfield Overland Stage Company rerouted stages from San Francisco south to Los Angeles via the newly improved Santa Susana Pass wagon road. As a result, the pass road remained a strategic communication link to Washington, D.C. After the war the road continued to be the preferred route between Los Angeles and San Francisco until 1875. After which, teamsters used it as a viable shortcut between the San Fernando and Simi valleys.

"A Fine Spanish Family at the Foot of the Hills" (1858-1895)

At the southeastern approach to the Devil's Slide is another National

Register-listed property, the archaeological remains of the Fabricio and María de la Osa home and swing station. The site is historically significant for its association with the western valley's early transportation history as well as members of a pioneer west valley family. The family's patriarch, Don José Pablo de la Osa, was Mexican envoy to the United States. His son, San Diego-born José Vicente de los Reyes, served on Los Angeles' *ayuntamiento* or town council during the 1830s. Don Vicente and his wife, María Rita Perez Guillen de la Osa, were reportedly the first non-California Indian settlers in the San Fernando Valley. The de la Osas farmed and raised cattle as well as their large family at *Rancho la Providencia* (present-day Burbank) and later at *Rancho el Encino*. In 1851 their eldest daughter, María Manuela had married the previously mentioned James P. Thompson.

Doña María's brother, Fabricio de la Osa, along with his wife Teodora Davila reportedly lived in an adobe house at the eastern approach to Santa Susana Pass. After the death María Manuela around 1861, Doña Rita and her adopted daughter Mary Aiken relocated from *Rancho El Encino* to Fabricio's adobe.

From 1861 to 1868, the de la Osa family operated a "swing" or horse relay station at *La Cuesta* from 1861 to 1868. During this time, they kept a string of horses in a nearby corral, where they could be transferred to refresh arriving coaches before proceeding up or coming down the pass. They could also supply and maintain various tack and other gear to the stagecoach drivers as necessary to keep the stage line operating.



Archaeological evidence suggests that the station may have had a blacksmith forge. Besides an adobe and horse corral, the way station featured rock-lined cisterns that collected and stored runoff from a natural spring. Besides servicing the Butterfield coaches, from 1867 to 1875 the de la Osas provided horses to William E. Lovett and later Llewellyn Bixby, who operated a stagecoach line between San Jose and San Diego via Santa Susana Pass.

Thomas Robert Bard and William Seward's Wild Ride (1869)

The de la Osas may have come in contact with several noted personalities at La Cuesta. Among these were Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisor and later United States Senator Thomas Robert Bard, and former Secretary of State William Seward. They arrived at the swing station on Monday morning, September 22, 1869. Bard, along with Seward, his wife and son, had just traveled from Los Angeles, via the El Encino way station in a small two-horse spring wagon. Bard had been hand-picked to drive the Swards to Santa Barbara in time to attend a dinner held in his honor that evening.

Waiting at La Cuesta were two *vaqueros* from Bard's ranch. They attached their ropes or *riatas* to the wagon and guided it up the Devil's Slide. At the summit, they released the wagon, after which Bard proceeded downslope towards Larry's Station. Bard rode on for nine more hours, arriving at Santa Barbara in time for Seward's dinner. Bard's 13.5-hour ride was the fastest on record between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara during the horse-drawn era.

Bandits' Lair (1857-1875)

As mentioned earlier, the notorious outlaw Juan Flores may have been captured at or near Santa Susana Pass. Local legend intimates that other outlaws robbed the stages traveling through the pass during the 1870s. However, there is no documentary evidence that anyone ever held up a stagecoach running between the San Fernando and Simi valleys.

Simi Stagecoach Line (1874-1895)

Other less notorious visitors at La Cuesta were the drivers for the M. L. Montgomery stage line. Between 1874 and 1895 they shuttled guests from the San Fernando railroad station up and over the pass to the Simi Land and Water Company-owned Santa Susana Hotel. Located across the Los Angeles/Ventura county line on the pass' western slope, the hotel was a popular end-of-line tourist destination. In operation during a period of speculative growth, real estate promoters were eager to sell property surrounding the hotel. By this time improved rail service to Los Angeles via the San Fernando Pass negated the need for long-distance stagecoach service via the Santa Susana Pass wagon road. However, local stagecoaches and ranch and farm wagons continued to utilize the pass as a transportation corridor between the San Fernando and Simi valleys until the completion of *El Camino Nuevo* in 1895.

El Camino Nuevo/ Chatsworth Grade Road (1895-1917)

In 1895 the Los Angeles and Ventura County Board of Supervisors decided to bypass the Devil's Slide segment of the Santa Susana Pass wagon road due to its deteriorating condition. The new

single-lane road followed a much easier grade west of what is now Topanga Canyon Boulevard. Initially known as *El Camino Nuevo*, it was later referred to as the “Chatsworth Grade Road.” While a major improvement, the new unpaved dirt road contained treacherous hairpin curves, and was subject to seasonal washouts and landslides. With the advent of modern, gasoline-powered trucks, the road soon became inadequate. Instead of modernizing the road, the County Supervisors approved the construction of an entirely new asphalt-paved road dedicated solely to automobile traffic. Completed in 1917, the Santa Susana Pass Grade Road (the current Santa Susana Pass Road) greatly reduced *El Camino Nuevo*’s importance. In turn, the 1983 Simi Valley-San Fernando Valley Freeway (renamed the Ronald Reagan Freeway in 1994) has relegated Santa Susana Pass Road into a local-access road between Chatsworth and Saticoy.

Settlement and Town Building (1875-1888)

After the Civil War, land use throughout San Fernando Valley shifted inexorably from large cattle ranches to smaller single-family-owned ranches and farms. Dry-farmed wheat and fruit orchards were the dominant crops. After 1876, the Southern Pacific Railroad brought additional settlers into the valley, and provided the means to send their produce to markets. As a result, a number of small towns—Toluca, Burbank, Lankershim, and Santa Susana—sprang up. In 1888, the San Fernando Valley Improvement Company platted the town of Chatsworth Park.

Homesteading (1870-1892)

By 1870 latecomers having difficulty finding good farmland in San Fernando Valley were consigned to seek out marginal land in the surrounding hills. Between 1879 and 1887, at least five families filed homestead claims within the present Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. They included Francisco Miranda, Dionisio Sanchez, James R. Williams, James D. Hill, and Florence M. Mattingly.

These homesteaders built adobe and wood-frame homes, with sheds, barns, and corrals. After damming streams, digging irrigation channels and wells, and building rock cisterns, they had a reliable water supply to grow crops and raise livestock. Besides grapes, stone fruits, potatoes, and hay, they produced milk, honey and other agricultural products, the sale of which contributed to the west valley’s economic growth. Unfortunately, there is scant evidence of these pioneering homesteads within the Park.

One exception is the William Bannon homestead site. In 1892 Bannon and his family moved into the former De la Osa adobe. After building a two-room wood-frame addition, he restored two stone reservoirs, added fencing, a barn, and an additional house, and cultivated fifty to ninety acres of “rolling farmland” to raise seasonal crops and fruit trees. While the surviving stone foundations, terraces and cisterns mark the Bannon home site, he left a far greater impact to the Park elsewhere.

William Bannon and the Chatsworth Park Stone Quarry (1898-1915)

The Bannon homestead included large deposits of feldspathic or arkose

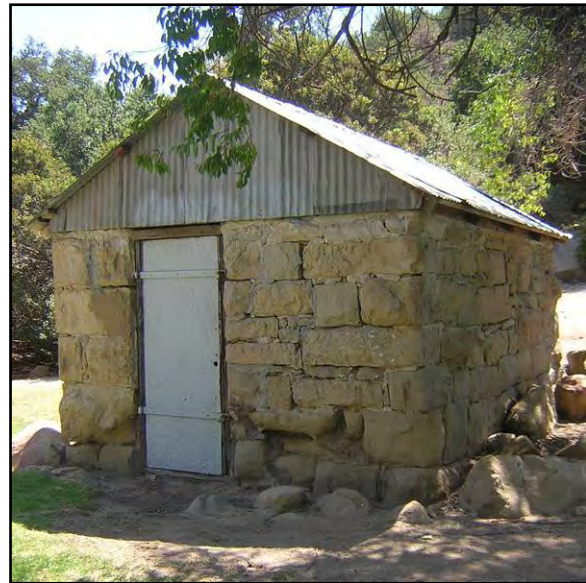


sandstone. A stone cutter from New York, Bannon hired and boarded a crew of fifty quarrymen to drill, blast, cut, and haul out tons of the sandstone via wagons and a gear-driven Southern Pacific steam locomotive.

During the Chatsworth Park Stone Quarry's 1892 to 1915 operational period, his crews utilized a traditional hand-drilling technique for quarrying sandstone known as the "plug and feather" method. Quarrymen would hammer a line of "plug holes" into a rock ledge. They then packed the holes with blasting powder. The resulting explosions would split the rock along vertical fracture points. An extremely dangerous operation, mistimed fuses often caused delayed explosions, killing or maiming an unwary crewmember. Dust and noise could also distract workers from falling boulders.

Evidence of these quarrying activities can be found throughout the Park's former quarry site, which includes drill holes, shattered rock walls, excavated pits and foundations, tailings piles, anchor bolts imbedded in rock, as well as wagon and railroad embankments. The latter belonging to a standard-gauge spur line connected to the Southern Pacific's switchyard and main line about 1½ miles southeast of the quarry at Marilla Street. From here the stone was shipped throughout the Greater Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino areas.

The moderately fine-grained quarried sandstone was in high demand for dimensional cut architectural stone as well as coarse irregular riprap. Thirty-four rail-carloads were hauled out of the quarry for use in the construction of the Angel's Gate Breakwater at San



Historic Structure

Pedro. One of the most important engineering accomplishments in Southern California's history, it helped to convert the San Pedro/Wilmington area into a major deep-water seaport by 1912. However, the quality of the sandstone had serious structural flaws: submerged stones disintegrated when exposed at low tide. As a result, instead of accepting thirty-four carloads of useless rock, the California Construction Company opted to buy out Bannon's \$10,000 contract by purchasing the entire quarry operation. In receivership by 1915, all of the quarry equipment, including the spur rail line, was dismantled and removed. There are still signs of its presence in the Park, including the fore-mentioned pits and tailings piles, as well as tons of broken riprap.

Between 1906 and 1920, there were a number of local rock quarries that operated concurrently with the Chatsworth Park Stone Quarry. Located outside the current Park's boundaries, they included the A. Charlton, H. Clement & Company,

Dillon, and Southern Pacific Railroad quarries. The latter is directly associated with the second phase of the Park's transportation history. Originally set up in 1900, the Southern Pacific Railroad Quarry provided ballast and cut dimension stone for the railroad embankment and tunnels cut through the pass. After the railway's 1902 completion, the quarry continued to provide dimensional stone until 1915. A corrugated metal roof sandstone block-constructed shed located in what is now Chatsworth Park South was allegedly used to store blasting powder and dynamite for the this quarry as well as for the tunnel construction work.

Santa Susana Pass Railroad Tunnels (1900-1941)

The Southern Pacific's new rail line up, over, and through Santa Susana Pass has also left an indelible mark on the Park's cultural landscape.

Although the Southern Pacific Railroad's transcontinental connection reached Los Angeles in 1876, rail service into San Fernando Valley did not occur until the early 1890s, when a number of farming communities produced enough goods to warrant the need for bulk shipment. In 1893 the Southern Pacific extended trackage westward from Burbank to Owensmouth (today's Canoga Park), and then north to Chatsworth Park. In 1900 Southern Pacific laid another line from Burbank to Chatsworth Park. At what is now Marilla Street, work crews marshaled men and equipment for tunneling through Santa Susana Pass. Associated with Southern Pacific's \$247 million dollar investment in upgrading its rail network at the time, the pass route (completed in 1904)



Railroad Tunnel

became the railroad's "Coast Line Gateway" into the Los Angeles Basin. By 1910 it was responsible for carrying ten of the fourteen daily passenger trains running north between Los Angeles and San Francisco, supplanting the arduous Tehachapi route to the Central Valley.

The tunnels are historically significant for their engineering as well as economical importance. The 7,368-foot-long Tunnel No. 26 in particular, which travels under Park property, was the longest railroad tunnel in the United States at the time of its completion. Economically, the tunnels contributed to the Southland's growth and prosperity during the early 20th Century, providing jobs for hundreds working on the tunnels or in support services. Their completion, along with the Los Angeles Aqueduct in 1913, attracted new settlers into the San Fernando Valley, which helped lead to its annexation by the city of Los Angeles in 1915.



The tunnels continue to serve as part of a major rail transportation corridor. They, along with the tracks and the mountains that they pierce, are also major rail tourist destinations and familiar subjects among railroad photographers.

“Valleywood”: Early Motion Picture Locations (1910-1970)

The San Fernando Valley offered early California motion picture producers a cornucopia of exotic movie locations. Directors were particularly interested in Santa Susana Pass’ rugged landscape for Westerns, Biblical epics, and Science Fiction movies and later television programs. The first recorded motion picture filmed within what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was actually a 1917 children’s fantasy: *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Besides *Jack and the Beanstalk*, five additional motion pictures appear to have been filmed prior to World War I within what are now the Park’s boundaries. Subsequent research may reveal these and other motion pictures’ exact locations.

Taking advantage of the situation were a number of local ranchers who converted sections of their properties into mock “Western Towns,” complete with false-front main street, barns, and corrals. Two of the most famous located near the Park were the Iverson and Corrigan movie ranches. Among the most utilized ranches in motion picture history, over 800 motion pictures and television series were filmed at these two locations. Three lesser known “movie ranches” in the neighboring area were the Bell, Berry, and Spahn ranches. Of the three, a section of the Spahn Ranch is located within the present-day Park’s northern

boundary, less than 20 yards south of Santa Susana Pass Road. This section of the ranch contained a mock Western town, with adjacent horse corrals. Except for the *Bonanza* television show (1959-1973), the ranch attracted mostly low-budget and television productions.

The decline of the Spahn Ranch mirrors the problems that eventually beset its neighbors. By the mid-1960s the movie-going public had lost its interest in Westerns, especially the formulaic television variety. Acerbating the problem was the construction of the Simi Valley Freeway in 1968. The freeway’s construction, which cut through the Iverson and Corriganville ranches, created so much noise that filming at the other ranches was next to impossible.

Spahn Movie Ranch and the Manson Family (1969-1970)

During the late 1960s, 90-year-old George Spahn allowed his ranch to attract real life “outlaws.” The most notorious was 35-year-old Charles Miller Manson, who, along with his followers, was associated with one of the most notorious and highly publicized mass murders in modern times. On August 9 and 10, 1969, several Manson Family members conducted raids from the Spahn Ranch which resulted in the horrific murders of seven wealthy Beverly Hills residents. Among them was motion picture actress Sharon Tate. Occurring during a time of widespread unease about the Vietnam War, the counterculture, urban decay, and racial conflict, the mass-media’s coverage of the Manson Family’s murder spree and subsequent high-profile trial in Los

Angeles, along with the so-called Zodiac Killer's activities in the San Francisco Bay area, evoked a pensive, free-floating dread throughout California and the nation during the late 1960s and early 1970s. A 1970 wildfire destroyed all the buildings associated with the Manson Family at Spahn Ranch.

A Community Remembers (1939-1993)

As a result of the influx of new businesses and residents into the San Fernando Valley both before and after World War II, unchecked suburbanization threatened the valley's rural character and sense of place. Statewide organizations like the Landmarks Club and the Sons and Daughters of the Golden West soon formed to preserve historic resources through a landmarks recognition program. Their work served as a model for subsequent generations of preservationists to follow.

Native Daughters of the Golden West Commemorative Plaque (1939)

On March 17, 1939, almost forty-five years after the old stage route's abandonment, members of the Topanga Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West (NDGW), along with a large number of local residents and members of pioneer California families, including noted motion picture actor and California Beach and Parks Commissioner Leo Carrillo, hiked midway along the Devil's Slide to commemorate the road's historic significance. One of the NDGW's local members, 43-year-old Mrs. Minnie Hill-Palmer, was instrumental in organizing the event. Mrs. Palmer, whose family had homesteaded the



Historic Plaque

area while she was a child, offered to have a commemorative plaque affixed to a rocky knoll overlooking the road.

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (1969-1979)

While the NDGW's efforts were commemorative in nature, in 1969 local activists organized to preserve the stagecoach road and other historic and scenic sites within the area. Originally known as the "Chatsworth Beautiful" group, it evolved into the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA), and sought to preserve the Santa Susana Mountains' "freshness, openness, unplanned, and unstructured beauty" by having it set aside as a regional park.

The SSMPA, along with other environmental groups, conducted natural, archaeological, and historic surveys and studies of the Santa Susana Mountains, especially the eastern and western approaches to Santa Susana Pass. Unfortunately, the 1970 wildfire delayed their work in the Santa Susana Pass area. However, the fires did help to clear brush, revealing more of the stagecoach road and other historic features. SSMPA volunteer guides were then able to point out and



explain the historical significance of several important features along the route, including the de la Osa swing station and Bannon Quarry sites.

In 1973 the State of California conducted and produced a “Reconnaissance Study of the Santa Susana Mountains” which recognized the historical importance of the stagecoach road and the 178 acres surrounding it. That same year, Charles Outland discussed the significance of the Santa Susana Pass stagecoach road in his book, *Stagecoaching the El Camino Real*. Synonymous with Outland’s publication and in preparation for successful local, state, and national historic site designations, the SSMPA published a booklet, *Santa Susana, over the Pass...into the Past* that was based on its research into the road and the surrounding area’s historic significance.

Another devastating wildfire in 1993 produced both positive and negative results: it did expose a previously hidden stone cistern and other historic archaeological features; however, in an attempt to clear access roads, Southern California Edison crews damaged a number of the historic and prehistoric features. The mitigated result was several archaeological and historical surveys and studies performed by private consultants and California Department of Parks and Recreation staff to determine the extent of the damage. Based on these studies and reports, a large body of information has been gathered that has contributed to a greater understanding of the Park’s history and the value of the archaeological and historical sites and features contained within its boundaries.

Post-1993 fire historical research and physical investigation projects suggest that there are more sites, structures, artifacts, and natural features within the Park. Many are associated with pre- and post-contact Native American activities, as well as later historic events and individuals associated with the Park’s more than 235 years of history. Taken within the larger context of its historical record, the Park has been witness to the ebb and flow of activities that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of California’s transportation, settlement, stone extractive and motion picture industries. These activities are also associated with the lives of significant historic individuals who played major roles in local, state, and national history. The changes they made to the land, along with the remnants of their homes and activities, have the potential to yield important information critical for understanding and interpreting our collective past.

Archaeological Resources

The earliest professional archaeological work within the Park began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Over the years, 20 Native American archaeological sites have been recorded within the Park (see Appendix C). These sites include habitation sites, bedrock grinding features, petroglyphs (carved, pecked, or incised rock art), rock shelters, procurement areas, and trails. Although pictographs (painted rock art) have also been recorded within the Park, those that still exist have been found to be historic or modern adaptations, painted with watercolor or oil paint. The rocks within the Santa Susana Pass area are highly erodable sandstone, and the preponderance of



Mortars and Cupules

36 graffiti throughout the Park has damaged and destroyed most of the Native American pictographs and possibly other features as well. Surveys of the Park have not been exhaustive and there may be additional Native American archaeological sites within those areas of the Park that were not examined during the resources inventory (Appendix G).

Historical Archaeological Resources

Twenty-four historical archaeological sites have also been recorded within the Park (see Appendix C). These date from the early homestead/stagecoach era of the mid-to-late-1800s up to the mid-1900s. They include sandstone quarrying sites, trash dumps, homestead sites, a 1930s work camp site, movie ranch sites, and of course the stage routes and associated building remains and features. Although the major use-areas of the Park have been surveyed, and it is assumed that most of the historic sites fall within these areas, there is a

possibility that additional historic sites may exist within unexamined areas of the Park.

Historical Resources

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park contains historic sites of local and statewide importance that have left indelible marks on the Park's cultural landscape. Indeed, the Park's namesake, the Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road (Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road), is listed on the National Register and is a California State Point of Historical Interest associated with an important mid-to-late-19th century stagecoach route. The Park also contains traces of connecting dirt roads and trails from this period. In addition, within the Park is a railroad right-of-way, which travels through two 105-year-old railroad tunnels, that is an important rail link between Los Angeles and Northern California. The Park also contains the sites of mid-19th to early 20th century homesteads, where pioneering families hoped to eke out a living from the rocky soil. One of these is also associated with a regionally important sandstone rock quarry site. The surrounding high sandstone cliffs and bluffs also served as location backdrops for a number of Hollywood motion pictures and later television series. One area contains the site of a "Movie Ranch" that was later associated with one of the most horrific mass murders in Los Angeles County history.

The character-defining features of these historic transportation-related resources include the Santa Susana Pass stagecoach/wagon road, segments of which were scraped and hewn out of the living rock. A 68-year-old tile-



inlaid plaque commemorates the road's significance. Other surviving historic road segments include those of *El Camino Nuevo*, secondary wagon roads to Chatsworth, a railroad tunnel construction site, and the stone quarry area.

Contained within the Park's historic landscape are at least seven known homestead sites. The earliest of these, settled in 1858, contains the foundation ruins of an adobe and rock-lined *pilas* or cisterns associated with the de la Osa family-operated "swing station." Here, between 1861 and 1868, fresh horses were available to the stagecoach drivers before their climb up "The Devil's Slide," a particularly difficult climb up and over the Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road.

Later homesteaders who came to the area between 1879 and 1892 include Francisco Miranda, Dionisio Sanchez, James R. Williams, James D. Hill, Florence M. Mattingly, and William Bannon. United States citizens from Mexico, Indiana, Iowa, and New York, they built homes and raised families that helped tend their farms and small ranches. Here they grew hay, picked fruit from orchards, processed honey from apiaries, and raised cows and chickens for milk, eggs, and meat for themselves and local markets. Except for the Miranda adobe, which is actually located in the neighboring Oakwood Memorial Park, the remaining homestead homes and associated structures are no longer standing.

William Bannon's 1892 homestead site, which included the former de la Osa adobe, was also the headquarters for the nearby Bannon or Chatsworth Park Stone Quarry. The site contains

another house, several additional stone cisterns, a corral, barn, and bunkhouses for the quarrymen. Located southeast of the homestead, the quarry was in operation between 1892 and 1915. Evidence of quarrying activities can still be found throughout the former quarry site's historic landscape. Tons of sandstone blocks were cut and used as architectural stone throughout the Greater Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino areas. Additional tons of riprap went into the construction of one of the most important engineering landmarks in Southern California's history: the breakwater at San Pedro.

Between 1910 and 1970, the Park's rugged sandstone cliffs served as a backdrop to several motion picture and television productions. One area in particular, the infamous Spahn Ranch, once contained a mock-up of a Western town. On August 9 and 10, the murderous Manson Family Gang utilized the dilapidated "Main Street" as its base of operations for what is now known as the Tate-LaBianca Murders. Although a 1970 wildfire destroyed the buildings, the Spahn Ranch site still holds a macabre attraction for the general public.

Besides being associated with events and individuals who played key roles in the Park's more than 235-year-old history, these resources have the potential to yield important information critical for understanding and interpreting Southern California's transportation, settlement, stone extractive, motion picture, and crime history.

Collections

There are several reasons for a park to develop and maintain museum collections. One reason is to preserve

elements of the natural, cultural, and historic environment that are original to the site. Another reason CDPR acquires and maintains museum objects is to preserve documentation of people, events, cultural features, or natural features that are central to a park's purpose. A third reason is to support the interpretation of themes that are relevant to a particular park.

At present, there are only a few known collections that have been made of items specifically from Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Artifacts and archaeological specimens collected during excavations conducted by students from the University of California at Los Angeles and archaeologists from Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) are curated in the State Archaeological Collections Research Facility in Sacramento. An additional collection of archaeological materials is currently stored at the Southern Service Center. These collections contain items relating mainly to the Native American occupation and use of this area.

Many other institutions in the Los Angeles region including the Chatsworth Historical Society Museum; California State University, Northridge; and University of California, Los Angeles house materials associated with Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The development of partnerships with these institutions will enhance interpretation of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park by generating research and providing resources.



INTERPRETATION

Interpretation and education heightens and increases public understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of natural, cultural, and recreational values. Providing experiences that are both meaningful and inspiring is one of California Department of Parks and Recreation's core initiatives. The educational and interpretive programs and facilities within Santa Susana Pass State Park aim to describe the innate characteristics of the Park and foster personal and lasting connections to the area. (Refer to the *Inventory for Visitor-Use* for more specific information about visitors to the Park).

Facilities

Facilities within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park include three trailhead kiosks near Chatsworth Park South and one informative kiosk at Lilac Lane. All existing interpretive structures suffer from weathering, fire damage, and vandalism.



Interpretive trailhead kiosks adjacent to Chatsworth Park South

The interpretive kiosks adjacent to Chatsworth Park South consist of two generic CDPR panels and four panels specifically designed for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The Park-specific interpretive panels include "Messages in the Mud and Dust" (identifying the tracks of mammals who live in the Simi Hills), "A Pageant of Plants" (adaptations of Park flora), "Reptiles of the Simi Hills," and "Brushland Birds." Two general panels focus on the subjects of Native Americans and woodpeckers. Entitled "The Autumn Harvest" and "Voice of the Woods," these items were part of the generic panel program operated by the CDPR Interpretation and Education Division and are no longer available.

At Lilac Lane the fire-ravaged kiosk marked the "Historic Stage Coach Trail" and the accompanying bulletin board provides safety tips and information about local hikes. Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road, which winds through the heart of the Park, is not formally interpreted at this location beyond the labeled trailhead. While no interpretive facilities currently exist along this trail, a 1939 plaque commemorating the "Old Santa Susana Stage Road" has the potential to inspire future interpretation of the historic trail experience.

Printed or Electronic Interpretive Material

Websites

The California Department of Parks and Recreation maintains a website (www.parks.ca.gov) that provides information about the CDPR system and individual parks throughout the state including Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Park-specific information includes directions to the Park

and the cultural and natural values of Park resources.

Free Brochure

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park has a small brochure on the CDPR website that contains a general map of the area and limited introductory and interpretive text. The current brochure includes information on the historic Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road, Native American history, homesteading, plants and animals, geology, and outdated information about activities that take place within the Park.

Educational/School Programs and Interpretive Program Presentations

No regularly-scheduled interpretive or educational programs exist within the Park at this time; however, occasional tours and special events do occur. The Rancho Simi Trail Blazers conduct recreational and interpretive hikes within the Simi Valley area, sometimes taking place at the Park. At times, patrolling rangers provide interpretive information to visitors and equestrian enthusiasts give impromptu history tours. Events such as Earth Day are cosponsored by the City of Los Angeles and bring a few hundred people to the site annually.

Local Support for Interpretation

Many community organizations and regional institutions already support cultural and natural resource preservation, interpretation, and education in the Park. These organizations include, but are not limited to the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers, the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, the Sierra Club, local equestrian groups, and the Chatsworth Historical Society.

Cultural information relative to the Park and surrounding community is made available by the Chatsworth Historical Society, located on the Homestead Acre within Chatsworth Park South. Chatsworth Historical Society has worked to preserve the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road, collect archival material and artifacts associated with Chatsworth history, and exhibit their collections at the Chatsworth Museum. Their collections include Native American artifacts, photographic material, ephemera, and books relating to Chatsworth history and the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road. The Homestead Acre also interprets the homesteading era of the Chatsworth area. While the Chatsworth Historical Society does not currently conduct interpretive and educational activities within the Park, the organization provides information that strongly supports interpretation and education at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Land Uses Surrounding the Park That May Affect its Interpretation

Interpretation at the Park may be affected in a number of ways based on the wide variety of land uses in the area. Land uses affecting—or that could potentially affect—the Park’s resources are described in other sections of this document. Land uses surrounding the Park may specifically affect its interpretation by influencing visitation and related program development. The potential influences on interpretation include:

- Diverse residential communities who utilize the recreational resources and reside within walking distance of the Park’s boundaries



- Transportation corridors including Santa Susana Pass Road, State Route 118, and the railroad tracks that pass through the Park
- Equestrian use of the Park and surrounding areas
- Future plans for the Rim of the Valley Trail and the community trail systems, such as those within Corriganville Park, Rocky Peak Park, Chatsworth Parks North and South, and Chatsworth Oaks Park, which connect to interpretive trails within the boundaries of the Park
- Schools and libraries within a 10-mile radius of the Park
- Proximity to and relationship with local, state, and national parks within a two-hour drive of the Park.

Frank Schepler Jr. Memorial Library and Chatsworth Park Elementary School are adjacent to the Park. This school, like 635 schools also within the Los Angeles Unified School District, is currently classified as a Title I school. According to 2001 data obtained from the Southern California Association of Governments, 291 schools are located within a 10-mile radius of the Park. These include 11 colleges and universities, 181 elementary schools, 26 junior or intermediate high schools, 15 preschool/daycare centers, and 58 senior high schools. Future interpretive and educational programs should aim to incorporate these schools and the needs of the surrounding community into future planning. Schools have the potential to increase visitation to the Park, enhance the knowledge of California's cultural and natural legacy, conduct education and interpretation within the Park, and inspire new facilities and programs.

Many local, state, and national parks have existing programs that relate to the interpretive topics, themes, and periods of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. One of these is the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), an institution that emphasizes Chumash culture, geography, and native plants and animals of the Santa Monica Mountains through educational and interpretive programs. SMMNRA partners with Malibu Creek State Park, where visitors can explore native plants, Chumash culture, and TV/film history. The Malibu Docent Association works with the SMMNRA and provides interpretive nature hikes for inner-city children. Topanga State Park visitors can also explore wildlife as they visit SMMNRA trails that connect to Will Rogers State Park and Point Mugu State Park. Los Encinos State Park interprets the De la Osa family, who once had a home and swing station within the Park boundaries. Local parks such as Chumash Park reflect the area's Native American past. These are just a brief listing of the many institutions within a two hour drive of the Park that relate to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and have the potential to affect interpretation and education.

The development of stronger partnerships with institutions and CDPR affiliates will promote the neighborhood, regional, and statewide context of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, thus developing a network of interpretive resources and enhancing the visitor experience.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

The aesthetic values of park land include its scenic qualities, notable landscape features, and character or “spirit of place.” Aesthetic resources, as discussed here, are essentially cultural values that become associated with a given place. They reflect both the human experience and inherent characteristics of the place itself. For long range planning purposes it is important to identify these values so that they can be understood, appreciated, protected, and made accessible for future park visitors.

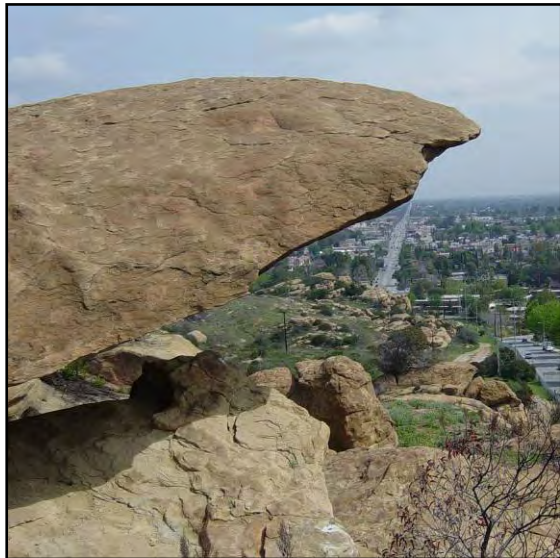
The landscape character of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was described in a previous section called Spirit of Place. It was noted that the Park’s landscape was characterized by a steep, complex topography, weathered rock outcrops, and the imprints of a long cultural history. Massive boulders define much of the land’s rugged form and texture. The Park’s boundaries were drawn across this natural landscape, but they are more strongly influenced by existing land uses, ownership parcel lines, and jurisdictions. These factors set up a number of issues related to the Park’s identity and the perceptions, access, and orientation of its visitors.

Special features and landscapes were mapped and classified under the following categories: Topographic Features, Vegetation, Cultural Features, Access Points, Primary Travel Corridors, and Vantage Points. *Topographic Features* include primary peaks and ridgelines, regional peaks and nearby features, notable rock formations, riparian corridor/drainage courses, and a seasonal waterfall. *Vegetation* includes chaparral,

grasslands or meadows, live oak stands, distinctive individual trees, historic olive tree lines, eucalyptus groves, and coastal sage scrub habitat. *Cultural Features* include the Old Stagecoach Road and features related to it, El Camino Nuevo, utility lines, the railroad corridor and its tunnels, vehicle carcasses, rock quarry features (tailings, pits, and grading scars), utility roads, tanks, tinajas, reservoirs, rock shelters, and bedrock grinding mortars and basins, cupules. *Access Points, Primary Travel Corridors, and Vantage Points* were also mapped.

The aesthetic experience is strongly connected to our senses and perceptions, our need to recognize pattern, negotiate space, and to understand and order our experience in the environment. This said, the Park offers visitors significant challenges and opportunities.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park has good regional geographic location. It is situated in easy proximity to a transportation grid of freeways, highways, major arterials and



Rock Formation

secondary streets. In recognition of their extraordinary scenic values, both State Route 118 (Ronald Reagan Freeway) and Santa Susana Pass Road have scenic highway designations through this area.

The Park lacks a well-defined entrance and arrival point. It relies entirely on a scatter of poorly-marked trail entrances, each unique in character, but laden with constraints. Four of them enter indirectly from other parks or properties (at least one enters from private open-space property). Three others open directly to a public roadway with no transition gateway or off-street parking. The Park's complex topography is further complicated by its casual web of unmarked trails and old roadbeds. Trails are the only real means of entering or traveling through the Park.

The Park's mountainous terrain offers a number of exceptional vantage or viewpoints. In addition to the expected appeals and pleasures of elevated views, these offer the best orientation to the lay of the land. Unfortunately, they are located in places that are accessed only by trails, so it takes some time and effort to reach them. They are generally found by happenstance, previous experience, or shared information.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Little is known about historic recreational uses of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. There are general references to trail use for hikers, bikers, and horse riders, and a recent history of using the Park for geocaching. Santa Susana Pass Road is used as a recreational bike route as well as a recreational motorcycle route. Nearby Stoney Point Park is a popular rock climbing area. Angeles District staff report that the majority of park users come from within 10 miles of the Park, range widely in age, are mainly hikers and typically access the Park from Chatsworth Park South. Many visitors come from the surrounding cities of Simi Valley, Chatsworth, Canoga Park, West Hills and Woodland Hills. Nearby residents often walk their dogs on the Park's trails, although off-leash use is not permitted.

There are no developed facilities within the Park—no parking, camping, picnicking, or posted and maintained trail facilities. The Park is open for day-use visitors only. Most visitors use street parking or the lot in Chatsworth Park South. There is no overnight use of the Park—although there is reportedly some unauthorized after-hours use at certain favored party spots. No recreational programs have been developed for the Park. Occasionally, local trail groups sponsor organized hikes.

A summary of the predominant recreational activities follows:

Trail Use

The existing trail complex has an exceptional foundation of historic routes at its core, but after decades of

casual use and convenience, it has become a rather confusing web of pathways and roadbeds. In addition to the ever-increasing number of casual trails, older paths without regular use or active maintenance tend to disappear under growing vegetation. The Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road is the Park's primary feature, but unauthorized trail proliferation, the lack of maps or trail markers, and inconsistent use of trail names and route descriptions make it difficult for many visitors to locate this historic feature.

The trails of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, although undesignated, are the only way to move around within the Park, and are the Park's primary means of recreation. True to its historic character as travel corridor and "pass," the Park and adjacent surroundings provide modern visitors a range of roads, footpaths, horse trails, and bike routes to negotiate the rugged terrain. This maze of trails is evident in aerial photographs which show faint traces of the many routes used over the years.

The terrain itself can be disorienting. Certainly it makes for exceptionally steep sections on some trails and encourages erosion. An initial trail and road assessment was done in the spring of 2004, and an *Immediate Use Trail Repair Plan* proposed designated routes and made recommendations for repair and use. A baseline mapping of the entire Park was undertaken during the resource inventory process. It included much of the existing trail network, a wide range of cultural features and sites (both historic and prehistoric) and key natural resource areas. This additional information



Trail Erosion

allowed a more comprehensive trail assessment to be made.

The trails of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park connect to trails in adjacent and nearby parks, as well as to portions of the community trail system of Chatsworth. Trail connections can be made to Corriganville Park, Rocky Peak Park, Chatsworth Parks North and South, and to Chatsworth Oaks Park (via private open space areas). Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park lies within the *Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor*, a mountainous geographic area designated by the California Legislature, within which "an interlocking system of public parks, trails, and wildlife habitat preserves" is to be developed and eventually linked together with the multi-use, long-distance *Rim of the Valley Trail*.

Geocaching

At least twelve geocache sites are located within the Park. A check on the "Geocaching - The Official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site" webpage



(<http://www.geocaching.com/>) showed that although five were created in early April 2006, they were visited by several geocaching enthusiasts during the two weeks following. The other sites were established much earlier, with at least two established in 2002 and 2003. Many of these earlier caches have been visited from 40 to 60 times in the years since. There is also geocaching activity involving the USGS benchmarks within the Park. These appear to be visited only rarely but their precise locations are also easily accessible through the Geocaching webpage.

Camping

There is no camping currently accommodated in the Park. In an effort to assess the need and potential for camping at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, the recreational inventory focused on identifying regional camping facilities and specific locations within the Park where camping opportunities could be considered. Steep terrain and limited vehicular access (see Figure 4) make extensive development of camping facilities unlikely at this park. However, there are several locations that lend themselves to development of camping facilities—if they are sensitive to the idiosyncrasies of the site, appropriate in scale, and protective of the Park’s inherent resources.

The Spahn Ranch site offers opportunities for vehicular access and the development of related programs and facilities. Its history as an equestrian ranch and relationship to the movie industry offers opportunities to incorporate these themes into any future development.

Other considerations include the availability of potable water, restrooms, showers, and respite from intense summer heat, as well as operational issues such as staffing, safety and patrol access, maintenance of sites (especially trash and waste removals), and illegal camping. Within a 10-mile radius, camping facilities are offered at Sage Ranch, Oak Park, and Tapo Canyon Regional Park.

Visitor Support and Orientation

Visitor support, as used here, includes facilities like visitor centers, restrooms, parking, and picnic areas. Such facilities serve the needs of Park visitors and enhance their experience in the Park setting. The Park currently lacks a well-defined entrance and arrival point. Multiple entrances and lack of maps or signage contribute to trail confusion and make orientation difficult for first time visitors. The steep landscape of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park offers few sites suitable for the development of new facilities.

Many visitors come from surrounding neighborhoods and communities. They are familiar with the area and readily use available street parking if convenient, or come from home, or use the entrance from Chatsworth Park South. This Los Angeles city park offers a compliment of facilities that support the recreational use of state park lands, including a parking lot, restrooms, drinking water, and activity centers (community center, Hill-Palmer Homestead Cottage, and Chatsworth Historical Society Museum and Memorial Library).

With the exception of a few interpretive panels at one of the Chatsworth South trailheads, no CDPR

interpretive or educational programs have been developed for the Park. Organized hikes by local trail groups are probably the only ongoing interpretive activity. Some historic and other cultural information relative to the Park and surroundings is made available by the Chatsworth Historical Society located on The Homestead Acre within Chatsworth Park South.

equestrian lifestyle, making it a viable part of the local rural and agricultural culture.

Equestrian Activities

Equestrian activities are an important component of recreation at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Horses are frequently seen on the trails in the Park and organized rides traverse the Park. The surrounding area is known for its equestrian lifestyle. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 horses may be present within a 25-mile area surrounding the Park.

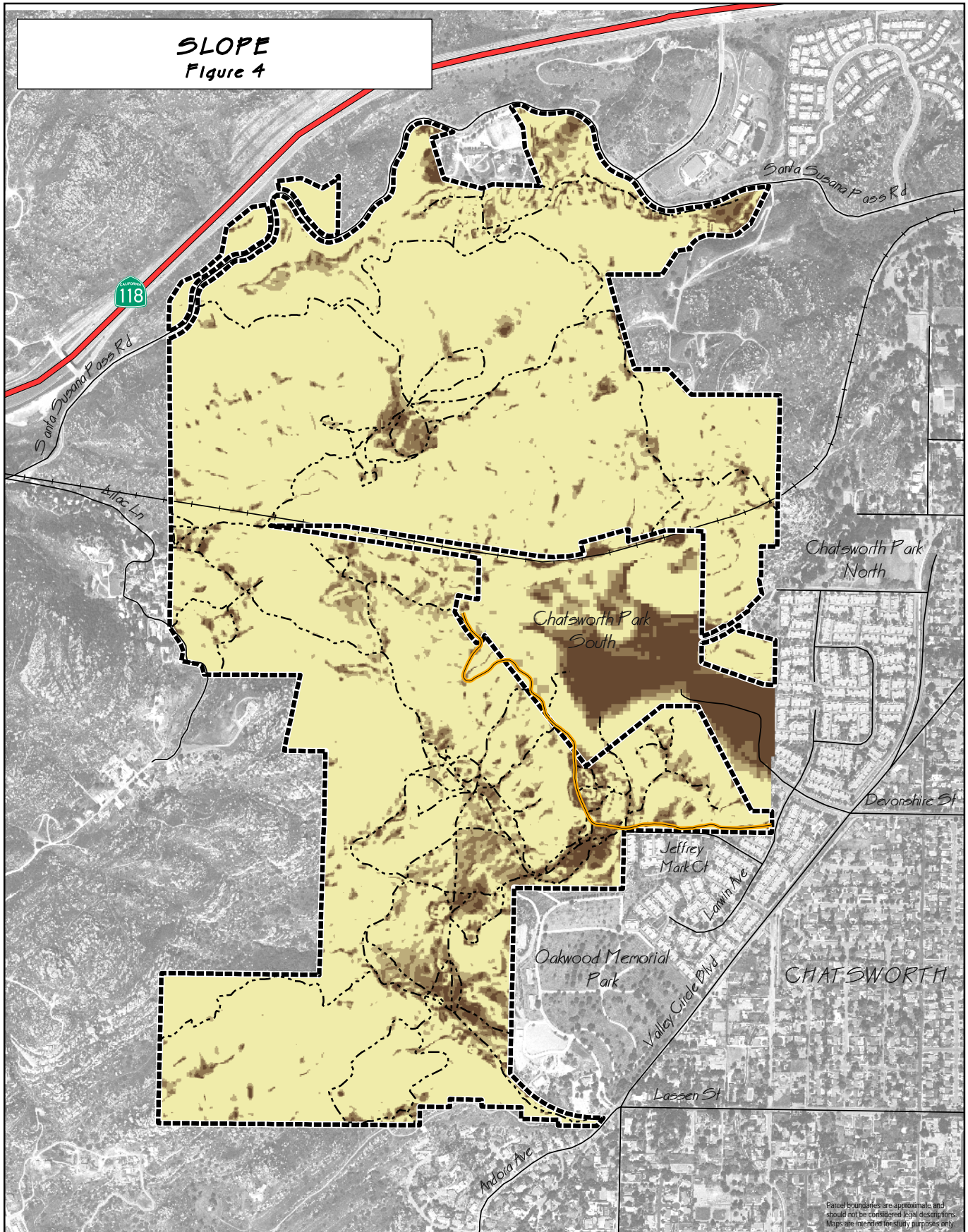
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Horses have a long association with the Park, Chatsworth, and the San Fernando and Simi Valleys. Their history is traced to the Californio vaqueros and the days of early homesteads and settlements. Horses were used for the stagecoach route over Santa Susana Pass and tired teams were changed at the swing station once located in the Park. They were commonly used for transportation and agriculture before the advent of automobile travel. After which they were featured in the filming of western movies and television shows. This industry spawned an era of gentlemen's ranches in the 1930s through the 1950s.

Noted celebrities such as Roy and Dale Rogers popularized this lifestyle by riding horses through the Park from their nearby homes and ranches in this area. Throughout the years, many residents have maintained this casual



SLOPE
Figure 4



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Legend

Slope (Percent)

	0-5
	5-10
	10-15
	>15

- Existing Trails
- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Utility Road
- Railroad
- Park Boundary

**SANTA SUSANA PASS
STATE HISTORIC PARK**





PLANNING INFLUENCES

Existing CDPR System-Wide planning influences that cross park and regional boundaries may affect planning decisions regarding the Park. The following represent such influential policies, regulations, and plans:

System-Wide Planning Influences

- Public Resources Code (PRC)
- California Code of Regulations (CCR)
- Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of California State Park and Recreation Commission and the California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Planning Handbook (General Plan Improvement Team)
- Department Operations Manual (DOM)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation System Plan
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Mission Statement
- California Department of Parks and Recreation Access to Parks Guidelines
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park—Interim Management Plan

This management plan was developed in July 2000 to serve as an interim management tool until a General Plan could be completed.

With the approval of this General Plan, the Interim Management Plan will be superseded.

Santa Susana Mountain Project—Wildfire Management Plan

This management plan was developed in January 1997 by CDPR staff. This plan is to be updated as the Park

develops and when deemed necessary. The purposes of this plan are:

- To inform fire control organizations of sensitive park resources and policy.
- To become the local working agreement between CDPR and the appropriate fire control organizations for all activities related to wildland fires in the Park.
- To identify all activities to wildland fire on CDPR lands.

Resource Management Directives for the Department of Parks and Recreation

The Department Operations Manual Section 0400, Cultural Resources, is currently under revision. Until it is completed, Section 1832 of the Resource Management Directives and the CDPR Cultural Resources Management Handbook provide the policies, definitions, processes, and procedures to guide the management of cultural resources under CDPR's jurisdiction.

These directives, policies, processes, and procedures highlight the legal codes contained in the Public Resources Code, the California Codes of Regulations, the State Historic Building Code, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, a Memorandum of Understanding between CDPR and the Office of Historic Preservation, Executive Order W-26-92, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statement of Policy and Rules of Order as they pertain to the cultural resources of CDPR's system.

Regional Planning Influences

The following legislation, plans, and programs address regional issues that may affect planning decisions at the Park.

Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor

The Rim of the Valley (ROV) Trail Corridor was designated by the Legislature to facilitate the development of an interlocking system of public parks, trails, and wildlife habit preserves within the mountain areas, within the jurisdictional boundaries encircling the edges of the San Fernando, La Crescenta, and Simi Valleys to the south, and the large portions of the Santa Clara River from its headwaters by Palmdale to the Santa Clarita Woodland by the City of Newhall to the north.

Plans That May Affect Planning Decisions at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park:

- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan
- Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Laboratory
- Rancho Simi Valley
- Corriganville Park

Demographics

Visitor-use resources associated with Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park—aesthetics, recreation and interpretation—are resources directly related to how people perceive, relate to, or use the Park. These resources were inventoried and assessed prior to starting the general plan process.

Accurate historic information on park visitation—who, how many, and patterns of use—was not available.

Annual visitation is estimated to range between 30,000 and 40,000. Rough estimates indicate that visitation rates at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park have increased 25 percent in the last four years, except for 2002/2003 (which likely reflects the January 2002 System-wide fee increase). Los Angeles County, currently with 28 percent of California's population, is projected to increase a total of 19 percent between 2000 and 2050. Ventura County is projected to increase 42 percent over the same period.

Park visitation is affected by the seasonal temperatures as the average monthly highs reach the upper 80s and 90s from June through September and there is little shade cover. Most Park visitors during these months recreate during the early morning hours when the temperatures can be 30 degrees cooler on average.

Public Involvement

CDPR initiated the General Plan process for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park in January 2006, with a scoping meeting held in Chatsworth, California. The scoping meeting was structured to familiarize the public with the General Plan process, to discuss the resource information and to start the scoping and visioning process. Subsequent public meetings were held in June and October of 2006, to present alternatives and a preferred plan.

Based upon public input at the meetings, additional focus groups meetings were held to better understand a few overriding concerns that were voiced such as: 1) increased traffic and vandalism due to any plan development; 2) wildfire concerns due to increased use and potential camping





Public Meeting

activities; 3) lack of visitor-use facilities and CDPR presence; and 4) the protection of the cultural and historical resources.

Focus groups meetings included the meeting with the Rockpointe Homeowner Association, the Chatsworth Historical Association, The Church at Rocky Peak, the Lilac Lane Residents, Equestrian and Trail Access groups and a Native American group.

Input was gathered via meeting notes taken by the Planning Team and comments cards distributed and collected. Also at each public forum, the public was encouraged to “jot down” their comments directly on presentation materials that were displayed at each public forum. Other forms of input came in the form of letters, emails, and telephone calls to the General Plan team. Public meetings were advertised in local newspapers, Association newsletters, and flyers posted at public locations such as Chatsworth Park South and trailheads. Upon establishing a mailing list from

the public meetings, additional announcements were sent via regular mail. At the beginning of the planning process, a website was established to keep the public up to date with the process and to allow ease of access to planning documents such as the alternatives and management zones.

Native American Input

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted and asked to provide CDPR with a contact list of interested Native American groups and individuals. The list that the NAHC supplied included representatives from the Fernandeño/Tataviam, Gabrielino/Tongva, and Ventureño Chumash. Letters regarding the planning process and public and focus group meetings were mailed to each person or group on the list. Follow-up phone calls were made to ensure that the letters had been received. Native American input came in the form of phone calls, letters, and verbal comments received during the public and focus group meetings. Comments were generally supportive of CDPR’s plans for protection and interpretation of the Park and its resources. The main concern was for protection of the sites and monitoring of any future construction activities including trail work.

Park Support

Community groups and organizations including the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA), the Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains (FPSSM), the Chatsworth Historical Society, the Chatsworth Women’s Club and the Sierra Club contributed to the creation of Santa Susana Pass Historic Park

during the initial years. These community groups and organizations continue to be integral supporters of the protection of the natural and cultural resources and the development of recreational enjoyment of the Park.



ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

The following is a summary of major issues derived from the development of the various aspects of the Park Summary and the Planning Process, particularly the public participation component. All the issues are intertwined, making the goals and guidelines and the management zones denoted within the Planning Section crucial to the immediate use and future management of the Park.

Cultural Resources

As described in the Public Resource Code, a State Historic Park consists of “areas established primarily to preserve objects of historical, archaeological, and scientific interest, and archaeological sites and places commemorating important persons or historic events” (refer to page 4 for the definition of a State Historic Park).

With such a designation, it is imperative that the Park’s historic resources are protected and properly interpreted, so the public can benefit from the Park’s cultural significance. Currently, this benefit does not extend beyond the local region due to lack of park infrastructure (designated trail system), facilities (for visitor orientation and visitor use), and educational/interpretive programs (lack of programs and staff).

Natural Resources

Reminiscent of the early California landscape, the Park is a natural resource sanctuary at the edge of one of the most populated regions of California. Although small in size, the Park retains a regional importance, as a linkage to surrounding open and green spaces for wildlife. Enhancing this linkage is extremely important to the

region’s natural resources as well as fulfilling the Mission of CDPR.

Visitor Experience

Relying on numerous “unofficial” access points popularized over decades of use, the Park lacks a strong CDPR identity. Further complicating the Park’s identity is that the most popular access point into the Park is from Chatsworth Park South, which is owned by the City of Los Angeles.

Although Chatsworth Park South seems to be a natural extension of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, CDPR cannot plan with the assumption of utilizing non-CDPR property. However, this planning document can be developed to work collaboratively with City and regional planning efforts as well as work separately, to ensure Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park establishes a CDPR identity and provides a visitor-use experience with statewide significance, reflective of the Park’s wonderful natural and cultural resources.

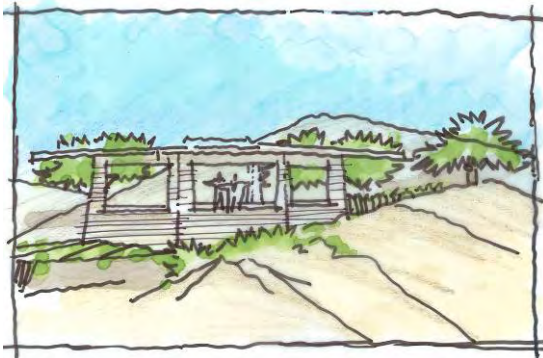
Recreational Facilities

Trail use is the major recreational use of the Park but due to years of casual use by hikers, bikers, and equestrians, numerous trails crisscross the Park, resulting in a confusing trail system for visitors.

Although a Trail Management Plan is generally the direct result of a General Plan process, all management plans are dependent on available funding and Statewide priorities. As such, this General Plan needs to adequately address the existing trail system so that immediate actions can be implemented to alleviate visitor-use confusion and to better protect the Park’s resources

while funding is sought for future management planning efforts.





Minimal Impact

The Plan

3



PLAN OVERVIEW

The Plan Section establishes the long-range purpose and vision for the management of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Specific goals and guidelines denoted within this Section set the framework for the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences for the Park. These goals and guidelines will provide management guidance for the management zones that are being proposed for the Park (refer to page 91 for Management Zones). Specific facilities and capacities are not being provided but rather the general direction for the protection, preservation, restoration, and development of the Park are addressed. As time passes, with the advancement of technology and the discovery of new resource information, this document will remain flexible, allowing future managers to use the latest technology and resource information available to meet current circumstances and visitor-use patterns.

Additional management actions will be determined by future management plans.

Tentatively identified management plans include:

- Climbing Management Plan
- Fire Management Plan (update existing Plan)
- Camping Management Plan
- Interpretive Master Plan
- Cultural Resource Management Plan
- Collections Management Plan

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the Park. A declaration of purpose is required by the Public Resource Code, Section 5002.2 (b), and “setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the Park consistent with the Park’s classification...”

A Declaration of Purpose for the Park was created by the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan team:

The purpose of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is to preserve and explore crucial links, both to California’s past and to dwindling wildlife habitats, while providing visitors with quality recreational and educational experiences along its historic trails.

Framed by sculptural sandstone escarpments reminiscent of early California, the Park’s boulder-strewn landscape contains significant natural and cultural resources. Among these are critical wildlife habitats and linkages, segments of a historic Overland Stagecoach route, and other evidence of human occupation and activity dating back to precontact times.

Although named for the historic stage route, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park also offers links to many historic features within the greater Los Angeles Basin. In addition, the Park will solidify the vital role California State Parks has in maintaining diverse plant and wildlife populations in the face of expanding urban development and habitat fragmentation in southern California’s Transverse Mountain Ranges.

Its open space is a valuable resource as well as a welcoming sanctuary with outstanding recreational potential and links to adjacent open spaces.

PARKWIDE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

The following sections contain goals and guidelines for managing the significant natural resources of the Park. A few sections have over-arching goals that apply to several subsections. For example, Vegetation Management includes Native Plant Communities and Sensitive Plant Species. Each subsection will have guidelines that relate to the over-arching goal and to that specific subsection.

Essential to the realization of these goals is the periodic assessment of the status and conditions of key resources recognized as requiring protection and management within the Park. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has recently devised a process to assess the conditions of environmental complexes within units of the CDPR system, referred to as the Environmental Condition Assessment (ECA) process under the auspices of the natural resource Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Program and the Resource Management Program. In order to assure that natural resource management goals for the Park are reached, this process should be implemented to supplement the baseline data that were developed prior to this General Plan.

Land management decisions are complex, and detailed site-specific data are often unavailable. However, lack of, or delay of management actions for intensive studies or additional data can result in costly

damage or the irreversible loss of sensitive habitat or species, and qualities that provide a desirable visitor experience.

Land management actions will be based on sound scientific data. However, if such data do not currently exist and resource integrity appears in imminent danger, management action will be taken with the best available information and expertise of park staff and other associated experts.

PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Geology

The Park's geology is a direct result of its geological history and tectonism. Further documentation and preservation of fragile geological formations is important, and care must be taken to maintain their integrity.

Goal: Protect and preserve the unique geological resources and features of the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Support efforts to geologically map the stratigraphy and lithological formations and structural features in the Park. Management plans and decisions with respect to facilities development and visitor access and recreation must recognize, and accordingly mitigate, negative impacts to fragile geological features.
2. Identify and monitor significant geological features. Take protective measures where necessary.
3. Adequately and professionally manage and care for the geological collections.



4. Promote a better understanding and greater appreciation of the geological resources of the Park.
 - a. Develop criteria that identify geological features and resources appropriate for public interpretation.
 - b. Analyze geological resources and data to best interpret the geological history of the Park.
 - c. Develop partnerships with universities to further scientific research and educational opportunities. Incorporate results from scientific research into geological resource management.

Hydrology

Surface and groundwater quality, quantity, and natural hydrological patterns are essential elements for healthy biota in the Park. Much of the biota and many sensitive species throughout this region depend on isolated surface or subsurface waters.

Goal: Protect, enhance, and restore the Park’s potential wetlands and hydrologic resources.

Guidelines:

1. Protect the surface water and groundwater of the Park.
2. Identify the sources that degrade water quality and quantity within the watersheds associated with the Park. Ensure that current and future park developments and visitor-use patterns do not degrade water quality and quantity. Pursue cooperative actions with watershed neighbors and users to improve water conservation ethics, reduce or eliminate the discharge of

pollutants, and restore natural flow and hydrological processes.

3. Address strategies for stabilization and topographic restoration of severely eroded features and areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The present rate of decline and extinction of plants and animals supports the current global biodiversity crisis hypothesis. California has the greatest number of threatened and endangered species in the continental U.S. representing nearly every taxonomic group, from plants and invertebrates to birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. The South Coast Ecoregion of California has been identified as a “hot-spot,” or region where extraordinary biodiversity and endemism overlap with extreme potential of habitat destruction when compared to other regions around the earth.

CDPR has recently developed a process to assess the conditions of environmental complexes within units of the CDPR system. The Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Program (IMAP) provides goals, guidance, and standards for CDPR’s efforts to systematically evaluate the vegetation, wildlife, and physical natural resources of the CDPR system. In order to assure that natural resource management goals for the Park are reached, this process should be implemented to supplement the baseline data that were developed prior to this General Plan.

Vegetation Management

Historical management practices such as fire suppression and human encroachment have changed the species composition and ecological

conditions of native plant communities in the Park. Prior to the Topanga Fire in 2005, fire suppression had caused dense growth in chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation communities. Although most of the vegetation management concerns, goals, and guidelines are the same throughout the entire Park, consideration must be made for those areas that are recognized and/or recorded as cultural landscapes. The vegetation management guidelines for native plant communities and cultural landscapes are discussed within this section to illustrate the differences in management and resource protection.

Native Plant Communities

Seven native vegetation communities were identified within the Park. These vegetation communities are essential habitat for many plant and wildlife species. Within the Park, sensitive wetland resources are very limited in size. They are easily-disturbed habitats upon which many other plant and wildlife resources directly depend.

Goal: Promote and restore the sustainability of native plant communities.

Guidelines:

1. Develop scientifically based vegetation management objectives for issues such as habitat restoration and prescribed fire management;
2. Seek partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions, when appropriate, to implement a congruent plan for restoring and preserving park health.
3. Actively manage plant community health and development, while

maintaining the protection of cultural landscapes and resources. Efforts also will address the conservation of sensitive and unique species and the control of exotic invasive species

Sensitive Plant Species

Numerous plants that inhabit the Santa Susana Mountains are specifically adapted to these mountains and the isolating effects of urban development that present barriers to the movement of plant seeds, bulbs, and plantlets. Because of their limited distribution, environmental requirements, and often because of human impacts, these species become rare, threatened, or endangered.

Goal: Promote and restore the sustainability of sensitive plant species.

Guidelines:

1. Protect sensitive plant species, including those that are legally listed under federal and state laws as rare, threatened, or endangered, or that are species of concern. In addition, CDPR will protect those species that meet the legal requirements for listing, but are not listed (i.e., California Native Plant Society List 1B taxa and the federal candidates for listing), and those considered locally sensitive or endemic to the area. Protection may include, but is not limited to, habitat preservation, seed banking, restoration and enhancement, and visitor education.
2. Actively manage plant community health and development, while maintaining the protection of cultural landscapes and resources. Efforts also will address the



conservation of sensitive and unique species and the control of exotic invasive species

3. Implement additional sensitive plant surveys as funding becomes available to find previously unknown sensitive plant populations within the Park.
4. Conduct regular monitoring of known populations of sensitive species to track population trends and health through time. Consider propagation and reintroduction programs with the consultation and assistance of research institutions and other government agencies. Projects may require the formation of inter-agency partnerships to plan and implement conservation actions.
5. Avoid or minimize human activities that cause imbalances in the natural ecological system. Alternatively, conduct management activities, such as habitat restoration, that foster ecological balance.

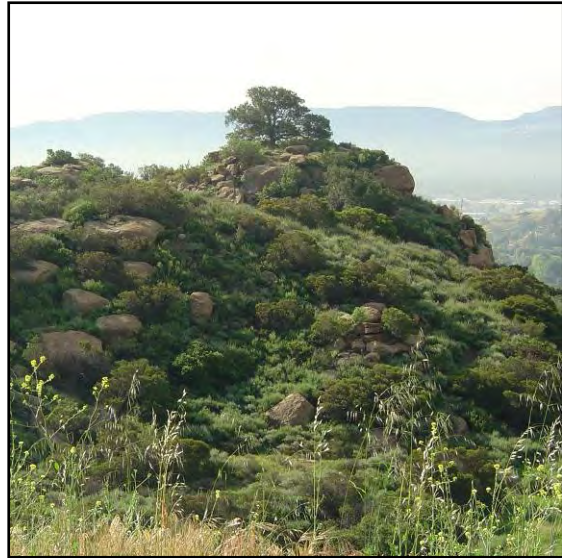
Goal: Develop and implement a scientifically sound protocol for sensitive plant surveys.

Guidelines:

1. Conduct sensitive plant surveys as part of the environmental review process for future projects.
2. Make it a priority to avoid or minimize cumulative negative effects on sensitive plant populations and their habitats.

Exotic Plant Control

Generally an invasive exotic plant is a species that is not known to have occurred previously in an area.



Scenic View

Invasive exotics pose a threat to native species and usually proliferate in the absence of natural ecological processes, often out-competing native plants for valuable resources.

The Santa Susana Mountains are known to harbor exotic plant taxa, and some have altered the ecological processes characteristic of that region. Exotic plant taxa can be spread by a variety of users and activities. Measures can be taken to minimize this and can result in a significant reduction in the introduction and spread of exotic species throughout the Park.

Equestrian riders can increase the threat and spread of exotic plants within the Park. Seed is spread when it is carried in animals' fur and when animals eliminate it after ingesting it in their food. Evidence exists that pack animal solid waste contributes to the introduction and spread of exotic plant species in addition to contributing to nuisance insect species along trails. Furthermore, removing as much as possible of the animals' solid waste

along trails can significantly reduce the introduction and spread of exotic species. Additionally, mountain bikes contribute to the spread of exotic species when seeds are carried in bike tires and on riders' clothes. Measures can be taken to help prevent this.

Goal: Reduce the presence and further invasion of exotic species in the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Develop an exotic plant species management plan and be vigilant about identifying, monitoring, and controlling exotic plant infestations that pose a threat to native habitat. Monitoring and control efforts may require cooperative work with neighboring landowners, including various local, state, and federal government agencies.
2. Adopt a policy congruent with federal agencies like the NPS, to evaluate regulations to reduce exotic introduction. The exotic plant species management plan will address the ability of bikes, horses, and other pack animals to carry and spread exotic plant seed throughout the Park. Removal of solid waste should be further examined within this management plan for their impact on the spread of exotic plant taxa.
3. Develop interpretation for Park visitors explaining how exotics, like mustard and thistle, have altered the Santa Susana Mountains landscape, ecology, and fire regime.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are geographic areas containing a variety of natural

and historic or ethnographic features. Cultural landscapes require multi-disciplinary management to preserve their integrity.

Guidelines:

1. Preserve cultural landscapes while undertaking goals to restore natural processes of the Park ecosystem. Environmental regulatory procedures used to evaluate natural resource management techniques (e.g., prescribed fire) prior to program implementation, will seek to avoid or minimize negative impacts to cultural resources.
2. California Department of Parks and Recreation staff, including park operations specialists, environmental scientists, and cultural specialists, will work cooperatively to manage the Park's cultural landscapes.
3. Provide interpretation for visitors of the Park's cultural landscapes that addresses the interrelationship of the associated natural and cultural features.

Wildlife

Numerous wildlife species, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals make their homes in association with particular plant communities, geology, or hydrological characteristics. Within native ecosystems, the presence of people and associated food, trash, and development can sustain and enhance populations of some species at the expense of other species, thus upsetting the natural ecological balance.

Goal: Perpetuate wildlife assemblages by protecting, restoring, and



interpreting the native terrestrial and aquatic animals within the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Avoid or minimize human activities that cause imbalances in natural ecological dynamics. Alternatively, conduct management activities, such as habitat restoration, that foster ecological balance.
2. Use sound methods of resource management to evaluate the need for individual animal or population regulation. Necessary to the regulation process is the development of specific management plans or programs that incorporate habitat modification and visitor education as the first means of population regulation. For example, CDPR can prevent the development of “nuisance behavior” by providing wildlife-proof garbage receptacles in any proposed campgrounds and picnic areas, and educating visitors about not feeding wildlife and the proper storage of camp food. Direct regulation will be carried out in accordance with the Department Operations Manual. Population regulation activities will be subject to environmental review, and disturbance to non-target native species and other features will be avoided or minimized.
3. Identify situations where native species are rare or rapidly declining and develop methods to protect such species and/or their habitats as stewards of the Park’s resources. Be proactive in biological conservation and not necessarily focus on species management when

other levels of biological organization may be more appropriate units of conservation. Manage for subspecies, evolutionary units, ecologically functional units, populations, metapopulations, biological landscapes, or other levels of biological organization if those appear to be the most practical units for conserving biodiversity. Incorporate proactive and protective treatment for rare and declining species into park stewardship and planning in accordance with CDPR’s mission and regional habitat conservation planning efforts. Habitat conservation planning efforts such as those adopted by local agencies, manage for multiple species within identified habitats to enhance overall ecological goals.

4. Ensure that the conservation of native wildlife is incorporated into all future developments, management plans, and visitor-use patterns throughout the Park, and that the protection of sensitive species and habitats receives the highest priority.
5. Actively incorporate inventory and monitoring efforts into land management actions. A major focus will be to quantify trends in species distribution and abundance, to document correlations between land management actions and biotic health, and to identify sensitive species and habitats. Management strategies will be developed to counteract declines or loss of native biota if those declines are the result of human actions and appear to indicate a compromised native species or ecological system.

Sensitive Animal Species

Goal: Protect all sensitive wildlife species occurring in the Park. Sensitive wildlife species include those legally listed under federal and state law as threatened or endangered, those that are CDFG species of concern, and those considered locally sensitive or endemic to the area.

Guidelines:

1. Preserve sensitive species and habitats and encourage their recovery. Comply with state and federal environmental legislation, Recovery Plans, and Critical Habitat enacted to protect this disappearing biota. Contribute to efforts that seek to “list” species that are in need of threatened or endangered designation, and work to extend Critical Habitat to appropriate regions within the Park.
2. Conduct regular monitoring of sensitive species to track the health and sustainability of sensitive animal populations in the Park. Projects may require the formation of interagency partnerships to plan and implement conservation actions.
3. Protect sensitive habitats and species from visitor uses such as equestrian activity, mountain biking, hiking, and other visitor uses not yet established in the Park. These activities will be appropriately planned for within these habitats or in association with these species such that the integrity of the habitat and the sensitive species is given highest priority.

Exotic Animal Control

Nonnative animal species have been shown to exert pressure on native species through predation and out-competing them for resources. Although this is not currently a major issue at the Park, it may become more problematic as development in the area increases. For example, domesticated or feral cats and nonnative cowbird are generally known to have a negative effect on native bird populations.

Guidelines:

1. Work to control exotic animals that are found to upset natural ecological dynamics of native species.
2. Conduct regular monitoring of exotic species to track the spread of ecologically damaging organisms. This may require cooperative work with neighboring landowners, including government agencies like the NPS.

Fire Management

Until Europeans settled the area, fire ignited by lightning and brush burning by Native Americans were major forces that shaped and maintained the health of plant communities. Before suppression, fire cycles promoted regeneration by opening the shrub canopy and reducing plant competition, burning off duff and litter to expose soil for seed germination, reducing insect pests and disease that kill woody plants, and aiding in nutrient recycling. In general, fire suppression has caused the development of dense vegetation, heavy loads of fuel and in some situations the unchecked invasion of exotic weeds.



Wildfire management is essential for human safety and the minimization of catastrophic fire damage to vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources of the Park. Historic fire suppression, methods of wildfire control, and the use of prescribed fire as a management tool are important park management issues. Fire suppression and a lack of prescribed burning has created a situation where natural lighting fires arising within the Park are continually extinguished by local fire suppression agencies out of fear for the safety of the neighboring communities. Today, wildfires fed by these high fuel loads and under dry, hot, or windy conditions are a threat to development and human safety.

Today, prescribed fires are used as a management tool to eliminate exotic weeds from native habitats, promote the growth of native plant species, and enhance wildlife habitat. Prescribed burning is the planned application of fire implemented under safe weather conditions to restore healthy ecosystems and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. By reintroducing fire cycles to the ecosystem, healthy landscape-level ecological dynamics are restored.

Coordination with California Department of Forestry (CDF) and local fire agencies is an important element in the Park's fire management strategy. CDPR will continue past cooperation with these agencies during fire events and share expertise incorporating the Park's fire data with those from other agencies into the Park's Geographic Information System (GIS) database. CDPR will also coordinate with CDF and local fire agencies when the Park's Wildfire Management Plan is updated.

Additionally, CDPR will work cooperatively with other agencies and strive to assist with fire management goals that provide a level of protection for both park lands and neighboring development through the placement of adequate buffers located outside of the Park's boundaries, particularly for new development projects.

Goal: Promote use of prescribed fire while protecting people, infrastructure development from catastrophic wildfire.

Guidelines:

1. Form cooperative partnerships with state and federal agencies, and research institutions/organizations to develop scientifically sound objectives and methodology for prescribed burning.
2. Communicate CDPR's prescribed fire methodology and intention to conduct burns to the public. In addition, fire's role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem will be interpreted for the Park's visitors.
3. Take educational and preventative measures with the public to minimize the risk of wildfires originating within and adjacent to the Park.
4. Work with other appropriate government agencies to implement wildfire management in the Park. Pertinent issues include methods of evacuation and infrastructure protection, modified fire suppression, and post-fire clean up and restoration procedures to meet CDPR management goals and sensitive resource protection.

Goal: Manage for fire cycles and fire management actions that

promote healthy ecological systems supportive of native biota.

Guidelines:

1. Avoid or minimize damage to sensitive resources before, during, and following prescribed burns. Form cooperative partnerships with state and federal agencies, and research institutions and organizations to develop scientifically sound objectives and methodology for prescribed burning.
2. Pursue a greater understanding of the relationship between wildfire, prescribed fire, fire suppression, fire control, and the ecological systems of the region.
3. Pursue fire management techniques that promote ecologically sound firebreaks or “buffer zones” (see Appendix D) between the Park and the neighboring communities. In cases where the adjacent land is currently developed or is planned for improvement, the footprint of these “buffer zones” should be implemented outside of the Park’s boundaries.
4. Avoid damage to sensitive resources before, during, and following prescribed burns. Public safety will be ensured through notification of intent to burn and compliance with appropriate prescribed burn guidelines.
5. Work with CDF and other appropriate agencies and groups to ensure that the sensitive resources within the Park are incorporated into regional wildfire management plans and actions. Pertinent topics to be discussed include methods of

prescribed fire, fire suppression and fire containment, and post-fire clean up and restoration procedures.

6. If consistent with the Department Operations Manual and other policies consider post-fire restoration of the Park’s natural resources in order to minimize further damage to the watershed and ecosystem. For example, seeding with nonnative species is not allowed.
7. In the event of a wildfire, implement suppression methods appropriate to the different vegetative communities and terrain.
8. Avoid or minimize damage to sensitive resources while implementing wildfire management. Fire fighting crews, equipment, and chemicals can inadvertently damage natural and cultural resources during and following fire fighting activities.

Wildfire

In general, fire suppression has caused the development of dense shrublands with much downed wood, heavy layers of litter and duff, and, in some situations, the unchecked invasion of exotic weeds. Today, wildfires fed by these high fuel loads and under dry, hot, or windy conditions are a threat to development and human safety. Wildfire management is essential for human safety and the minimization of catastrophic fire damage to vegetation, wildlife, and cultural resources in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. However, some wildfire management activities during suppression and post-fire cleanup may also cause damage to the Park’s resources.



Guidelines:

1. Take educational and preventative measures with the public to minimize the risk of wildfires originating within the Park.
2. Work with other appropriate government agencies to implement wildfire management in the Park. Pertinent issues include methods of evacuation and infrastructure protection, modified fire suppression, and post-fire cleanup and restoration procedures to meet CDPD management goals and sensitive resource protection.
3. Participate in municipal planning, zoning, and permitting in cooperation with city and county governments and local landowners for issues like development, vegetation, watershed, and wildfire management.
4. Implement suitable wildfire suppression methods appropriate to the different vegetative communities and terrain.
5. Fire fighting crews, equipment, and chemicals can inadvertently damage natural and cultural resources during and following fire fighting activities. Avoid or minimize damage to sensitive resources while implementing wildfire management.

Biocorridors

Biocorridors or linkages are interconnected tracts of land characterized by significant natural resource value through which native species can disperse. Corridors provide pathways for gene flow, seed dispersal, daily movement between habitats (home range movements), migration (seasonal

or altitudinal), and dispersal habitat for juveniles. Corridors can function at various temporal and spatial scales. Temporally, it allows for both daily and seasonal movements as well as movements over many generations. Spatially, corridors can function on regional, landscape/ecosystem (landscape size can vary), or at smaller scale such as home range.

Though natural landscapes have an inherent degree of connectivity, recent (past 50 years) habitat alteration has greatly reduced this connectivity. Establishing connections between isolated or fragmented habitat patches is essential for sustaining natural ecological processes, population viability, and biological diversity. The Park functions as part of a regional bio-corridor complex. South Coast Wildlands, working with CDPD and other federal, state, and local agencies has identified Santa Susana Pass as a major dispersal corridor for numerous wildlife and plant species.

Only two locations exist where undeveloped land occurs on opposite sides of SR 118. One is at the west end of Simi Valley and the second with Rocky Peak Park located north of SR 118 and Corriganville Park and Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park located south of SR 118.

Mountain lions are known to use the Corriganville equestrian tunnel to cross SR 18 from Rocky Peak Park into Corriganville Park and potentially east into Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Two lions were collared and monitored by the National Park Service and both of these lions were observed (via radio telemetry) using the Corriganville wildlife tunnel at least 18 times.

To maintain the function of this passageway as a wildlife linkage, any improvements to park facilities should be low impact such as no night lighting, retaining dirt parking lots, no fencing that block large mammal movements through the Park, and limited day-use facilities.

The Santa Susana Pass Wash is culverted under SR 118 just east of the caretaker's residence at the KidsFutureNow! parcel and is approximately 500 feet long. This wildlife passageway is used frequently by raccoons to cross under SR 118 but is not appropriate to accommodate large mammals. This site would be an excellent corridor if improvements were to be made such as removal of the current corrugated metal pipe culvert and replacement with a large natural bottomed box culvert which would allow for passage of medium to large size mammals.

Facilitating the movement of plants and animals within the Park and throughout the region outside of the Park is imperative to preserving natural ecosystem dynamics and regional biodiversity. California Department of Parks and Recreation will continue to support and work towards the preservation, protection, enhancement, and identification of regional landscape linkages that connect the Park to other wildland areas. California Department of Parks and Recreation will advocate the protection of key parcels within identified landscape linkages through acquisition or other conservation mechanisms, and incorporate departmental defensive planning policies for projects that decrease the viability of such landscape linkages. It is a standard practice of California

Department of Parks and Recreation to acquire property from willing sellers.

Goal: Maintain and enhance the movement and dispersal of native animals and plants through the Park and the regional ecosystems.

Guidelines:

1. Maintain high standards for ecosystem health and biodiversity by protecting plant and animal habitat and dispersal corridors in the Park.
2. Coordinate with local communities, county, state, and federal agencies, research institutions, and relevant organizations to develop an ecologically sound regional bio-corridor system. In addition, CDPR will discourage urban, suburban, and infrastructure planning that does not consider, through avoidance or mitigation, the degradation and fragmentation of habitat.
3. Promote coordination and actively work with other agencies and property owners to acquire or secure land acquisitions to ensure key biocorridors are preserved or enhanced.
4. Promote natural resource preservation by recognizing the importance of sustainable species populations and their genetic diversity. Inventory and monitoring of the Park's natural resources and human impacts will be done at regular intervals to assess and document the health of species that rely on large areas to live, hunt, and disperse. Furthermore, CDPR will participate with government



agencies and research institutions in regional resource monitoring.

5. Interpret the ecological significance of biocorridors, with emphasis on the Park and the surrounding region for Park visitors.

Buffers

Buffers, such as dedicated municipal open space, are relatively low-use areas between adjacent development and park boundaries. Buffers separate conflicting land uses, like residential and park lands, and protect natural habitats from destructive impacts.

Some types of land use outside of the Park's boundaries cause significant negative impacts to the Park. Impacts may include exotic species invasion; the spread of wildfire; air, soil, and water pollution; noise pollution; predation and competition for resources by domestic pets; and the loss of habitat for plants and animals that spread outside the boundaries of the Park.

Goal: As regional development pressures increase, establish, maintain, and protect buffers adjacent to the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Plan with neighboring land and business owners, communities, and city, county, state, and federal agencies to develop and maintain a buffer system along the outer edge of the Park's boundaries.
2. Work with the above constituents to minimize threats of wildfire in the community and maximize the value of local pollution control and education programs.

3. Form partnerships with neighbors, public agencies, and private businesses to plant native or non-invasive horticultural plant species in the vicinity of the Park.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological Sites (Prehistoric and Historic)

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park includes 46 recorded archaeological resources. Ten of these sites fall within the National Register boundaries for the stage route and its associated features and landscape. The stage route was also declared Los Angeles City Historical Cultural Monument #92, Ventura County Historical Landmark #104, and a California State Point of Historical Interest. Other sites within the Park are potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register and/or the California Register of Historical Resources, or hold highly sensitive resources, such as burials, cremations, and rock formations. Several historical archaeological sites are also located within the Park and reflect the various historical land uses of the Santa Susana Pass area (also see Historic Resources below).

Goal: Identify, document, and evaluate archaeological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

1. Develop an ongoing program for archaeological survey, site recordation and evaluation, GPS mapping, and preparation of records and reports for the cultural resources within the Park.
2. Nominate those cultural resources that may be eligible for inclusion in

the existing National Register and/or the California Register of Historical Resources designation boundaries (either as individual sites, historic districts, or as cultural landscapes).

3. Locate descendants of families who lived or worked within the Park. Include homesteaders, quarry workers, movie makers, etc. Conduct oral history interviews with those who are still living. The information gained from the interviews will complement and expand upon existing historical data on early park use.
4. Promote cooperative research ventures with local educational institutions and other governmental agencies to complement site documentation, evaluation, and analysis needs.

Goal: Protect, stabilize, and preserve the archaeological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

1. Prepare a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to identify, evaluate, and protect historically significant cultural resources, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties. The CRMP will include many of the following guidelines.
2. Identify procedures for careful planning of all undertakings, including routine maintenance and new facility development, to avoid or minimize significant impacts to cultural resources within the Park. Planning should include archaeological and historical research and consultation with

Native Americans and/or other cultural groups as appropriate.

3. Develop measures to protect cultural resources during wildfire incidents, flood events, earthquakes, or other natural disasters and procedures for assessing damages after a natural disaster event. Archaeological sites most vulnerable to such damage, such as those located along drainages and gullies, those with dense surface artifact distributions, those with combustible materials, etc., will be identified.
4. Provide cultural resource training to patrol rangers and make locations of previously recorded cultural sites known to them so that they can monitor site conditions and watch for deterioration and/or vandalism.
5. Assess the effects of visitor use (camping, unauthorized collecting, vandalism, vehicles, hiking, dirt bikes, mountain bikes, horses, and other potential modes of transportation) and natural erosion on archaeological sites. Mitigative measures should be implemented where appreciable damage to sites is identified. Such measures can include site-specific closures, moving roads and trails or damaging activities away from archaeological sites, revegetation, sign placement, fencing, site burial, security monitoring, and other methods. Certain types of cultural resources (such as rock art) require highly specialized treatments by trained conservators.
6. Establish a program for periodic examination, assessment, and evaluation of cultural resources



within the Park. Examinations should be conducted by a qualified state archaeologist and should include documentation of site and features through photographs, measurements, and GPS recordation. Condition monitoring/assessment records and updated site forms should be prepared and submitted to document observed changes.

7. Establish a site stewardship program whereby volunteers are trained to protect archaeological sites through periodic visitation and recognition and recordation of vandalism and other threats. This program can be based on the model established by the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program or another successful stewardship program.
8. Identify lands containing significant historical resources outside of the Park for potential acquisition. Archaeological sites and historic properties should be specifically chosen to complement those already within the Park.
9. Develop a program for cultural resource protection in conjunction with agencies or companies with right-of-way access within or adjacent to the Park. Those agencies or outside entities that may operate within or next to the Park include, Southern California Edison, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Calleguas Water District, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, California Department of Transportation, Shell Oil Company, Los Angeles County Roads, Oakwood Memorial Park, and

others. Program should include communication during planning phases of projects or work that may have the potential to affect cultural resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Goal: Educate the public and interpret the archaeological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

1. Conduct site studies to determine if onsite interpretation programs (signs, tours, education programs, etc.) should be developed for those archaeological features that are currently in or adjacent to existing trails, proposed trails, or proposed facilities such as day-use parking, trail heads, or campgrounds.
2. Develop a program of education in cultural resource sensitivity for local schools, community groups, park neighbors, and other regular visitors. Program should be developed in conjunction with Native American groups where possible.
3. Incorporate information about the importance of cultural resource protection into the interpretation and signage for the Park. For example, have signs directing mountain bike users to walk their bikes down the portions of the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road that are steep and subject to damage.

ETHNOGRAPHIC SITES

The Park is within the traditional territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva and Fernandeño, although the territories of the Tataviam and Ventureño Chumash are close by. These groups have areas

of cultural and/or religious significance within the Park. Ethnographic accounts indicate that there were places the Gabrielino/Tongva, Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Ventureño Chumash considered being of special cultural or religious significance including mountains, springs, rock outcroppings, and other natural formations. The Fernandeño legend of the Gavilán takes place within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Goal: Identify and interpret the ethnographic uses of and resources in Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and protect these culturally significant places.

Guidelines:

1. Work with local Native American groups, historical accounts, and ethnographic records to identify traditional cultural properties including sites of special cultural and/or religious significance that are located within the Park.
2. Record the traditional cultural properties that are within the Park through consultation with the Gabrielino/Tongva, Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Ventureño Chumash.
3. Develop interpretation and education programs in conjunction with the Gabrielino/Tongva, Fernandeño, Tataviam, and Ventureño Chumash to highlight their cultures, their continuing presence, and their long-time use of and association with Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and its resources.

HISTORIC RESOURCES (STRUCTURES, SITES, AND LANDSCAPES)

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park includes a number of locally and regionally significant historic resources including historic archaeological sites. They represent various historic activities that have helped shape the Park's cultural landscape for over 235 years. Scattered throughout the Park are the remains of sites, features, and artifacts relating to late-18th to mid-20th Century transportation, homesteading, sandstone rock quarrying, motion picture and television production activities.

Goal: Ensure the highest level of appropriate measures to stabilize, preserve, and protect Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park's historic resources, focusing on areas of exceptional historical significance

Guidelines:

1. Develop an inventory, mapping, and informational database for those historic resources within the Park that may be eligible for addition to the current California Register of Historic Resources and the National Register boundaries.
2. Evaluate historical features and sites (identified through cultural resource surveys) prior to any development or removal. Additional studies such as archival research, detailed site and structure recordation and mapping, and subsurface testing will occur at any project or undertaking that would disturb a known or potential



historical site, feature, or landscape.

3. Develop managerial procedures based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, particularly regarding the Treatment of Historic Landscapes; PRC 5024; Executive Order W-26-92; and the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Resource Management Directives to protect the Park's historic resources.
4. Consider the acquisition of additional land from willing sources that contain historic resources linked to those within the Park. Consider acquiring additional land that might act as a buffer for the protection of especially significant historic sites or landscape features within the Park.

Goal: Ensure the highest level of appropriate measures to interpret Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park's historic resources, focusing on areas of exceptional historical significance

Guidelines:

1. Undertake site studies to determine if onsite interpretation programs (signs, tours, education programs, etc.) should be developed for those historic archaeological features that are currently in or adjacent to existing trails, proposed trails, or proposed facilities such as day-use parking, trail heads, or campgrounds.
2. Locate descendants of families who lived or worked within the Park. Include homesteaders, quarry workers, movie makers, etc. Conduct oral history interviews

with those who are still living. The information gained from the interviews will complement and expand upon existing historical data on early park use and be used for developing interpretation and education programs for the Park.

3. Identify the historic significance and potential eligibility of the Park's historic resources under one or more of the following National Register "contextual themes" (not to be confused with the interpretive themes that can be found under the Interpretation section on page 76). These "themes" are representative of the Park's historical development:

a. Transforming the Environment

- i. Examines the continuous interaction between people and the environment where they lived and worked.
- ii. Collectively conveying particular times and places showing the Park's linear evolution regarding its historic transportation, homesteading, and stone quarrying activities.

b. Developing the American Economy

- i. Reflects the ways in which people have engaged in economic activities
- ii. Historic archaeological evidence may possibly provide information about the lives, culture, and ethnicity of those who lived and worked within what is now Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

- c. Expressing Cultural Values
 - i. Peoples' expression of their culture, whether about themselves or the world they inhabit
 - ii. These may include potential cultural landscapes, including historic sites, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes with intrinsic natural features and wildlife.

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Roads

One of the most significant historical impacts to the natural landscape was the establishment of stage and wagon roads over the Simi Hills, linking Chatsworth and the San Fernando Valley with Simi Valley. Surviving elements of two such roads, the Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road (the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road) and its 1895 replacement, the New Chatsworth Grade Road (*El Camino Nuevo*).

Goal: Preserve and interpret the regionally unique and significant sites and features associated with the historical stage roads within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

1. Prepare a site management plan to establish resource protection and operational goals, identify threats (vandalism, trail use, etc.), and to establish an interpretation program for these sites and the surrounding landscape.
2. Base preservation treatments on professional standards and primary

research to identify and interpret historic fabric or features.

3. Develop a program for archaeological survey, site recordation and evaluation, GPS mapping, and preparation of records and reports for potentially historic stagecoach road segments both inside and outside the present National Register designation boundaries.

Goal: Promote a better understanding and a greater appreciation for the historical use of the geological resources within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

Guidelines:

1. Conduct contextual study of the Park's inherent geologic resources for best means of interpreting and promoting the historic sandstone rock quarry sites' geological history.
2. Develop interpretive themes to enhance the public's understanding of late 19th to early 20th century sandstone rock quarrying activities within the Park.
3. Establish cooperative arrangements with educational institutions and local and state groups to assist and enhance research and educational opportunities within the historic quarry areas, while maintaining a nondestructive, nonimpactive, and safe learning environment that sustains multigenerational opportunities.
4. Alter, curtail, or eliminate visitor and CDPR staff activities within and adjacent to historic sandstone rock quarry areas that produce significant and/or recurrent impacts



on their fragile geologic resources and their inherent values.

COLLECTIONS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquires and maintains collections for several reasons including preservation of elements of the natural and cultural environment of the Park; documentation of the people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the Park's purpose; scientific research values; and to support interpretive programs. Numerous artifacts, records, photographs, specimens, and other items of cultural or natural significance have been collected or have accumulated over the years and are currently stored within CDPR facilities or at other institutions. Many of these collections do not have any specific storage location and no special preservation measures have been taken, thus putting these resources in danger of deterioration and/or loss.

Goal: Provide for collections of cultural and natural artifacts from Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park that support the Declaration of Purpose and CDPR's Mission.

Guidelines:

1. The following are the Guidelines for Collections and the Collections Management Objectives for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park:

Cultural and natural collections at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park should have specific associations to the cultural or natural history of the Park, intrinsic educational or scientific value, and/or provide support for interpretive themes and programs.

Geological and paleontological materials, natural history specimens of Park flora and fauna, archaeological materials, and historical objects such as furnishings, architectural elements, equipment, or personal items associated with Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park or important people or organizations connected with the Park, are all potential collection items. Historical collections may include items of the Native American era, stagecoach and homestead eras, quarrying and ranching eras, early movie era, and park development and early recreational eras.

2. Only collect natural, geological, and cultural materials in a manner consistent with the guidelines contained in the Department Operations Manual, the Cultural Resources Management Handbook, and the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Scope of Collections Statement. Collection practices should also comply with professional standards, and applicable state and federal laws, authorizations, and regulations.
3. Collections-based research should be supported and encouraged.
4. The return of specimens and museum objects collected from Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park lands that are held by other state offices, institutions, and agencies should be sought.

Goal: Provide for adequate preservation and curation of specimens, artifacts, records, photographs, and other collected items of cultural or natural significance.

Guidelines:

1. A collections inventory system and management plan will be developed for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park, following the policies outlined in the Cultural Resource Management Handbook and the Department Operations Manual (DOM) Chapter 20: Museum Collections Management.
2. C DPR will establish safe and secure spaces for curation and/or display of Park collections based on professional preservation guidelines. Appropriate locations for such curation facilities should be included in the development of a new visitor center or other similar facilities.
3. Collections facilities will be maintained at the highest possible C DPR *Museum Collections Facility Index* standards. C DPR's *Museum Collections Management Handbook* and *CRM Handbook* guidelines for practices and procedures will be followed.
4. Those collections not able to be curated at the Park or District should be sent to a professional and reasonably accessible repository.
5. All data associated with cultural and natural collections will be compiled, verified, archived, and made accessible to qualified, responsible users.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource. Through interpretation, the Park

provides experiences, information, direction, and stewardship opportunities for visitors. People become advocates when they go through the process of awareness, exposure, involvement, understanding, and empowerment.

The interpretive mission of the Park is to provide interpretive programs, facilities, and media that communicate the inherent significance of the natural and cultural resources of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and create an ethic of park sustainability and stewardship. This mission can be achieved through the incorporation of the following periods, themes, goals, and guidelines as the basis for future interpretive/educational programs and facilities. Also refer to the Goals and Guidelines in the Historic Resources section to further understand the transformation of the environment, the development of the American economy, and the expression of cultural values of the varied residents.

Interpretive Period

The primary interpretive period of 1859 to 1895 represents the era of stagecoach travel along the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road, and homesteading within the current Park boundaries.

Periods of secondary importance include: the Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric periods when Native Chumash, Tongva, and Tataviam peoples lived in the Santa Susana Pass area; from 1892-1915 when people applied technology and equipment to extract, process, and transport raw materials from mines and quarries within the Park; and from 1917-1970 when producers used the Chatsworth Hills area as a popular location for



creating motion pictures and television series.

Unifying Theme

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is a retreat from urban life with a long history as a transportation corridor for plants, animals, and humans of the western San Fernando Valley, greater Los Angeles region, and beyond.

- **Primary Theme: Transportation, Communication, and Commerce**

Located at the crossroads between regions, cultures, and resources, Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park has provided a route for transportation, communication, and commerce throughout human history.

- **Primary Theme: Geology**

The unique geology of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park influences the diversity, survival, and settlement patterns of plants, animals, and humans.

- **Primary Theme: Natural Resources**

Reminiscent of the early California landscape, the Park is a natural resource sanctuary at the edge of one of the most populated regions of California.

- **Secondary Theme: Exploration and Settlement**

Native Americans, homesteaders, and others explored the area and established communities and single residences within the Park's boundaries.

- **Secondary Theme: Agriculture and Industry**

Agricultural and industrial activities, such as food procurement and processing, stone tool manufacturing, farming, and quarrying affected individuals, communities, and regional economies.

- **Secondary Theme: Movies and Television**

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park's rugged landscape played a role in early motion picture and television history.

- **Secondary Theme: Environmental Conservation**

Environmental conservation, historic preservation, commemoration, and other forms of resource stewardship aided in the acquisition and creation of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

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Goal: Develop new themes for interpretive and educational programs and facilities using the most current interpretive philosophy and knowledge of the Park's resources.

Guidelines:

1. Develop interpretation of transportation, communication, and commerce that explores:
 - a) Native American commerce and cultural exchange.
 - b) Historic trails, stagecoach and wagon routes.
 - c) Historic equestrian use and support activities.
 - d) The human experience of traveling in a stagecoach during the historic period.

- e) The development of transportation technology.
- f) The development of the American economy and the exchange of goods and ideas.
2. Develop interpretation of geological resources that explores:
- a) Formation of geological features including rock formations and mountain ranges.
- b) The cultural and religious value of the natural landscape as a traditional Gabrielino/Tongva and Fernandeano territory.
- c) Impacts of cultural or commercial activities such as quarrying.
- d) Adaptation of humans, animals, and plants to geologic change.
- g) The correlation between extreme elevation changes in the Park and the diversity of habitat.
3. Develop interpretation of natural resources that explores:
- a) The importance of open space and biocorridors for the diversity and health of ecosystems.
- b) Adaptation of native plants and animals to their environment.
- c) Human impacts to the natural environment.
- d) Sensitive and endangered species.
- e) Vegetation communities as essential habitat for many plant and animal species.
- f) Threat of invasive exotics to native plants and animals.
4. Develop interpretation of exploration and settlement history that explores:
- a) Native American village life and land use.
- b) Expression of cultural values.
- c) Historic resources related to homesteading and other historic settlements.
- d) The human transformation of the environment.
5. Develop interpretation of agricultural and industrial history that explores:
- a) Native American food procurement, processing, and stone tool manufacturing.
- b) The history of agriculture; raising livestock and crops.
- c) The history and significance of quarrying at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.
6. Develop interpretation of television and motion picture history that explores:
- a) Pioneer film production, particularly Westerns.
- b) Location of Miranda Homestead.
- c) Association with noted producers, directors, and actors.
- d) Movie ranches, especially Spahn Ranch.
- e) Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park as a popularly known landscape used by television and film crews.



7. Develop interpretation of resource conservation that explores:

- a) The preservation, maintenance, and management of natural and manmade resources.
- b) Stories of the individuals and groups that contributed to the Park's creation and development.
- c) Resource management and preservation techniques.
- d) How and what we can learn from the Park's resources.

Goal: Create a comprehensive strategy for park interpretation and educational programs that will help to establish a culture of sustainability in which practices that preserve the environment and enhance individuals' quality of life become part of every day living.

Guidelines:

1. Establish an interdisciplinary Interpretive Improvement Team to provide guidance and coordination and help assure continuous improvement for interpretation throughout the Park.
2. Develop an Interpretive Master Plan for the Park. Use the CDPR Workbook for Planning Interpretive Projects in preparing comprehensive interpretive plans for the Park.
3. Develop a Scope of Collections Statement to identify which objects the Park is to collect and how they will be managed. Follow the CDPR Guidelines for Writing a Scope of Collections Statement.
4. Establish a program to preserve and interpret the personal stories and

experiences of the people associated with the area's multi-faceted history. Use methods such as oral history, written narratives, and photographs, maintaining a current contact list.

5. Develop and implement strategies to strengthen the community, volunteer and cooperating associations.

Goal: Assist CDPR in meeting its goal of increased diversity by reducing barriers, strengthening partnerships, and providing interpretive facilities and programs that encourage public participation.

Guidelines:

1. Provide meaningful interpretation that incorporates multiple perspectives, including those of the Park visitor.
2. Create accessible interpretive facilities and programs, including a well-trained staff, which can effectively provide educational and interpretive services that meet visitors' diverse needs. Employ guidelines outlined in *All Visitors Welcome: Accessibility in State Park Interpretive Programs and Facilities*.
3. Identify strategies and implementation methods for removing barriers of language, education, and economic classes during the interpretive planning phases of the Park.
4. Coordinate interpretive programming with other parks in the Los Angeles region, enhancing significant stories associated with the area's cultural heritage, such as

Pío Pico State Historic Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, Topanga State Park, Malibu Creek State Park, Los Angeles State Historic Park and Rio de Los Angeles State Park.

5. Develop outreach efforts with community groups in order to strengthen and acquire partnerships to advance interpretive programs. Current and potential partners include: local historical and archaeological societies; Native American tribes and organizations; Chambers of Commerce; local, regional, and nonprofit organizations with similar or complementary goals; schools, colleges and universities; other state, local, and federal parks; concessionaires; and government agencies.

Goal: Explore non-intrusive, traditional, new, and innovative technologies or techniques for developing the Park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

Guidelines:

1. Consider naming park features and trails to reflect the cultural or natural significance of the area.
2. Develop guided and self-guided tours of the Park that enhance traditional and new recreational activities.
3. Explore the use of portable electronic devices to interpret the cultural and natural resources of the area.
4. Develop an effective and comprehensive education program

to promote visitor safety and resource protection.

5. Create a publishing program to develop traditional and/or electronic publications about the Park's resources.

Goal: Use interpretive facilities and signage to orient visitors to the Park and emphasize that Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is one of the 278 parks currently within the CDPR system.

Guidelines:

1. Develop a park-wide sign plan for regulatory, informational, and interpretive signage to coordinate the appearance of the signs, minimize impacts to the resources, and meet multiple language needs. Signs and other media should be low impact and maintained, repaired, replaced, or updated with relative ease.
2. Use the area's natural and cultural features as design references for developing interpretive facilities.
3. Strive to achieve park management goals through interpretation, including public safety, land use, critical resources, human impacts, resource management strategies, and other issues.



VISITOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT

VISITOR USE

This General Plan will provide the desired conditions of the Park's visitors' experience via the establishment of management zones (refer to page 91). These desired condition combined with the future monitoring of visitor-use levels at the Park, will be part of an on-going dynamic planning process whereby future park management can adjust and readjust to the changing conditions, such as demographics and visitor-use patterns.

Goal: Provide for diverse recreational use while protecting the scenic experience and cultural and natural resources.

Guidelines:

1. With trail use being the current major visitor use at the Park, CDPR will maximize the interpretive opportunities along the proposed trail system.
2. Recreational use or activities that adversely impact or encourage peripheral impacts to the cultural and natural resources of the Park and can be considered "attractions in and of themselves" will not be permitted.
3. Park operations and security shall be examined to alleviate impacts to the park resources as well as the surrounding communities.
4. Invest future funding and/or work with volunteer groups or local stakeholders to establish a monitoring system of the park resources. If the desired conditions

established within this General Plan begin to impact or compromise the Park's resources, Park management should respond accordingly for the protection and/or enhancement of the resources.

RECREATIONAL USES

Trail System

An analysis of the existing trail system, which included field reconnaissance and the preliminary study of topographic data, was implemented to develop a conceptual trail system. Additional analysis of the proposed trails will be required as visitor use and the general use of the Park increases; however, a conceptual trail system is being proposed for immediate resource protection and enhanced recreational use.

The conceptual trail system, made up of fourteen trails, uses the following trail hierarchy:

- Primary Routes of Travel: cross-terrain routes that connect one entrance to another or include key or vantage points (e.g., Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road, El Camino Nuevo, Powerhouse Road, Mattingly Trail, Williams Trail).
- Secondary Connectors: important, but shorter routes that offer convenience or connect the Primary Routes to additional access points and certain landscape features not on Primary Routes (e.g., Bannon Quarry Trail, Chatsworth Wagon Road, Hill-Palmer Trail, Sanchez Trail, Miranda Trail, Waterfall Trail)
- Interpretive and Scenic Loops: localized loops that allow access to special features, vantage points, or development of focus interpretive

themes or topic (e.g., De La Ossa Interpretive Trail, Ancestor Interpretive Trail, Upland Meadow Loop Trail).

As part of the above mentioned hierarchy, the trail system was further delineated by type of trail use. Identification of trail use was desired to address public safety and liability issues (especially along steep gradient trails), enhance interpretation opportunities, and to evoke the historic significance of the Park's cultural features.

The proposed user designations are as follows:

- Multi-use Trails: equestrian, bicycle, and hiking
- Trail: equestrian and hiking
- Hiking Only: hiking

The fourteen trails were either based upon existing trails or resulted from preliminary analysis and the public's input. To assist in their identification, trail names reflect their historical use, association with pioneer families who homesteaded in the area, or special scenic natural features.

Included in the first group is the Ancestor Interpretive Trail, which is dedicated to the native peoples who first settled in the area. Five trails are remnants of historic roads that crisscross the Park. A former Spanish Mission trail, the National-Register-of-Historic-Places-listed Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road was an important wagon road connecting Los Angeles to San Francisco via Santa Susana Pass from 1861-1895. Its successor, El Camino Nuevo offered a less-harrowing alternate route from 1895 to 1917. The Chatsworth Wagon Road provided access from the town of

Chatsworth to the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road from 1888 to the opening of El Camino Nuevo. Powerhouse Road reportedly dates back to 1902, when it provided access to a powerhouse used during the construction of one of the Southern Pacific railroad tunnels at its terminus. Heavy horse-drawn wagons carrying cut dimensional stone and rip rap from the historic Chatsworth Park Stone Quarry site utilized what is now the Bannon Quarry Trail to a railroad spur track from 1892 to 1915. Six Park trails commemorate the efforts of several pioneer families that tried to eke out a living from the rocky hills between 1858 and 1915. These include the De La Ossa Interpretive Trail, and the Mattingly, Williams, Hill-Palmer, Sanchez, and Miranda Trails. The two remaining trails, the Upland Meadow Loop Trail and the Waterfall Trail, are named, respectively, after an upland meadow and seasonal waterfall.

All fourteen trails are in need of varied levels of improvement and maintenance; from general erosion control measures, to diversion of runoff, to the improvement of steps along steep grades. These improvements and maintenance measures shall be part of the immediate public use improvements when funds become available, and part of the long term trail management.

Of particular note are two trails: the Miranda Loop Trail and the final southeast segment of the Williams Trail, which enters the Park from Chatsworth Park North. Both of these trail alignments are very conceptual in nature and must be furthered analyzed to determine the most suitable trail route.



Guidelines:

1. Examine and monitor visitor-use levels on the conceptual trail system to determine visitor-use impacts to natural and cultural resources. Also, implement visitor-use surveys to seek feedback of the conceptual trail system.
2. Maintain involvement with the regional planning efforts, especially with the City of Los Angeles, the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor agency, and Rancho Simi Recreation to ensure the Park remains a vital connection to surrounding open spaces.
3. Develop in conjunction with the Gateway Zone and Secondary Access Points, an identity and wayfinding system that enhances the trail access points. The wayfinding system should examine the use of signage and electronic technology such as the Ipod system. The use of electronic technology will assist the Park in meeting one of the other goals of the Preferred Plan; of minimizing development and visual impacts of the site.
4. Build upon the proposed trail hierarchy system while protecting and interpreting the Park's cultural and natural resources, as well as taking advantage of the Park's aesthetics and recreational opportunities.
5. Develop interpretive programs consistent with the conceptual trail system. By applying historic, cultural, and other resource consideration, the interpretive programs should work seamlessly with the proposed trail designations.
6. Work with the CDPR Accessibility Section to assess the trail system to identify potential accessible trails. Due to the steep topography and terrain, the "range" of accessibility will need to be carefully analyzed to provide some degree of universal accessibility to the available resources and experiences.
7. Encourage adherence of trail use designations through education (e.g., signage, interpretive programs, and trail brochures) and through appropriate designing of trail nodes. A node is where two different trail uses meet. To encourage respect for the different uses, the nodes should be aesthetically designed to denote the different uses. Adding a hitching post at a clearing or providing an informal seating area for a small group gathering are two possibilities in developing trail nodes.
8. Minimize conflict between bicycles and pedestrians along the multi-use trails. Appropriate education and signage will be required along extremely steep trails where the speed of bicycles will conflict with pedestrian path of travel. Bicyclists will be required to dismount at certain locations to alleviate such conflicts.

Goal: Trail maintenance and repair is crucial for the success and longevity of any system, and as such, the prioritization of trail maintenance projects is a necessity.

Guidelines:

1. Annual trail maintenance funding should be secured to allow annual maintenance, which includes clearing of brush, addressing surface erosion, trail surface repair, and improving wayfinding signage.
2. Temporary closures of trails will be allowed to provide for trail maintenance or to improve existing trails for public safety.
3. Follow Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for historic preservation regarding maintenance procedures on all historic roads and trails.
4. Work with archaeologists and Native Americans prior to undertaking trail maintenance to ensure avoidance of significant impacts to archaeological sites that are bisected by existing trails.
5. Due to limited staffing at the Park, CDPR should work jointly with volunteer groups or adjoining agencies to develop a volunteer trail monitoring group to observe, assess, and report trail conditions to CDPR staff.

Camping

A 2002 study entitled "Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California" found that camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables was the leading recreational activity that Californians would have done more

often if opportunities had been available to them. Several camping or overnight-use opportunities are feasible within the Gateway Zone, North Forty Zone, and the Scenic Ridge Zone at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

The Spahn Ranch site along Santa Susana Pass Road, located in the North Forty Zone, offers the most opportunities for vehicular access and the development of related overnight programs and facilities. Its history as a "dude" and "movie" ranch offers opportunities to incorporate these themes into any future development.

Goal: Develop limited camping opportunities within the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Implement additional resources studies of the proposed camping sites denoted within the Preferred Plan to determine the impacts and appropriate capacity of the sites.
2. Limit primitive camping opportunities within the core of the Park, while examining more developed campsites including alternate-type camping on the perimeter of the Park, to minimize visual and resource impacts.
3. If camping is determined to be appropriate within the Scenic Ridge Zone it will only be implemented at designated campsites.
4. Consider fire hazards when selecting sites.

Climbing

Climbing, which includes scrambling on boulders and face climbing, is popular in surrounding areas, especially the adjacent Stoney Point



Park along Topanga Canyon Boulevard. This activity is beginning to extend into Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Careful analysis of the potential impacts to the Park needs to be implemented.

Goal: Evaluate climbing impacts to rock outcrops, cultural resources, and cliff-dwelling species.

Guidelines:

1. Allow climbing where the activity itself or access to the climbing area does not impact significant natural and cultural resources. Climbing is not allowed in the Primary Historic Zone.
2. Work cooperatively with climbing groups and local stakeholders to develop a management plan for climbing based upon identification of sensitive natural and cultural resources.
3. Flaking, drilling, bolting, or any other method that causes physical damage to the boulders will not be allowed.

Equestrian Use

There is a large amount of equestrian recreational use in the Park and throughout the surrounding areas. Currently, equestrians must park their vehicles and trailers along roadways such as Valley Circle Boulevard, unload their horses, and ride along the streets to access the Park. An equestrian staging area or areas would be a welcome benefit for equestrians and should be examined.

At present, equestrian use is allowed on all trails that are deemed safe by CDPR staff. To better manage, interpret, and protect the Park's natural and cultural resources, restoration

measures need to be implemented for the protection of these resources.

Goal: Examine the impacts of equestrian use on the natural and cultural resources, and prescribe restoration measures.

Guidelines:

1. Permit equestrian use only along designated trails.
2. Continually evaluate equestrian use and modify or remove uses that cause erosion and soil compaction. Input from equestrian user groups will be obtained if deemed necessary by future management plans regarding equestrian activities.
3. Explore providing an equestrian staging area in the North Forty Zone.
4. Provide hitching posts at trail nodes where different trail use is being proposed, so equestrian users can dismount.

Emerging Trends

Recent visitor-use studies and public opinion and attitude surveys undertaken by CDPR indicates that outdoor recreation and facilities are very important to the quality of life of most Californians. There is a great need to expand recreational opportunities and as these opportunities emerge appropriate goals and guidelines will need to be developed to ensure the protection of the natural and cultural resources at the Park.

An example of an emerging trend is the use of digital technology for geocaching. As previously mentioned in this Plan, there are several "unofficial" geocaching sites within the park. These sites are considered

unofficial sites because CDPR has yet to adopt a statewide geocaching policy. Until a geocaching policy is adopted, the general goal and guidelines for such emerging recreational trends should be:

Goal: Both traditional and non-traditional recreational activities should be analyzed and incorporated into the Park’s planning process.

Guidelines:

1. Until analysis and planning can occur, the management of such activities needs to minimize any negative impacts to natural and cultural resources while maintaining visitor safety and reducing park-user conflicts within Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.
2. In the case of geocaching at the Park, the District should implement a geocaching review and/or registration process. All “unofficial” sites should be examined to determine if the site adversely impacts any natural or cultural resources. Any sites determined to have impacts should be removed, and the District should contact the responsible parties requesting they delete references to the cache by deactivating those references, whether online or through other media.

DEVELOPMENT

With the Park’s steep and rugged terrain, development of visitor use and park operations facilities requires careful planning and siting to ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources and to provide an integrated and pleasing park setting.

Also due to the relatively small size of the Park, development within the interior of the site shall be held to a minimum, to protect the numerous viewsheds, both from within and outside the Park (the Park provides a relatively pristine scenic setting as people approach the Park from the major vehicular corridor adjacent to the Park, such as from State Route 118).

Goal: Enhance the Park’s arrival identity and visitor orientation by improving access points into the Park.

Guidelines:

1. Work cooperatively with adjoining agencies such as the City of Los Angeles to optimize the potential of developing a joint agency visitor orientation center off site or at the outer perimeter of the Park.
2. Nontraditional visitor-use facilities should be explored to minimize the use of large traditional administrative and operational building types. Nontraditional visitor-use facilities may include simple open structures or structures made of native materials to simply denote a “sense of place,” a gathering area or the “entrance” into the Park (refer to chapter cover sheets for design intent). If a traditional buildings or structures are developed, then the aesthetic guidelines denoted within this section should be followed.
3. The development of traditional or nontraditional building structures will be held to a minimum outside the Gateway Zone. Non-traditional structures should be implemented at all Secondary Access Points to



minimize visual impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.

Guidelines:

Aesthetics

1. Adhere to the “Guiding Principle for Quality Aesthetic Design at State Parks” which reads: “Design of park facilities should embody the same vigor and spirit that CDPR applies to its Mission while evoking forward thinking design theories, producing meaningful places and spaces, worthy of preservation by future generations.”
 - a) Design should evolve from a collaborative and visual process that is led by a design professional and involves the users, the District staff, resource professionals, and other stakeholders.
 - b) Design decisions should be sensitive to the contextual nature of the site, including the region’s cultural and physical environment in which the project is located. The design should recognize and respect the past but not necessarily mimic a style or era.
 - c) Design dialogues should extend throughout CDPR and beyond to ensure that meaningful places and spaces are designed and maintained in keeping with the richness and grandeur of the CDPR system.
 - d) Embrace use of sustainable design, universal accessibility, and new technology and materials. However, a project’s economy and practicality

regarding its construction, operations, and maintenance should remain grounded through sound but innovative design decisions.

Natural and Cultural Resources

1. Consolidate and locate visitor-use facilities to minimize impacts on the Park’s natural and cultural resources, while allowing ease of management and accessibility for the public and for Park staff.
 - a) Development shall occur only in areas that will not adversely impact natural and/or cultural resources. Sacred, archaeological, and historical sites and features will be respected and protected.
 - b) Disturbance of native vegetation and topography shall be minimized by integrating the development with the native vegetation and topography. Buildings shall not be set atop ridges or steep terrain, but set into the topography whenever feasible.
 - c) Sufficient setbacks and buffers shall be established especially along the Riparian Corridor and existing biocorridors.

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CONCESSION AND REVENUE GENERATION

At the time this General Plan was published, there were no concession operations within the Park and no such operations were deemed necessary or appropriate. However, if the future reveals an appropriate need for concessions which promote the mission statement of CDPR, then concessions operations shall comply

with all applicable regulatory controls including, but not limited to the Public Resources Code, Section 5080.02 et seq. and California State Park and Recreation Commission policies.

A concession may be defined as a grant to a natural person, corporation, partnership, or association for the use of certain lands of the California Department of Parks and Recreation system for the specific purpose of providing for general public service, products, facilities, and programs for use, enjoyment, and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences.

Goal: Concession operations within the Park shall provide the visitor service and products that enhance the recreational and/or educational experiences at the Park while being consistent with the Park's purpose and classification.

Guidelines:

1. Concession operations shall conform to the Park's General and Management Plans, the Operating Agreement, the California State Park and Recreation Commission policies, and the Public Resources Code.
2. A feasibility study shall be prepared for any proposed concession operation to determine economic viability, as well as contract terms, conditions, and appropriateness of the concession to the recreational and/or educational value to Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park as well as consistency with the Park's purpose and classification.

3. Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the Park's resources by a proposed concession operation must be evaluated prior to approval to proceed with implementation.

ACQUISITIONS

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has responsibility for the protection, preservation, and management of all real property (land) it owns (re: acquisition, see PRC 5016-5016.1).

Goal: Acquire land from willing sellers that will enhance the visitor experience and/or the integrity of natural and cultural resources.

Guidelines:

1. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will consider the following types of land acquisitions, should they become available:
 - a) Land that completes landscape linkages and additional habitat connectivity. Land that completes watersheds and regions supporting significant natural processes. Sustainable sizes and configurations of under-protected major habitat types of California. Significant natural resources (i.e., wetland and riparian habitats, designated Critical Habitats, significant plant or wildlife populations, ecological systems).
 - b) Cultural sites and cultural landscapes.



- c) Parcels appropriate for staff and visitor uses (e.g., existing facilities, previously disturbed sites, locations allowing for improved staff and visitor access, etc.).
 - 2. Minimize negative adjacent land-use effects (e.g., reduce light pollution and noise, advocate protection of viewsheds, preserve sense of solitude, protect regional aquifer, and eliminate significant poaching and trespassing).
 - 3. Evaluate adjacent land use that conflicts with C DPR purposes.
 - 4. Continue to encourage cooperative work with volunteer groups that strive to achieve land acquisitions as previously outlined.
 - 5. Identify scenic, natural, paleontological, and cultural landscapes that cross the Park's boundaries; work to decrease destruction and fragmentation of those landscapes through purchase of appropriate land.
- 2. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will coordinate with federal as well as local jurisdiction and agencies to monitor development activities outside the Park's boundaries and to ensure buffer zones are enhanced or maintained.
 - 3. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will actively work with or coordinate with other agencies and property owners to secure land acquisitions to ensure key biocorridors are preserved and enhanced.
 - 4. The California Department of Parks and Recreation will evaluate all land acquisitions based upon both resource value, recreational opportunities, and visitor enjoyment.

Goal: Monitor and reduce impacts to the Park's resources and visitor experience due to adjacent land uses.

Guideline:

- 1. Work to minimize or contain negative effects from lands adjacent to the Park, such as: encroaching developments, planting and invasion of exotic species, feral or domestic animals, watershed pollution, water pumping, etc.



MANAGEMENT ZONES

The management zones depicted in Figures 5 and 6 were delineated based upon their geographical, natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational sensitivities and values. Within these management zones desired resource conditions, proposed visitor use and experiences, and potential facilities were determined by analysis of the resource inventory and public input.

The six management zones for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park are: Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, North Forty Zone, Scenic Ridge Zone, Primary Historic Zone, and Riparian Zone.

These management zones can be viewed as a gradient, with the highest level of visitor use allowed in the Gateway Zone while lowest level use is within the Primary Historic Zone and the Scenic Ridge Zone.

All the management zones will adhere to the appropriate goals and guidelines found within the Parkwide Goals and Guidelines section and the Management Zone Matrix (Table 3). All the management zones will be governed by the State Classification of a Historic Park (see page 4).

A Joint Use Area located in Chatsworth Park South is denoted in all the alternatives including the preferred alternative. Although Chatsworth Park South is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP), CDPR has enjoyed an ongoing, working relationship with LADRP, allowing park users to access Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park via Chatsworth Park South.

As such, and due to the overwhelming public sentiment of having CDPR work jointly with LADRP to create a joint visitor-use facility, the Joint Use Area is symbolically being denoted in all the Alternates.

GATEWAY ZONE

The Gateway Zone is located at the outer boundaries of the Park and provides the major arrival points into the core of the Park. This zone will provide visitor orientation and support facilities such as interpretation, restroom facilities, and parking.

In the preferred plan, a Gateway Zone is being proposed along Santa Susana Pass Road, due to its appropriate topography and ease of visitor and vehicular accessibility. In the central portion of the Park, and similar in nature to the Joint Use Area mentioned in the previous section, another Gateway Zone is proposed, with access from Chatsworth Park South. Fostering a collaborative approach with the City of Los Angeles will be essential to developing visitor-use facilities in this centrally located Gateway Zone.

SECONDARY ACCESS POINTS

To enhance trail connections to adjoining open spaces and to maintain public access to the Park while maintaining connectivity to neighboring communities, Secondary Access Points are being designated at the Park's edges. To minimize visual and resource impacts, the level of improvements in these zones will be minor, with limited parking and visitor orientation elements such as signage and minor restroom facilities.

NORTH FORTY ZONE

The North Forty Zone is on the northern fringe of the Park immediately adjacent to Santa Susana Pass Road. The zone was named in loose reference to the historic agrarian term “back forty.”

Much of this zone is comprised of steep terrain; however, several existing flat areas can be developed for visitor-use improvements such as camping and an equestrian staging area. One such area is the former Spahn Ranch, which is located off Santa Susana Pass Road, and falls within both the North Forty Zone and Gateway Zone.

PRIMARY HISTORIC ZONE

The Primary Historic Zone lies in the southern half of the Park and contains a high concentration of cultural resources that are unique for their historical, archeological, and scientific significance. This zone includes the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road and associated features.

This zone was born out of the existing National Register property boundary within the Park and from the existing cultural resources inventory. The General Plan team examined the topography and cultural resources and developed the Primary Historic Zone to better protect the resources while allowing for maximum interpretation and recreational use in the Park’s southern half.

Motorized equipment or vehicles will be limited to Park operations including Ranger Patrols, designated parking and service vehicles on existing easements or designated roads. In the preferred plan a gated parking area is graphically denoted in the Primary Historic Zone along Powerhouse Road. This

exception to the overall “Range of Possible Facilities” of the Primary Historic Zone is being provided to alleviate on-street parking and to provide improved security. Further analysis will be required to appropriately locate the designated on-site parking. The parking will be located in a manner where park users and easement users can retain ease of access during park operating hours.

RIPARIAN ZONE

The Riparian Zone contains the major drainage of the Park, which runs parallel with Santa Susana Pass Road. This zone serves as an important wildlife corridor to adjoining open spaces, where bobcats and other wildlife have been tracked. This zone also has a high aesthetic value. It is a welcome and lush retreat within the Park’s boulder strewn landscape.

Trails shall run adjacent to and periodically cross the drainage, where possible, to allow visitors to view these natural resources without impacting its wildlife values.

Future biocorridors which will require establishing partnerships with other governmental agencies should be connected to this zone.

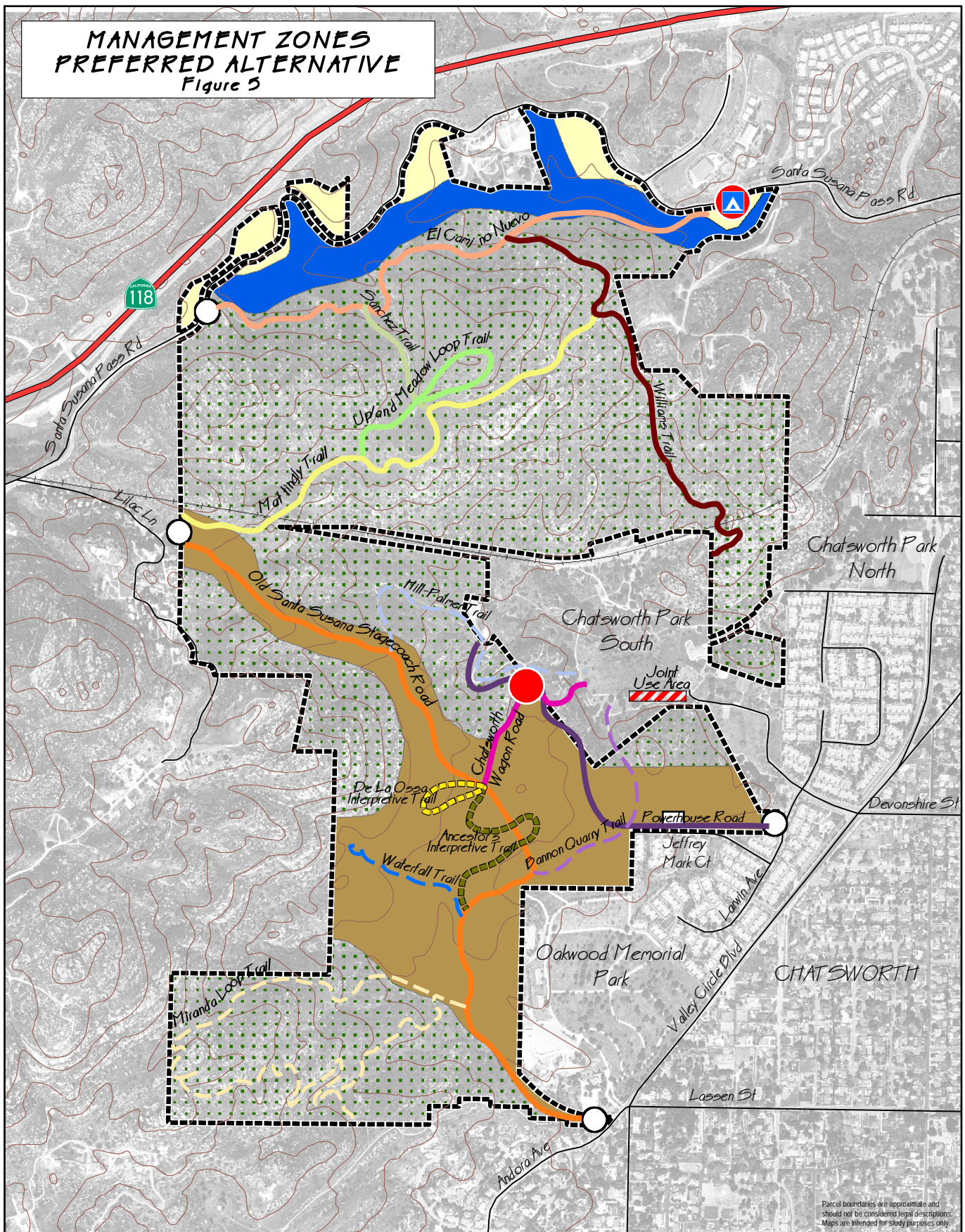
SCENIC RIDGE ZONE

The Scenic Ridge Zone encompasses the majority of the Park’s rock outcroppings and ridges. This zone is to remain rustic in nature with minimal development.

Visitors to this area shall be able to immerse themselves in the rugged terrain, which is reminiscent of early California. Only minimal development such as interpretive programs and trails will occur in this zone.



**MANAGEMENT ZONES
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**
Figure 5



Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

Legend

Management Zones

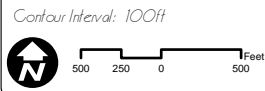
- North Forty
- Riparian
- Primary Historic
- Scenic Ridge

- Camping
- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Secondary Access
- Gateway

Trails (colors vary)

- Trail
- Hiking Only Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- Parking
- Park Boundary

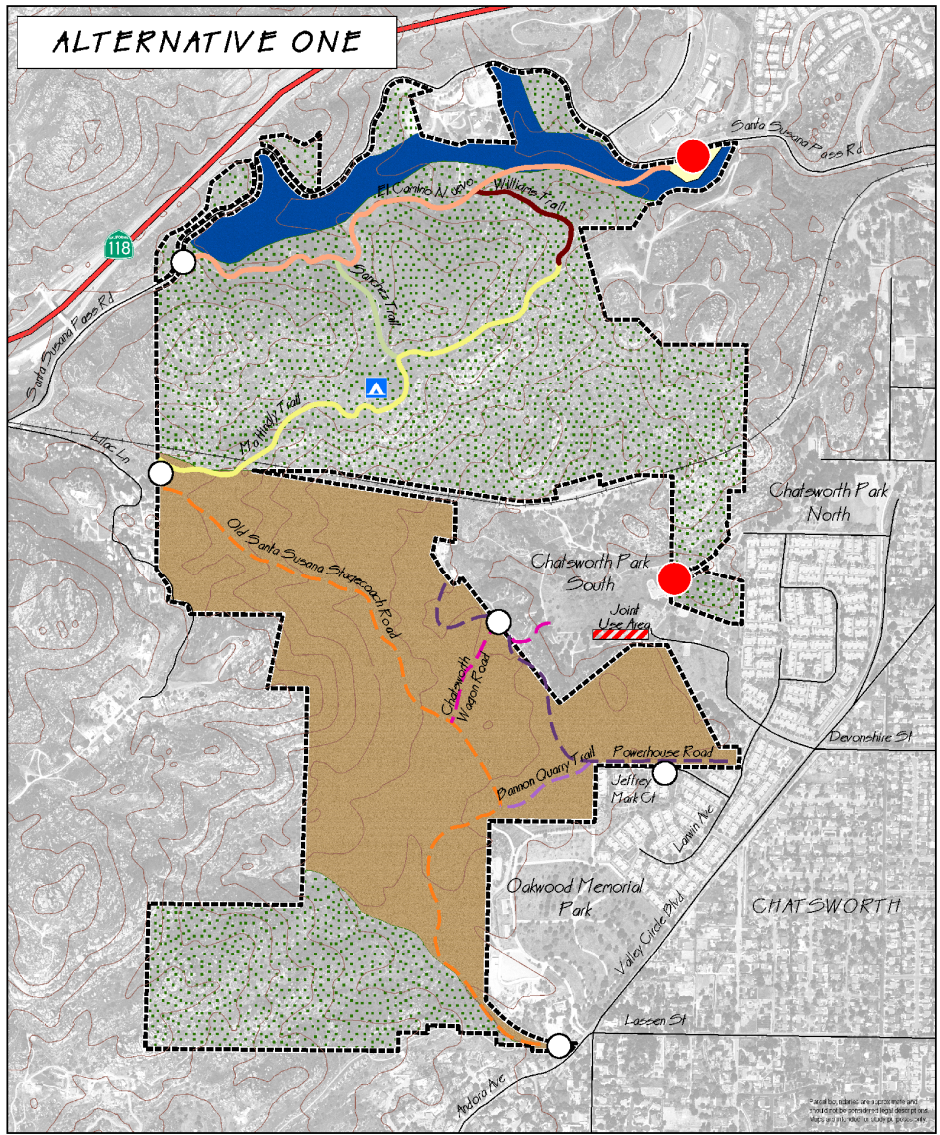
**SANTA SUSANA PASS
STATE HISTORIC PARK**





ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT ZONES

Figure 6



Legend

Contour Interval: 100ft

Management Zones

- North Foothills
- Riparian
- Primary Historic
- Scenic Ridge

Trails (colors vary)

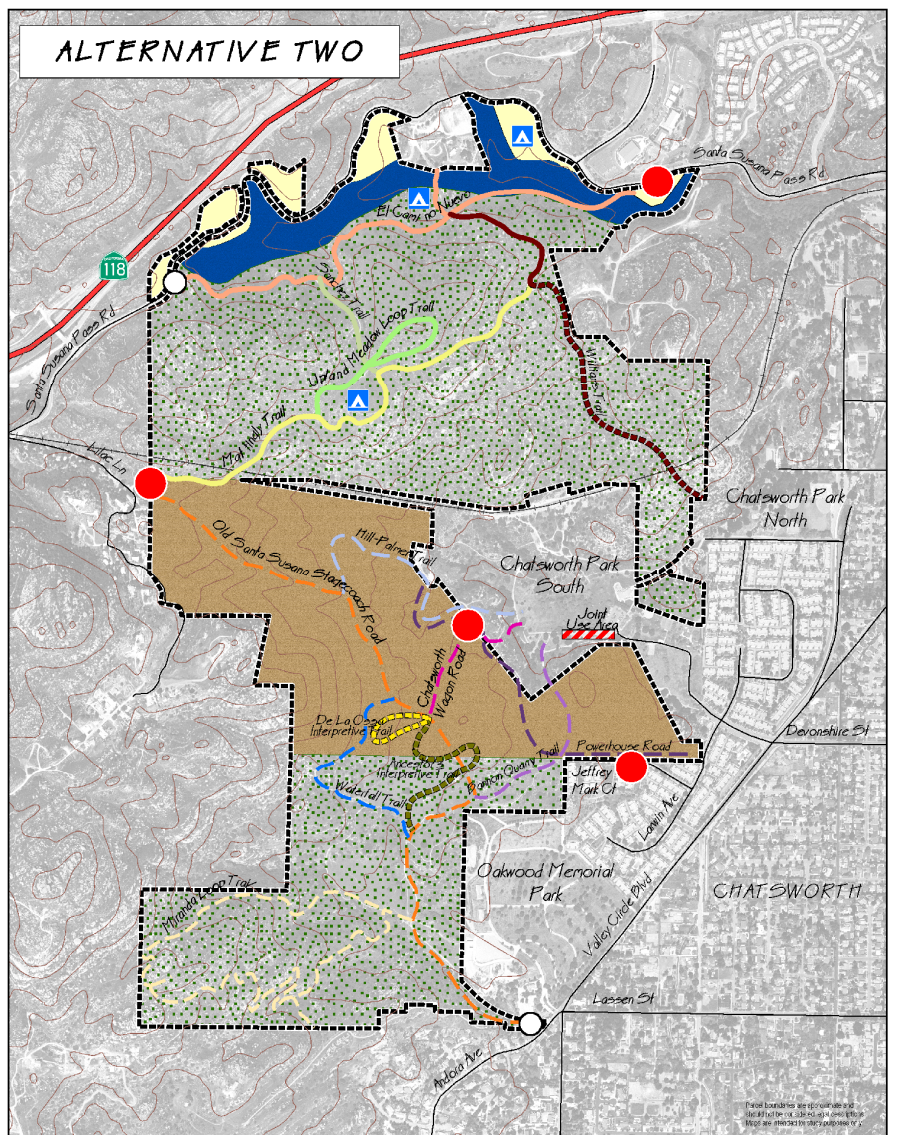
- Trail
- Hiking Only Trail
- Multi-Use Trail

Other Features

- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Secondary Access
- Gateway
- Camping
- Park Boundary

SANTA SUSANAPASS STATE HISTORIC PARK

OLD SANTA SUSANAPASS STAGE ROAD
 1842-1843
 NATIVE DAUGHTERS
 GOLDEN WEST



Legend

Contour Interval: 100ft

Management Zones

- North Foothills
- Riparian
- Primary Historic
- Scenic Ridge

Trails (colors vary)

- Trail
- Hiking Only Trail
- Multi-Use Trail

Other Features

- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Secondary Access
- Gateway
- Camping
- Park Boundary

SANTA SUSANAPASS STATE HISTORIC PARK

OLD SANTA SUSANAPASS STAGE ROAD
 1842-1843
 NATIVE DAUGHTERS
 GOLDEN WEST

	<i>Gateway Zone</i>	<i>Secondary Access Points</i>
AREA DESCRIPTION	This zone is located around the outer boundaries of the Park & will provide the major “gateways” into the core of the Park. This zone has ease of visitor & vehicular access.	These points of entry have ease of visitor access from the surrounding communities or open spaces and serve as minor access points into the Park.
RESOURCE CHARACTER & MANAGEMENT (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & protect the natural character of the boulder strewn landscape • Facilities to complement or blend with natural or historical landscapes. • Prescribe sustainable design & maintenance practices • Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & protect the natural character of the boulder strewn landscape • Design elements to complement or blend with natural or historical landscapes. • Prescribe sustainable design & maintenance practices • Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources
VISITOR EXPERIENCES (CARRYING CAPACITY OBJECTIVE)	<p>The visitor will be introduced to important historical, archeological, & natural significance of the Park. Availability of consolidated & convenient facilities & activities which complement or blend with the natural environment will be available. Social interaction and Park staff may be readily available. Development outside the Park’s boundaries will be clearly evident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high level of use • frequent contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be the orientation and introduction of the Park through the use of minor wayfinding and interpretive elements. Minimal parking and visitor-use facilities will be provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium level of use • contact with others
VISITOR USES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overnight use allowed in designated camping areas (including exploring alternative-type camping) • motorized equipment or vehicles allowed on designated Park routes • minor staging for equestrian activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no overnight use • on-site vehicular parking • pedestrian and equestrian access points
RANGE OF POSSIBLE FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visitor center/contact station - amphitheater - concession facilities - vehicular parking - campgrounds - interpretive elements - picnic sites - ranger station - maintenance/operational bldg. - trailhead - restrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vehicular parking - interpretive elements - trailhead - restrooms (vault type)

<i>North Forty Zone</i>	<i>Primary Historic Zone</i>	<i>Riparian Zone</i>	<i>Scenic Ridge Zone</i>
This zone is on the northern fringe of the Park immediately south of Santa Susana Pass Road & serves as a supplemental buffer to the adjacent sensitive Riparian Zone. (This zone may include future development)	This zone lies in the southern half of the Park & contains a high concentration of cultural resources that are unique for their historical, archeological, & scientific significance. This zone includes the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road.	This zone contains the major drainage area of the Park, which runs parallel with Santa Susana Pass Road. This zone serves as a critical wildlife corridor to adjoining open spaces.	This zone encompasses a majority of the Park's rock outcroppings & ridges. This zone will remain rustic in nature with minimal development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & protect the natural character—promote “healing” of previous landscape scars • Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on cultural & natural resources • Facilities to complement or blend with natural surroundings or historical landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & protect this distinct area of outstanding cultural & natural significance • Avoid or minimize impacts on cultural & natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote, maintain, and enhance natural characteristics of the zone, especially the riparian vegetation & wildlife corridor. • No development or modifications other than to improve the wildlife corridor • Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on natural & cultural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & protect the natural character of this boulder-strewn landscape with its dominant rock outcroppings & escarpments. • No facilities or development other than modifications to trails or designated camping areas. • Avoid or minimize impacts on natural & cultural resources
<p>The visitor experience will be similar to the gateway zone; however, with fewer visitor-use facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high to medium level of use • frequent contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be directed towards understanding, preserving, & protecting the historical, archeological, & scientifically significant features of the Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium to low level of use • moderate contact with others 	<p>The visitor experience will be one of traveling near & viewing a sensitive resource with minimal impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low level of use • infrequent contact with others 	<p>Visitors will experience an undeveloped landscape reminiscent of precontact California, where they can immerse themselves in the tranquility inherent to an open space experience and exert themselves physically and mentally in the rugged topography & undeveloped conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium to low level of use • moderate contact with others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overnight use allowed in designated areas (including exploring alternative-type camping) • climbing or bouldering • vehicles allowed • hiking on designated trails only • biking on designated trails only • equestrian use on designated trails only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no overnight use • no climbing or bouldering • Motorized equipment or vehicles will be limited to Park operations including Ranger Patrols, designated parking and service vehicles on existing easements, or designated roads • hiking on designated trails only • equestrian use on designated trails only • biking on designated trails only • scientific research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no overnight use • no climbing or bouldering • no motorized equipment or vehicles unless required for Park operations or general maintenance • hiking on designated trails only • scientific research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primitive camping • climbing or bouldering • Motorized equipment or vehicles will be limited to Park operations including Ranger Patrols, designated parking and service vehicles on existing easements, or designated roads • hiking on designated trails only • biking on designated trails only • equestrian use on designated trails only • scientific research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vehicular parking - campgrounds - interpretive elements - picnic sites - minor maintenance/operational bldg. - trailhead - restrooms - trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - restored historically significant features & structures - interpretive elements - picnic sites - restrooms - trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - footbridges over waterways where trail re-routing is not feasible & where hydrologically appropriate - minor interpretive elements - trails (not within 150 feet of riparian vegetation/upper bank) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use/support facilities, may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - footbridges over waterways where trail re-routing is not feasible & where hydrologically appropriate - historically significant structures & trails - interpretive elements - primitive toilets (only at campgrounds) - interpretive elements - trails

Cut Here

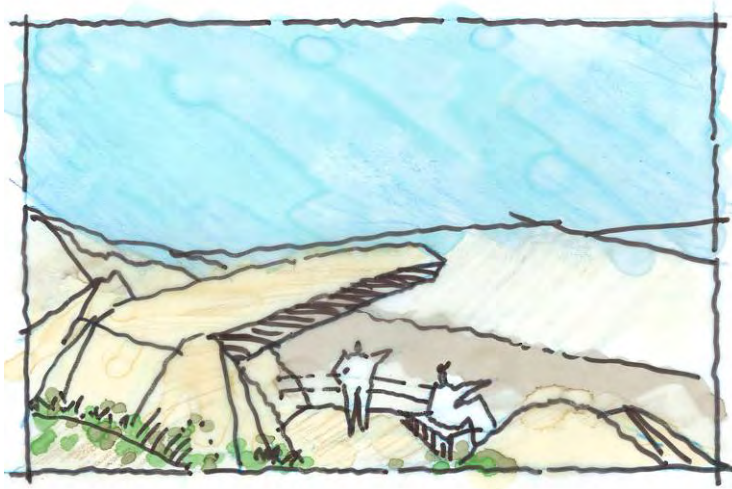


Non-Traditional Visitor-Use Facilities

← Table 3
Management Zone Matrix

The management zone matrix summarizes the desired conditions, different levels of visitor experiences/uses, and the possible range of facilities, based upon the Park's natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources.





Overlook

Environmental Analysis



SUMMARY

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of environmental review documentation for the proposed Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as required by Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq. This General Plan provides guidelines for long-term management, development, and operation of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. This Environmental Analysis Section and other sections of this document, incorporated by reference, constitute the first tier Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as defined in Sections 15152, 15166, 15168 and 15385 of the CEQA Guidelines. It should be recognized that the level of detail addressed by this EIR is commensurate with the level of detail provided in the land-use proposals of the General Plan.

As subsequent site-specific projects (such as a Visitor Center or Staging Area) and management plans are proposed, they will be subject to further environmental review. Appropriate environmental documents will be prepared with specific mitigation measures, as necessary, when subsequent projects are proposed.

Development, maintenance and use of facilities such as buildings, parking lots, campsites, trails, picnic areas, interpretive stations, utilities, and septic systems have the potential for significant short-term and long-term

impacts to the environment. These impacts could include soil disturbance, dust, increased erosion, altered drainage patterns, lowered water quality, degradation of cultural resources, and degradation of sensitive plant communities or populations of plants or animals. As a program EIR (first-tier, Guidelines Secs. 15166, 15168), the General Plan identifies potential broad-level environmental impacts and mitigation. Additional environmental review, specific mitigation proposals, and monitoring will be required under CEQA, Guidelines Sections 15152 and 15385, as management or development plans are proposed. All potentially significant new adverse impacts will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated below a level of significance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Because the General Plan and EIR are contained in a single document, the project description is discussed in the Introduction (page 3) and Plan Section (page 57). In summary, the proposed Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park General Plan includes modifications to land-use designations, the incorporation of new guidelines for the protection of natural and cultural resources, and the development of appropriate recreational, interpretive, and operational facilities.

The General Plan proposes to:

- Establish management zones, goals and guidelines to protect sensitive resources.
- Consolidate visitor-serving facilities and access points at gateway areas and secondary

access points located in existing locations and less sensitive or previously disturbed locations.

- Provide accessible interpretive and recreational programs to the public.

The General Plan also establishes the primary interpretive themes for programs and activities. Additionally, this General Plan contains specific proposals to consolidate the Park's trail system and eliminate duplicate or volunteer trails and relocate several trails away from sites with sensitive resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Please refer to the description of the environmental setting in the earlier sections: Existing Conditions and Issues (page 15), Natural Resources (page 16), Cultural Resources (page 25), Aesthetic Resources (page 42), Recreational Resources (page 43), Planning Influences (page 49), and Appendices A through F.

Because the Park is situated in a mountainous pass between the City of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley in Ventura County, vehicular access to the Park is limited to a few trailheads with parking either on City of Los Angeles streets or parks or Ventura County streets. There are a number of trail access points into the Park from local streets and three local parks. Please refer to Figure 2 which shows the existing access into the Park.

PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Based on the accumulation of information from resource studies, other agencies, Park managers, and the general public (at three public

meetings and six stakeholder meetings), three plan alternatives were considered during development of the proposed general plan. Each plan was presented at the public meetings. It was emphasized at the meetings that one plan did not need to be selected over another, but rather elements from each plan could be intermixed, to create the best plan possible given the often conflicting needs of resource protection, visitor recreation and education, and neighboring communities.

The Preferred Plan was originally developed to incorporate public comment and the increasing amount of resource and operational data discovered during the planning and public involvement process. However, at the third public meeting, additional concerns were raised and a series of stakeholder meetings were held to gain additional input. The Preferred Plan was changed to reflect a number of these concerns. Locations for secondary public access to the Park were changed as well as some of the concepts for proposed uses. For example, the existing public access at Jeffrey Mark Court will be closed and moved to another location to the east.

The Preferred Alternative (Preferred Plan) is discussed in the *Plan Section* starting on page 57 and shown in Figure 5 (page 93). The alternatives were developed to show a range in the amounts of land placed in different management zones and the resulting effect that these zone designations may have on the uses allowed within each area. These alternatives are shown in Figure 6 and are compared in the following Alternatives Matrix (Table 4).



Table 4: Alternatives Matrix

	Preferred Plan	Alternative 1/Least Environmentally Damaging	Alternative 2
Primary Historic Zone	155 acres*	248 acres*	174 acres*
Scenic Ridge Zone	465 acres*	389 acres*	445 acres*
North Forty Zone	21 acres*	2 acres*	21 acres*
Riparian Zone	40 acres*	41 acres*	39 acres*
Gateway Zone & Secondary Access Points	Gateway = 2 Secondary Access = 4	Gateway = 2 Secondary Access = 5	Gateway = 4 Secondary Access = 2
Trail Mileage	9.2 miles	5 miles	9.5 miles
Natural Resources	Protects the most sensitive resources with implementation of the General Plan guidelines. All new potentially significant impacts will be below significance.	Same as Preferred Plan except has fewer trails and potential wildlife/visitor conflicts.	Essentially unchanged from existing conditions. Trails and riparian area subject to erosion, compaction, & denuded vegetation. Potential significant impacts with increased use over time.
Cultural Resources	Provides protection for all significant cultural resources. No potentially significant unmitigated impacts.	Better protection than Preferred Plan because users are not active in areas with the most sensitive resources and the type of use is limited.	Allows potential development in an area with sensitive prehistoric cultural resources. Potential significant unmitigable impacts.
Aesthetics	Potentially adverse visual effects due to the introduction of new facilities into the Park. Facilities will be designed to fit the topography but may create a significant adverse effect to some viewers.	Overall, better than the Preferred Plan because there would be less development and fewer trails. However, this alternative still may create a significant adverse visual effect to some viewers because some facilities will still be constructed.	Alternative 2 would have similar effects to the Preferred Plan, although some facility locations are in different areas.
Recreation	Reduction of some trail experiences for various user groups due to the consolidation and closure of some trails. Other opportunities will be made available to at least partially mitigate this effect.	Significant reduction of recreational experience for trail users of all types in the Park.	Alternative 2 would leave the trails in essentially the same condition as the existing network with some consolidation of trails.
Geological, Land Form, and Water Resources	Potential effect due to new development but less than significant due to location and future design of facilities.	Less effect than the Preferred Plan because less development would be proposed.	Same as Preferred Plan except for a slightly greater potential for erosion and reduced water quality from trail use.
Visitor Services & Interpretation	Provides a unique trail, cultural, and scenic experience and education to the people of California including those with little opportunity to otherwise visit remote areas.	Less quality of recreational experience than the Preferred Plan and a loss of existing recreational resources and trail use.	Same as Preferred Plan
Park Operations	Allows for efficient park operations, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Access to Parks Guidelines.	Same as the Preferred Plan but fewer facilities to serve.	Same as Preferred Plan except for potentially requiring more personnel for resource protection enforcement

*All acreage figures are rounded. The Gateway Zone and Secondary Access Points acreage amounts are included under the North Forty or Scenic Ridge acreages.

Note: See following page for No Project Alternative

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Plan

The Preferred Alternative (Figure 5) is discussed in full in the Plan Section. The following is a brief synopsis of the six proposed zones: Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, North Forty Zone, Primary Historic Zone, Riparian Zone, and the Scenic Ridge Zone. The Preferred Alternative also introduces the gateway concept of consolidating contact stations, infrastructure, and new facilities into the least environmentally damaging areas near points of greatest public contact.

The Gateway Zone is located along the Park's boundaries and provides major arrival points into the core of the Park. This zone will provide visitor orientation and support facilities such as interpretation, restroom facilities, and parking.

Secondary Access Points enhance trail connections to adjoining open spaces and to maintain access to neighboring communities. The level of improvements in these zones will be minor, with limited parking and visitor orientation elements such as signage and minor restroom facilities.

The North Forty Zone is on the northern fringe of the Park immediately adjacent to Santa Susana Pass Road. This area contains steep topography as well as flat areas that could be developed into camping or staging areas.

The Primary Historic Zone lies in the southern half of the Park and contains a high concentration of cultural resources that are unique for their historical, archeological, and scientific significance. This zone includes the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road.

The Primary Historic Zone modifies the existing National Register property boundary within the Park to better protect the resources, while allowing for maximum interpretation and recreational use in the southern half of the Park.

The Riparian Zone contains the major drainage of the Park, which runs parallel with Santa Susana Pass Road. This zone serves as an important wildlife corridor to adjoining open spaces and a high aesthetic value, for it is a welcome and lush retreat within the Park's boulder strewn landscape.

The Scenic Ridge Zone encompasses the majority of the Park's rock outcroppings and ridges. This zone is to remain rustic in nature with minimal development such as interpretive programs and trails.

Under the tiered environmental process, changes from existing conditions and operations proposed by CDPR must undergo additional environmental review to avoid or minimize impacts to resources. However, the proposed trail system in the Preferred Alternative will consolidate existing trails into specific alignments and close trails in several locations to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources.

No Project Alternative

Public Resource Code Section 5003 states that before substantial work may be proposed within a state park, there must be a general plan. Therefore, the existing conditions, lack of needed facilities and trail management, and other park management limitations would continue if the General Plan were not adopted.



Under the No Project Alternative, heightened protection for the distinct natural and cultural features found within the Park would not be established. Despite current efforts to protect, rehabilitate, or restore such features, visitor-use patterns over time could be expected to impact these features. Without a General Plan, a holistic approach for protecting these features through management zones and other planning efforts will not be adequately implemented.

The No Project Alternative will make it difficult for the District to systematically address land-use and visitor-use issues. Consolidating or improving visitor-use or operational facilities (including trails) to minimize environmental impacts, enhance park interpretation, and create a higher quality of visitor experience would be difficult to execute under the No Project Alternative.

Alternative 1 (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)

While Alternative 1 (see map on page 95) provides additional protection to sensitive resources, it has an adverse effect on certain existing outdoor recreation activities including equestrian use, mountain bike use, and hiking. These activities would be restricted to fewer trails, providing only 5 miles of trails in relation to the 9.2 miles of trails in the Preferred Plan. This alternative could cause a significant impact to recreation and is not within the general public's level of acceptable change. Furthermore, CDPR contends that sensitive resources can be adequately protected, in compliance with existing policies and regulations, through resource-protective goals and guidelines and site-specific manage-

ment and enforcement incorporated into the Preferred Plan. Alternative 1 would also preclude the opportunity for a campground in the North Forty Zone, although it would allow for remote camping in the Scenic Ridge Zone.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 combines the Gateway concept of an earlier generation of the Preferred Alternative while continuing the existing land-use designations at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. This Alternative would allow uses to continue in their current condition within the Primary Historic Zone and Riparian Zone. This alternative would also expand visitor uses from the current condition through the placement of gateways in four locations within the Park.

It is not preferred because it does not offer enough resource protection particularly to sensitive resources identified on pages 16 to 54 in the General Plan/Environmental Impact Report, Appendices A, B, and C and the Resource Inventory (Appendix G, under separate cover), given the current knowledge of visitor impacts and past uses. Specifically, it would allow continued trail use through sensitive biological and cultural resource areas. Impacts associated with visitor use in these areas include degradation of sensitive cultural resources and potential habitat and wildlife barriers with the riparian zone. Since these are existing uses, it would not create immediate new adverse effects on these resources but would, instead, allow these impacts to continue or increase as the Park's visitor use increases over time. Park managers are directed to protect these resources from damage through resource policies including

DOM Section 0300, Natural Resources; DOM Section 0400, Cultural Resources; the Cultural Resources Management Handbook; and other policies set forth in Department Resource Management Directives.

Additionally, it does not remove the existing public access at Jeffrey Mark Court and proposes additional gateways at that location and at Lilac Lane. Designations of gateways in these areas were opposed by nearby residents and were removed from the Preferred Alternative after the third public meeting and subsequent stakeholder meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED PLAN

The Preferred Alternative for the General Plan proposes to designate park management zones in order to limit the geographical area in which certain types of activities and development can occur and to establish goals and objectives for determining appropriate amounts of these activities and developments within each zone (pages 91 to 98 and Figure 5). The Parkwide Management Goals and Guidelines Section (pages 58 to 80) provides further direction for managing the Park as a whole, including visitor use, development, and environmental protection.

As this is a General Plan, other than for trail use, specific proposals for potential visitor use and development have not yet been developed. Therefore, identification and discussion of potential significant effects of the General Plan proposals are also general in nature. Nevertheless, to convey the purpose of these proposals and to aid in the analysis of their potential

significant environmental effects, a table was developed to represent a reasonable set of scenarios for visitor use and development that would be allowed in each management zone under the proposed General Plan (Table_5, Reasonable Projections of Development).

The scenario presented, represents one of many potential scenarios that would be allowed in each zone. Within the range of possibilities, the scenarios depicted portray the most extensive development that should be reasonably expected. The actual choice of types, sizes, and locations of facilities to be developed within each zone will be determined during preparation of subsequent specific project plans, as the need arises and/or funds are available for their implementation.

The decisions made in these planning efforts will be consistent with the goals and guidelines of the General Plan and based on many factors including natural and cultural resource protection, and visitor experience. These plans will undergo further environmental review when they are prepared, in accordance with CEQA guidelines.

As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of potential development would be contained in the Gateway Zone. Within the zones encompassing the rest of the Park, no significant development is proposed. However, there will likely be a moderate increase in day-use visitation in response to regional population increases and the level of use in the Gateway Zone.

The Notice of Preparation identified that the General Plan, or projects carried out under its guidance, may have environmental effects relative to



geologic features, erosion, water quality, transportation, biological resources, fire and geologic hazards, aesthetics, cultural resources, and recreation. The following sections identify and discuss the relative significance of these effects.

UNAVOIDABLE AND IRREVERSIBLE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

The purpose of the land-use designations (i.e., management zones and classifications) and the management goals and guidelines presented in the General Plan are to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant environmental effects of facility development, maintenance, operations, and visitor use. Of primary concern is the protection of cultural resources, particularly in the Primary Historic Zone, and the maintenance of wildlife corridors.

Implementation of specific projects such as development of a Visitor Center, campgrounds, or equestrian staging areas, has the potential to cause significant short-term and long-term effects on the environment. Long-term effects could include negative impacts to geological, hydrological, natural, cultural, and aesthetical resources resulting from development, maintenance, and use of visitor-use facilities, trails, picnic areas, sanitary disposal or systems, and parking areas. Short-term effects could include soil disturbance, dust, increased erosion, altered drainage patterns, water quality impacts, degradation of cultural resources, or disturbance or degradation of sensitive plant or animal populations.

Implementation of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant

environmental effects contained in the General Plan, any management plans, and specific project plans will reduce negative impacts to a level below significance. If a specific project does not conform to the guidelines contained within the General Plan or subsequent management plans, or if mitigation cannot reduce negative impacts to a level below significance, the project will not be implemented. Therefore, there are no new unavoidable significant environmental effects resulting from implementation of the General Plan.

SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION

CDPR does not have adopted thresholds for significance due to the vast diversity of the units within the state park system. However, CDPR resource specialists and environmental review staff evaluate the context and intensity of existing and proposed uses in each park setting, prior to determining the potential level of significance of adopting the General Plan and its goals, guidelines, and proposed land uses.

Even though the majority of the proposed development will be contained to very limited portions of the Park, development, maintenance, and use of facilities such as roads, buildings, trails, parking lots, campsites, picnic areas, utilities, and septic systems have the potential for significant short- and long-term impacts to the environment. These impacts could include soil disturbance, dust, increased erosion, altered drainage patterns, lowered water quality, degradation of cultural resources, and degradation of sensitive

plant communities or populations of plant or animal.

Aesthetics

Impacts: Construction activities associated with development and maintenance of facilities, particularly in the Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, and North Forty Zone, have the potential to cause significant impacts to aesthetic resources (i.e., viewsheds).

Discussion: The expansive views, natural appearance of geological and biological features, and quiet solitude are significant characteristics of the Park that are highly valued by the public. The General Plan recognizes this (see page 57) and limits the Park's overall development and visitor densities. Future facilities are restricted to specific zones representing a small percentage of the Park's acreage. The Gateway Zone and North Forty Zone will allow for the most intensive development that may occur within the Park including a visitor center, restrooms, campsites, maintenance facilities and electrical hookups, and has the highest potential for negative impacts to aesthetic resources. However, smaller facilities located in the other management zones also have the potential to negatively affect aesthetic resources. Future projects should be designed to be consistent with cultural, historical, and natural characteristics and themes of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Structures should be aesthetically pleasing to the eye, as well as blending in with the environment and fitting with the natural contours of the land, in order to limit grading and visual impacts.

Future projects will follow General Plan goals and guidelines, and any specific management plans containing guiding criteria or mitigation measures for limiting impacts to the physical natural and cultural resources that provide the Park's unique aesthetic characteristics (see pages 58 to 90). To avoid, minimize, or mitigate negative impacts to aesthetic resources, mitigation measures that are deemed appropriate and necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation will be incorporated.

Mitigation AR 1: Design and review of proposed projects and activities shall consider potential effects to site-specific aesthetic resources including regional characteristics and themes, viewsheds, dark skies, and topographical, geological, cultural, and natural features. Design and construction measures that avoid, minimize, or mitigate these effects shall be incorporated into every project.

Biological Resources

Impact: Activities involving the manipulation of vegetation or disturbance of wildlife and their habitat including development, maintenance, and recreational activities, have the potential to negatively affect endangered, threatened, or rare species and special status habitats.

Discussion: Many of the General Plan goals and guidelines address the protection and management of natural resources. Management of biotic resources includes maintenance of native plant communities, inventory and monitoring programs, protection of special status plants and animals, control of nonnative plants and animals, protection of habitat buffers



and movement corridors, and protection of natural resources from recreation and facility development. Natural Resource goals and guidelines (see page 59 to 68) recognize that activities associated with construction, maintenance, facility use, and recreation have the potential to cause short- and long-term impacts to sensitive species and the ecosystem. It is essential to periodically survey key resources and implement management directives to protect and preserve natural resources if necessary. Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts must be incorporated into any future Management Plans, development projects, and specific management actions. All actions will be in compliance with federal and state regulatory requirements. Future projects will follow General Plan guidelines, and include mitigation measures that are appropriate and necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation.

Mitigation BR 1: Prior to construction of facilities, potentially affected areas will be surveyed for the presence of special status species. Special status species found on a project site will be avoided to the fullest extent possible through project design, timing of activities, and implementation. If a special status species is detected within the area of potential impact, alternative sites will be considered, the area shall be flagged, and personnel educated on the sensitivity of an area and instructed to avoid it.

Mitigation BR 2: As much as possible, all project-related activities located within the habitat of special status species will take place outside of their breeding season or season of greatest potential effect on survivability. If

project activities cannot avoid the breeding season or season of greatest potential effect, CDPR will arrange for weekly surveys to detect any special status species within 300 feet of the work area (1/4 mile for raptor nests). If special status species are discovered within this area of potential impact, surveys will continue through the period of construction. If special status species are being negatively affected, construction activities will be postponed until the potential for negative effects has passed. Sensitive habitat areas shall be flagged and construction personnel shall be educated on the sensitivity of the area and instructed to avoid the area.

Mitigation BR 3: Any areas cleared or disturbed will be restored with native plant species known from the area, using locally collected material, and species that represent habitat composition for the sensitive species detected on site.

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Cultural Resources

Impact: Construction of facilities and visitor-use activities as well as maintenance of facilities, has the potential to disturb, degrade, or damage buried archaeological remains, historic structures or features, or sacred sites.

Discussion: Significant archeological, historical, and ethnographic resources are known to occur within the Park. These include prehistoric Native American use and sacred sites, historic stagecoach station and quarry sites, and the historic stagecoach trails. Several goals and guidelines contained in the General Plan address the protection of these cultural resources, including identification, protection, and interpretation of archaeological resources, ethnographic resources, and

historic resources and protection of cultural resources from recreation or development (pages 69 to 76). These goals and guidelines recognize that activities associated with construction, maintenance, and use of facilities, as well as recreational activities could have long-term impacts on significant cultural resources. It is also recognized that it will be essential to periodically assess the status and condition of these significant cultural resources and adapt park management to assure their protection. Measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts need to be incorporated into any future Management Plans, development projects, and specific management actions. All actions will be in compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. In addition to any mitigation measures deemed necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation, the following mitigation measures will be incorporated.

Mitigation CR 1: Prior to any actions that have the potential to disturb the area of a possible archeological site, additional research and testing will be carried out to determine if buried cultural remains exist. Any new facilities will be designed and constructed to avoid archaeological resources to the extent possible. If impacts to archaeological remains are unavoidable, then a recovery plan will be developed and implemented. A C DPR archaeologist will monitor those activities deemed to have the highest potential to disturb or damage buried archaeological remains to ensure that no historical or prehistorical resources are adversely impacted. If cultural remains are uncovered during any project activities, work will be stopped

in that area so that the resource can be recorded, the nature of the deposit can be determined, and an appropriate protection or recovery plan can be implemented.

Mitigation CR 2: Any proposed project will be reviewed for its potential to affect significant historical resources. All significant historical resources will be mapped, recorded, and evaluated to determine their eligibility for placement on the National Register or California Register of Historic Places. Projects will be designed and implemented to avoid significant impacts to potentially eligible historic resources in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Mitigation CR 3: Information about the importance of cultural resource protection will be incorporated as part of the interpretation and signage for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. For example, there will be signs directing mountain bike users to walk their bikes down the portions of the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road that are very steep and subject to erosion or damage.

Geologic Resources

Impact: Demolition and construction activities associated with removal, consolidation development, and maintenance of facilities, particularly in the Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, and North Forty Zone, has the potential to cause significant increases in erosion, dust, soil disturbance, and topographic change.

Discussion: Grading and soil disturbance associated with facility expansion and development in the Gateway Zone, Secondary Access



Points, and North Forty Zone, such as construction of new campsites, restrooms, buildings, and other use areas, has the potential to cause significant changes in topography and increases in erosion, unless measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts are incorporated into specific project plans and implemented. The purpose of the General Plan is to reduce long-term impacts to resources, including the reduction of soil compaction and extent of disturbed areas, through planning of facilities placement and better management of visitor use. However, removal, consolidation, construction, or maintenance of facilities could have short-term and long-term impacts to geologic features, topography, and soil erosion, unless measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan and implemented. Facility development, campgrounds, and trails will be constructed to avoid potentially hazardous areas or minimize risk. Potential impacts to geology and soil associated with the development and maintenance of trails, interpretive elements, and primitive toilets are not considered to be significant. In addition to any mitigation measures deemed necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation, the following mitigation measures will be implemented.

Mitigation GR 1: Any new facilities will be designed and constructed to follow and fit into natural contours as much as possible, to minimize the amount of topographic change that is required. Significant rock features will be avoided.

Mitigation GR 2: All demolitions, grading, and excavations will be

subject to the typical restrictions and requirements that address erosion and runoff including the Federal Clean Water Act and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which includes but may not be limited to silt fencing, sand bags appropriately placed during rain events, and an erosion control plan that uses native species known to occur in the area for revegetation. CDPR will use Best Management Practices throughout construction to avoid and minimize indirect impacts.

Mitigation GR 3: General Plan goals and guidelines call for ongoing monitoring of impacts to geological resources, such as change in topography and increased erosion. Geological features, including rock outcroppings that characterize the Park, will be preserved and protected from significant impacts because of visitor use.

Recreation

Impacts: Management zone designations associated with allowable visitor use has the potential to adversely affect some recreational activities as a result of cultural, natural, and aesthetic resource protection. Development, maintenance, erosion, dust, and resource degradation may also have an adverse affect on visitor experience.

Discussion: Management zone designations act as tools to preserve sensitive natural and cultural resources while providing recreation activities and visitor-serving facilities. Management zone designations have the potential to restrict certain recreational activities in some areas in order to protect sensitive resources or visitor experiences, particularly in the

Primary Historic Zone. Some recreational uses including equestrian and hiking use and climbing may be eliminated or restricted in portions of the Park. However, these uses will continue in areas with less resource sensitivity. It is not expected that the types of recreation uses will change substantially from the existing conditions; however, it is expected access to some existing areas will be restricted.

For example, an existing loop trail is proposed to be closed in the Preferred Plan. (See pages 91 to 92, Table 3 and Figure 5 for description of appropriate activities and facilities within each management zone.) Park users are concerned with maintaining current access and recreational activities in the Park. Although the Primary Historic Zone designation may limit trail use in certain areas, it will permit other types of recreation activities, such as interpretive and educational programs and hiking on designated trails. Therefore, adverse impacts to some types of recreation activities will be offset by other recreational opportunities.

Additionally, each visitor has his or her own sensitivity to visitor carrying capacity. For instance, an individual's tolerance of user- or facility-densities could be exceeded by higher level facility development in the Gateway Zone or North Forty Zone, while another individual is comforted by the presence of other people or facilities. Other aspects of recreation management include the degree to which multiple recreational activities compliment or conflict with one another and with maintenance of resource integrity (see pages 80 to 90).

Mitigation RR 1: General Plan goals and guidelines call for an assessment of current and potential recreational activities for compatibility with the management zones. Implementation of these guidelines will address the relative distribution of the different types of recreational activities and potential inherent conflicts, as well as specific mitigation and monitoring measures, in order to provide high quality outdoor recreation activities while preserving the integrity of the Park.

Mitigation RR 2: CDPR will make available to the public alternative recreational activities that are compatible with resource protection in areas within the Park that contain sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Water Resources

Impact: Demolition and construction activities associated with removal, consolidation development, maintenance, and use of facilities, particularly in the Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, or North Forty Zone, have the potential to significantly affect drainage patterns, runoff, or discharge into surface waters. Other park uses, such as trail use or primitive camping may also affect runoff or discharge.

Discussion: Since the Park is small, most construction activities would be proposed in the Gateway Zone, Secondary Access Points, or North Forty Zone and would be limited in scope and scale. These facilities would have the potential to affect water quality due to the need for sanitary facilities and stormwater runoff during construction and operation. If camping areas in the Scenic Ridge Zone are built, water would need to be either



packed in or provided by park operations, and primitive pit or chemical toilets would be provided. Use and maintenance of trails in the vicinity of the creek and meadows have the potential to affect hydrologic regimes and water quality. The General Plan recognizes the potential these conditions have for impacting water resources. Goals and guidelines for hydrology direct park managers to “protect, enhance, and restore” hydrologic resources within the Park (page 59).

Activities associated with construction, use, and maintenance of facilities could have short-term and long-term impacts on drainage patterns and water quality, particularly to the creek in the Riparian Zone and its associated wetland, unless measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts are incorporated into management plans and specific development projects. In addition to any mitigation measures deemed necessary at the time a project is scoped for implementation, the following mitigation measures will be implemented. All actions will be in compliance with state and federal permitting and regulatory requirements.

Mitigation WR 1: Before additional facility development can occur within the Park, potential impacts to water resources need to be addressed. Potential impacts to water resources, including availability of sufficient water for facility use, will be identified and addressed.

Mitigation WR 2: In accordance with the General Plan goals and guidelines, any new facilities within the Park will be designed and constructed to avoid impairment of natural drainages.

Impacts to streams and meadows from trail use and routine maintenance will be avoided or minimized.

EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

Air Quality

The Park is located at the far western boundary of the South Coast Air Basin which covers the San Fernando Valley and the far eastern boundary of the South Central Coast Air Basin in Ventura County. Both of these air basins are nonattainment areas for air quality. The most recent annual data for the monitoring station closest to the Park in Simi Valley had 18 days that exceeded the 1-hour state standard for Ozone and 54 days that exceeded the 8-hour state standard. This site also exceeded the 8-hour National Standard for Ozone on 18 days. The monitoring station for the western San Fernando Valley reported that in 2005, the 1-hour state standard for Ozone was exceeded for 30 days and the 8-hour standard for 29 days. The National 1-hour standard was exceeded for 2 days and the 8-hour standard for 12 days. However, the data also reflected an improvement in Ozone compliance between 2003 and 2005.

These data are generally representative of air quality in southern California which can vary substantially depending on the season and whether or not inversion layers are present. The population is alerted to avoid outdoor activities by local radio and television when the air quality is poor. Implementation of the General Plan will have little effect on air quality in the area because the Park is small and proposes very little new development. Potential air quality concerns for

vegetation management through controlled burns is addressed below.

Fire Hazard

Use of camping facilities has the potential to place the public and neighboring properties at risk due to wildfires caused by inadvertent or natural ignition from within, as well as from outside the Park. No campfires will be allowed outside designated areas. A wildfire management plan has been developed to ensure protection of human lives and property, and will emphasize control of fires along pre-determined suppression lines, which divide the Park into control compartments and will include evacuation procedures. Park managers will have the authority to stop the use of fires or smoking during periods of extreme fire danger and will patrol to prevent fires in unauthorized locations.

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Preventive management techniques will be employed to reduce the threat of wildfire. These techniques include increased patrols, brush clearance, and closure of the Park during extreme fire conditions. Smoking is banned in all back country areas as are all ground fires.

If constructed, the campground would be managed to greatly reduce the possibility of a wildfire ignition. Campfires would be restricted to fire rings and managed on a three tiered system. During high fire risk conditions, campfires would not be allowed, during medium fire risk conditions, only charcoal briquettes would be allowed, and during low fire risk conditions, small campfires would be allowed but must be contained within fire rings. Park Staff and camphosts would strictly enforce these rules. Weeds and brush would be kept

down in the campground to greatly reduce the possibility of ignition.

In the unlikely event that any fire were to escape a fire ring in the campground, it would very quickly be detected by other campers, camphosts or park staff, reported and extinguished before it became a wildfire event. The campground at Santa Susana Pass SHP is proposed at Spahn Ranch, immediately adjacent to a road for good firefighting equipment access and not directly adjacent to homes.

The use of prescribed fire as a vegetation management tool has the potential for impacts to regional air quality and may, in the event of an escape, place the public in danger. The restoration of the role of fire in natural ecological processes will include a prescribed fire management plan. This plan will include provisions for coordinating with regional air quality control boards to avoid emissions of smoke during sensitive time periods. It will also provide for public notification and exclusion areas prior to and during prescribed burning operations. In the event of an escape, the wildfire management plan will be invoked, which provides for public evacuation and appropriate suppression activities.

Hazardous Materials

The majority of the Park is currently undeveloped but portions were developed and used in the past. These uses included homesteading, stagecoach use, quarrying, and motion picture and television filming. Additionally, refuse, construction debris, and abandoned cars have been found on the property. Although it is unlikely that these areas contain hazardous wastes, if such wastes such as dumped asbestos are found, all



accepted protocols will be followed to ensure that the public is not exposed to such wastes and that they are disposed of properly if found.

At the last public meeting, it was brought to the attention of CDPR by a member of the public that there was a potential for exposure to radiation due to proximity of the Park to the former Rocketdyne Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). The laboratory was located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The site is associated with one of the most important Cold-War-era defense, aerospace, and atomic energy facilities in the nation. A Rocketdyne subsidiary, Atomics International, built and operated the first commercial nuclear-power producing reactor inside the United States at the SSFL site. Between March, 1959 and 1969, there were at least four nuclear accidents, fires, or partial meltdowns. Although it is doubtful that surface water runoff from the SSFL site would affect Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park from these accidents due to the topography between SSFL and the Park, data have not been released indicating whether or not the wind was blowing in the direction of the Park at the time of the incidents. Until such data are released or the Park and surrounding communities are tested, the presence or absence of radiation cannot be determined. Implementation of the General Plan would not change this situation. However, prior to the construction of a campground or visitor center facility, on-site testing should be conducted to determine whether or not radiation is present. If radiation is found to exist, the material will be identified and accepted protocols

followed as determined by appropriate authorities and/or experts.

Noise

There is potential for temporary increases in noise levels during any demolition or construction activities. Such activities would be timed to avoid seasons of peak visitation, and periods of time when sensitive wildlife species may be significantly impacted. When construction is to occur near residential areas, as might potentially occur in the Gateway Zones or Secondary Access Points, all local noise ordinances would be followed. Impacts from noise are expected to be nominal.

Paleontological Resources

Construction and grading will be limited to only a few areas within the Park. The likelihood of paleontological resources being present in these areas is low and, should such a resource be found, CDPR would determine appropriate protection, avoidance, or removal measures as appropriate to the situation.

Public Services

Implementation of the proposed plan would only require a nominal increase in the need for public services or utilities and be limited to just a few buildings. However, due to the Park's strategic location between two valleys, it is crossed by a number of utilities and right-of-ways. The implementation of the General Plan will not adversely affect the rights of any of the easement holders to perform their services in accordance with the rights and stipulations of the easement specifications.

Traffic

A Traffic Study was performed by an outside consultant, Katz, Okitsu & Associates (Appendix H—under separate cover), to evaluate the potential effects that the implementation of the General Plan would have on the local street system. The study determined that, based on forecasted traffic volumes and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation threshold of significance, the implementation of the General Plan would not have any significant traffic impacts on any of the six roadway segments studied and would continue to operate at Level of Service A (the highest level of service). The roadway segments studied included: 1) Devonshire Street, east of Larwin Avenue; 2) Larwin Avenue, north of Jeffrey Mark Court; 3) Andora Avenue, south of Valley Circle Boulevard; 4) Santa Susana Pass Road, west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard; 5) Santa Susana Pass Road, east of Lilac Lane; and 6) Lilac Lane south of Santa Susana Pass Road.

The General Plan proposes to add up to 124 new parking spaces for general public use. The Traffic Study concluded that the parking supply would be more than adequate to accommodate average weekday and weekend vehicular demand. Therefore, it would be unlikely that significant, General Plan related parking would spill over onto nearby residential streets.

GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park is a park with important natural and cultural resources and serves as a valuable recreational area as well. Although public-use areas may be

expanded with the implementation of the gateway concept in the General Plan, the General Plan will not substantially increase the current day-use visitors within the Park and would only provide camping opportunities for up to 75 visitors. Other than improving park facilities, interpretation and accessibility, implementation of the General Plan will not substantially affect public services. Although Park attendance has remained stable for the last 10 years, implementation of new facilities would provide needed park services to the rising local and state population. Therefore, there will be no significant growth-inducing impacts.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

None of the proposals contained in the General Plan will contribute significantly to the cumulative impacts of past, ongoing, or future projects. This General Plan recognizes the need for resource protection by setting guidelines for the preservation of natural and cultural resources within the Park. Some types of recreation will be reduced or designated to certain areas within the Park in an effort to protect valued resources.

MITIGATION MONITORING

Mitigation will be specified at the time each project proposed under the General Plan is prepared. A Mitigation Monitoring Program will be developed and implemented, as appropriate, for each CDPR project as required under CEQA guidelines Section 15091(d) and will require approval of natural and cultural specialists.

Each Mitigation Monitoring Plan & Program for specific projects will comply with the overall mitigation



requirements of the General Plan listed below:

Mitigation Aesthetic Resources:

Design and review of proposed projects and activities shall consider potential effects to site-specific aesthetic resources including regional characteristics and themes, viewsheds, dark skies, and topographical, geological, cultural, and natural features. Design and construction measures that avoid, minimize, or mitigate these effects shall be incorporated into every project.

Mitigation Biological Resources 1:

Prior to construction of facilities, potentially affected areas will be surveyed for the presence of special status species. Special status species found on a project site will be avoided to the fullest extent possible through project design, timing of activities, and implementation. If a special status species is detected within the area of potential impact, alternative sites will be considered, the area shall be flagged, and personnel educated on the sensitivity of an area and instructed to avoid it.

Mitigation Biological Resources 2: As much as possible, all project-related activities located within the habitat of special status species will take place outside of their breeding season or season of greatest potential effect on survivability. If project activities cannot avoid the breeding season or season of greatest potential effect, C DPR will arrange for weekly surveys to detect any special status species within 300 feet of the work area (1/4 mile for raptor nests). If special status species are discovered within this area of potential impact, surveys will continue through the period of

construction. If special status species are being negatively affected, construction activities will be postponed until the potential for negative effects has passed. Sensitive habitat areas shall be flagged and construction personnel shall be educated on the sensitivity of the area and instructed to avoid the area.

Mitigation Biological Resources 3:

Any areas cleared or disturbed will be restored with native plant species known from the area, using locally collected material, and species that represent habitat composition for the sensitive species detected on site.

Mitigation Cultural Resources 1:

Prior to any actions that have the potential to disturb the area of a possible archeological site, additional research and testing will be carried out to determine if buried cultural remains exist. Any new facilities will be designed and constructed to avoid archeological remains to the extent practicable. If impacts to archeological remains are unavoidable, then a recovery plan will be developed and implemented. A C DPR archaeologist will monitor those activities deemed to have the highest potential to disturb or damage buried archeological remains to ensure that no historical or prehistorical resources are adversely impacted. If cultural remains are uncovered during any project activities, work will be stopped in that area so that the resource can be recorded, the nature of the deposit can be determined, and an appropriate protection or recovery plan can be implemented.

Mitigation Cultural Resources 2: Any proposed projects will be reviewed for their potential to affect significant

historical resources. All significant historical resources will be mapped, recorded, and evaluated to determine their eligibility for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Projects will be designed and implemented to avoid significant impacts to potentially eligible historic resources in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Mitigation Cultural Resources 3: Information about the importance of cultural resource protection will be incorporated as part of the interpretation and signage for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. For example, there will be signs directing mountain bike users to walk their bikes down the portion of Santa Susana Pass Stagecoach Trail that is very steep and subject to erosion or damage.

Mitigation Geological Resources 1: Any new facilities will be designed and constructed to follow and fit into natural contours, as much as possible, to minimize the amount of topographic change that is required. Significant rock features will be avoided.

Mitigation Geological Resources 2: All demolitions, grading, and excavations will be subject to the typical restrictions and requirements that address erosion and runoff, including the Federal Clean Water Act and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which includes but may not be limited to silt fencing, sand bags appropriately placed during rain events, and an erosion control plan that uses native species known to occur in the area for revegetation. CDPR will use Best Management Practices throughout

construction to avoid and minimize indirect impacts.

Mitigation Geological Resources 3: The General Plan/EIR goals and guidelines call for ongoing monitoring of impacts to geological resources, such as change in topography and increased erosion. Geological features, including rock outcroppings that characterize the Park, will be preserved and protected from significant impacts because of visitor use.

Mitigation Recreation Resources 1: The General Plan/EIR goals and guidelines call for an assessment of current and potential recreational activities for compatibility with the management zones. Implementation of these guidelines will address the relative distribution of the different types of recreational activities and potential inherent conflicts, as well as specific mitigation and monitoring measures, in order to provide high quality outdoor recreation activities while preserving the integrity of the Park.

Mitigation Recreation Resources 2: CDPR will make available to the public alternative recreational activities that are compatible with resource protection in areas within the Park that contain sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Mitigation Water Resources 1: Before additional facility development can occur within the Park, potential impacts to water resources need to be addressed. Potential impacts to water resources, including availability of sufficient water for facility use, will be identified and addressed.

Mitigation Water Resources 2: In accordance with the General Plan/EIR



goals and guidelines, any new facilities within the Park will be designed and constructed to avoid impairment of natural drainages. Impacts to streams and meadows from trail use and routine maintenance will be avoided or minimized.

Findings

It is anticipated that the implementation of measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate potentially significant environmental effects will reduce negative impacts to a level below significance. Therefore, no Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required for the General Plan/EIR. If these measures cannot reduce potential negative impacts to a level below significance, the project will not be implemented. The following Findings have been made for environmental issues that were identified as potentially significant:

Finding - Aesthetics: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities to aesthetic resources, including viewsheds, dark skies, topographical, geological, cultural, and natural features shall be mitigated below a level of significance through site design and appropriate use of materials.

Finding – Special Status Species: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities or park operations to special status or sensitive species shall be mitigated below a level of significance through site design and through consultation and approval by a CDPR Environmental Scientist (biologist).

Finding - Habitat: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities or park operations to native

plant species shall be avoided or mitigated to a level below significance through site design and by using locally collected material, and species that represent habitat composition for the sensitive species detected on site.

Finding – Archaeological Sites: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities or park operations to disturb the area of a possible archeological site shall be avoided or mitigated to a level below significance through site design and the approval of a CDPR Archaeologist.

Finding - Historic Resources: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities or park operations to disturb the area of a historic resource shall be avoided or mitigated to a level below significance through site design and the approval of a CDPR Historian. Additionally, projects with the potential to adversely affect potentially eligible historic resources will be designed and implemented in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Finding – Existing Impacts to Cultural Resources: Although not a new impact under CEQA, existing potentially adverse environmental effects through visitor use to cultural resources will be addressed and mitigated below a level of significance under the General Plan/EIR. Information about the importance of cultural resource protection will be incorporated as part of the interpretation and signage for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. For example, there will be signs directing mountain bike users to walk their bikes down the portion of Santa Susana Pass Stagecoach Trail that is

very steep and subject to erosion or damage.

Finding – Topographical Compatibility & Rock Outcrops: Potential adverse effects from the construction of park facilities or park operations to the Park’s natural contours and scenic rock outcroppings shall be mitigated below a level of significance through site design and the minimization of the amount of topographic change that is required. Significant rock features will be avoided.

Finding – Erosion: Potential adverse effects from all demolitions, grading, and excavations for the construction of park facilities or park operations shall be avoided or mitigated to a level below significance through site design and be subject to the typical restrictions and requirements that address erosion and runoff, including the Federal Clean Water Act and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Finding - Geological Features: Although not a new impact under CEQA, there are existing potentially adverse environmental effects from visitor use to geologic features including rock outcroppings that characterize the Park. These features will be preserved and protected from significant impacts under the General Plan/EIR.

Finding – Recreation: Potential adverse effects from the elimination of existing trails have been avoided by providing alternative recreational activities that are compatible with resource protection in areas within the Park that contain sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Finding - Water Resources: Potential adverse effects from the construction of

park facilities or park operations to water supplies, natural drainages, streams and meadows shall be avoided or mitigated to a level below significance through site design and the approval of the appropriate agencies with jurisdiction.

PUBLIC COORDINATION

Public involvement in development of the General Plan included three public meetings in Chatsworth and five stakeholder meetings. Public involvement is discussed in detail on page 50. Additionally, CDPH has closely coordinated the General Plan development with community interest groups.

At the third public meeting, when the Preferred Plan was presented for public comment, property owners near several locations identified as Gateway Zone access points raised objections. These objections were based on limited street access at Lilac Lane and parking issues, conflicts with park users, and vandalism (primarily after-hours) along Jeffrey Mark Court. Much of this public comment is attached in the NOP Responses (Appendix F, under separate cover) although it was received after the close of the 30-day response period. CDPH subsequently held stakeholder meetings and modified the Preferred Plan by changing the Gateway Zone at Lilac Lane to a Secondary Access Point and removing the Gateway Zone designation and access off Jeffrey Mark Court. The existing access at Jeffrey Mark Court will be closed off. Due to topographical considerations, a parking area is proposed within Park property across from Jeffrey Mark Court but visitor use will be limited to normal day-use hours (usually sunrise to sunset) and accessed at the end of



the Powerhouse Road Trail through a gated Secondary Access Point off Larwin Avenue.

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated through the State Clearinghouse to state agencies, as well as to appropriate city and county planning offices, federal agencies, special interest organizations, and individuals. The State Clearinghouse reference number is SCH#2006061092. The public review period for the NOP closed on July 18, 2006. The NOP, and responses letters from the public are combined in Appendix F with the comment letter and responses from the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Appendix F is located under separate cover.

The Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was released, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15087, for a 45-day public review period on July 5, 2007. The public review period ended August 20, 2007. A chapter providing a summary of all public comments, issues and master responses, and individual comment letters and responses is located in Appendix F. Two petitions were received, with a total of 357 and 18 signatures respectively, and 17 copies of a form letter. The petitions and the form letter opposed the project. A total of 56 individual letters were received. Of these letters, 30 were opposed to the project and 15 were in favor. Several of the favorable letters were opposed to the campground. The remaining letters did not express a position.

There were seven general issues raised during public comment. These issues

are addressed with master responses in Appendix F and include: 1) the overall park development, 2) camping and wildfire danger, 3) park access, 4) traffic and parking, 5) vandalism, 6) resource protection, and 7) the Santa Susana Field Lab or other pollution. In general, the residents near Lilac Lane favor the Preferred Alternative as described in the General Plan/EIR, but the majority of residents on Jeffrey Mark Court, Andora Avenue, and Larwin Avenue did not like the Plan or how the Park is currently managed.

REASONABLE PROJECTION OF DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE GENERAL PLAN

The following matrix represents a reasonable scenario of potential public-use facilities that could be developed in each of the proposed management zones (Table 5) under the goals and guidelines proposed in the General Plan for Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. Each represents one of many potential scenarios in each zone. Within the range of possibilities, the scenarios depicted below portray the most extensive development that should be expected.

This matrix was developed merely to provide a means by which to represent the analysis of potential significant environmental effects that could result from implementation of the General Plan. The actual choice of types, sizes, and locations of facilities to be developed within each zone will be determined during specific project plans. The decisions made in these plans will be consistent with the goals and guidelines of the General Plan and based on many factors including natural and cultural resource protection and visitor experience.

Table 5: REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTION MATRIX

	Existing Condition	Reasonable Plan Projection (Cumulative)	Net Difference (Between Existing and Reasonable Plan Projection)
Chatsworth Park South Gateway Zone			
Buildings (square feet)			
Visitor Center or Operations	0	4,000	4,000
Maintenance	0	1,000	1,000
Comfort stations	0	800	800
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)	0	12	12
Spahn Ranch Gateway Zone			
Buildings (square feet)			
Visitor Use or Operations	0	5,000	5,000
Maintenance building (1)	0	1,000	1,000
Comfort Station	0	800	800
Corral or manure facility	0	6,000	6,000
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)			
Regular Parking	0	50	50
Truck/Trailer Parking	0	6	6
Larwin Secondary Access Point			
Buildings (square feet)			
Restroom - Vault type toilet	0	100	100
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)	0	12	12
Lilac Lane Secondary Access Point			
Buildings (square feet)			
Restroom - Vault type toilet	0	100	100
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)	0	6	6
Santa Susanna Pass Road Secondary Access Point			
Buildings (square feet)			
Restroom - Vault type toilet	0	100	100
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)	0	6	6

	Existing Condition	Reasonable Plan Projection (Cumulative)	Net Difference (Between Existing and Reasonable Plan Projection)
Andora Secondary Access Point			
Buildings (square feet)			
Restroom - Vault type toilet	0	100	100
Vehicle Parking (number of spaces)	0	12	12
North Forty Zone 21 acres			
Buildings (square feet)			
Visitor Center or Operations	0	2,500	2,500
Campfire Center (approximate)	0	500	500
Campsites/tent cabins or bunk facility	0	75 people	75 people
Primary Historic Zone 155 acres			
Building - historic related inc. restroom	0	2,500	2,500
Scenic Ridge Zone 465 acres			
Campsites - combined with North Forty	0	75 people	75 people
Trail System			
Total Park Trail Mileage	9.5	9.2	
Does not consider duplicate trails			



Innovative technology for Park's
interpretive programs

Appendices

5



Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park

APPENDIX A

Sensitive plant species and vegetation communities potentially occurring at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PRESENCE*	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	CNPS STATUS
<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	Braunton's milk-vetch	Potential	FE		1B
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	Slender mariposa lily	Potential			1B
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	Plummer's mariposa lily	Confirmed			1B
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	San Fernando Valley spineflower	Potential		SE	1B
<i>Deinandra minthornii</i>	Santa Susana tarplant	Confirmed			1B
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	Slender-horned spineflower	Potential	FE	SE	1B
<i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>Blochmaniae</i>	Blochman's dudleya	Potential			1B
<i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>agourensis</i>	Agoura Hills dudleya	Potential	FT		1B
<i>Dudleya multicaulis</i>	Many-stemmed dudleya	Potential			1B
<i>Dudleya parva</i>	Conejo dudleya	Potential	FT		1B
<i>Erodium macrophyllum</i>	Round-leaved filaree	Potential			2
<i>Nolina cismontana</i>	Chaparral nolina	Potential			1B
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	Unlikely	FE	SE	1B
<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Lyon's pentachaeta	Potential	FE	SE	1B
	Southern coast live oak riparian forest	Confirmed			

FE	Listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FT	Listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
SE	Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
1B	CNPS List 1B: rare, Threatened or Endangered in California, and elsewhere.
2	CNPS List2: Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
Confirmed	Known occurrence within the Park's boundaries
Potential	Habitat present within the Park's boundaries
Unlikely	No habitat present within the Park's boundaries

LISTING STATUS DEFINITION

Listing status code definitions used by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the State of California (i.e., California Department of Fish and Game), and the Federal Government (i.e., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to describe the degree of endangerment and the legal status of sensitive plant taxa.

Listing Codes

- FE Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- FT Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act
- SE Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Lists

List 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

List 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere



APPENDIX B

Sensitive vertebrate and invertebrate species potentially occurring at Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PRESENCE	FEDERAL STATUS	STATE STATUS	CDFG STATUS
<i>Spea (=Scaphiopus) hammondii</i>	Western spadefoot	Potential			SSC
<i>Bufo californicus</i>	Arroyo toad	Potential	FE		SSC
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	Potential	FT		SSC
<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	Southwestern pond turtle	Potential			SSC
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum (blainvillei)</i>	Coast (San Diego) horned lizard	Potential			SSC
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i>	Coastal western whiptail	Potential			
<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	California legless lizard	Potential			SSC
<i>Thamnophis hammondii</i>	Two-striped garter snake	Potential			SSC
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	Confirmed			SSC
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl	Potential			SSC
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	Potential	FT		SSC
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's vireo	Unlikely	FE	SE	
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored blackbird	Unlikely			SSC
<i>Felis concolor californica</i>	Mountain lion	Confirmed			
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	San Diego desert woodrat	Potential			SSC
<i>Gila orcutti</i>	Arroyo chub	Unlikely			SSC
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch butterfly	Potential			
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Riverside fairy shrimp	Unlikely	FE		
<i>Socalchemmis gertschi</i>	Gertsch's Socalchemmis spider	Unknown			

FE	Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
FT	Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
SE	Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
SSC	CDFG Species of Special Concern

Confirmed	Known occurrence within the Park's boundaries
Potential	Habitat present within the Park's boundaries
Unlikely	No habitat present within the Park's boundaries

LISTING CODES DEFINITIONS

Listing Codes

- FE Listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- FT Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act
- SE Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
- SSC CDFG Species of Special Concern



APPENDIX C—CULTURAL RESOURCES IN CONTEXT

This list of resources, periods, and topics correlates to the archaeological and historic resources within the Park. This list can be used to organize historic time into coherent patterns that have influenced the Park's development during one or more periods of its history. This list categorizes the Park's recorded and potentially eligible cultural resources into their applicable context.

NATIVE AMERICAN

Period: Pre- and post-contact (prior to and after ca. 1769)

Significance: The area of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park was an interaction zone between the Tongva/Gabrielino, Ventureño Chumash, and Fernandeano/Tataviam peoples. It was also the location of villages, camps, sacred spaces, and other activity areas.

Sites: CA-LAN-448/449/1126/1728 (village site)*

CA-LAN-1028 (rockshelter/camp)

CA-LAN-1718/1719 (small village/camp)

CA-LAN-1736 (camp/activity area)

CA-LAN-1737 (camp/activity area)

CA-LAN-1738 (activity area)

CA-LAN-2173 (small village/camp)

CA-LAN-2198 (camp/activity area)

CA-LAN-3493 (activity area)

P-19-120087 (activity area)

CA-LAN-3494 (camp/activity area)

CA-LAN-3507 (activity area)

CA-LAN-3512 (camp/activity area)

P-19-120080 (shelter)

CA-LAN-3506 (activity area)

Shell isolate (activity area)

CA-LAN-3503 (activity area)

CA-LAN-3504 (activity area)

P-19-100563 (activity area)

P-19-100564 (activity area)

CA-LAN-3508 (camp/activity area)

ARCHAEOLOGY (HISTORIC)

Period: Historic (1769 to 1960s)

Significance: The archaeological study of people during historic times leads to the understanding the lives of people who lived, worked, died, or traveled through the Santa Susana Pass area during historic times.

Sites: P-19-150427 (historic structure)

P-19-150436 (historic structure)

CA-LAN-448/449/1126/172(stagecoach road/station/quarry/homestead/
etc.)*

CA-LAN-1718/1719 (rock walls/old road/brick dump)

CA-LAN-1738 (trash dump)

CA-LAN-2173 (trash dump/old road)

P-19-120085 (brick dump)

CA-LAN-3509 (work camp/homestead)

CA-LAN-3510 (car and shelter)

P-19-120086 (car)

CA-LAN-3492 (well head and pump foundation)

P-19-120078 (historic fill/construction)

CA-LAN-3511 (El Camino Nuevo)

CA-LAN-3495 (trash dump/quarrying)

P-19-120080 (shelter)

CA-LAN-3496 (rock walls/terraces/road/structure remains)

CA-LAN-3497 (activity area/trash dump)

P-19-120079 (quarrying)

P-19-120081 (quarrying)

P-19-120082 (quarrying)

P-19-120083 (trash dump)

CA-LAN-3498 (fenceline)

CA-LAN-3499 (communications)

CA-LAN-3500 (quarrying/transportation)

P-19-120084 (construction debris)

CA-LAN-3502 (Spahn Ranch)

CA-LAN-3501 (bridge footings/abutments/spillway)

CA-LAN-3505 (trash dump)



EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period: 1769-1892

Significance: Exploration and settlement refers to the investigation and expansion of geographical knowledge by an individual or group of explorers and the establishment and development of new settlements and communities: These activities led to the exploration and development of new settlements, routes of travel and communication in the northwestern section of the San Fernando Valley.

Sites: *El Camino de Santa Susana y Simí* (Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road)

AGRICULTURE

Period: 1833-1905

Significance: Early agricultural methods and techniques in use in the northwestern San Fernando Valley included the technology of cultivating soil, projecting crops, and raising livestock and plants.

Sites: Santa Susana Pass Road*: Mission and later secular *vaqueros* (cowboys) and *pastores* (shepherders) often led large herds of cattle and sheep through the pass to their seasonal pasturage

Homesteads belonging to:

Francisco Miranda

Dionisio Sanchez

James R. Williams

James D. Hill

Florence M. Mattingly

William Bannon*

TRANSPORTATION

Period: 1833-1955

Significance: Pioneer individuals and organizations used various modes and forms of technology to transport goods and people up and over Santa Susana Pass.

Sites: Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road including The Devil's Slide*

La Cuesta: Rita de la Osa Family-operated Stagecoach Swing Station*

“*El Camino Nuevo*”: New Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road
a.k.a. Chatsworth Grade Road —1895-1917

Santa Susana Pass Railroad Tunnels**

Bannon/Chatsworth Stone Quarry Railroad Spur*

INDUSTRY

Period: 1891-1919

Significance: People applied labor, technology, and equipment to extract, process, and transport raw materials from mines or quarries. This is indicative of the early development of extractive industries in the Chatsworth Hills area.

Sites: Bannon/Chatsworth Stone Quarry Administration/Operations Area*

Bannon/Chatsworth Stone Quarry*

P-19-120079 (quarrying)

P-19-120081 (quarrying)

P-19-120082 (quarrying)

CA-LAN-3495 (trash dump/quarrying)

CA-LAN-3500 (quarrying/transportation)

TELEVISION AND MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRIES

Period: 1915-1970

Significance: Pioneer motion pictures and television production used the natural landscape as a backdrop for exotic locales. Hollywood studios' used the Chatsworth Hills area as a popular location for motion pictures and television series during their pioneer and golden ages.

Sites: *Jack and the Beanstalk* (near Miranda Homestead)

Spahn Movie Ranch and neighboring movie ranches

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Period: 1933-1942

Significance: The preservation, maintenance, and management of natural or manmade resources marked the beginning of the efforts to preserve Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park in the 1930s.

Sites: Depression-Era Indigent Camp Site

Native Daughters of the Golden West Plaque commemorating the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road*

* Listed on National Register of Historic Places/California Register—Point of Historic Interest

**Not owned by CDPR



APPENDIX D—DEFINED TERMS & LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Adobe

A Spanish term meaning “mud brick or block.” It is a sun-dried, unfired brick or building block made from a mixture of clay, straw, and water. The term can also refer to the clay or soil from which the brick is made, or a structure built with this type of brick and lime-plastered, mud-stucco-clad walls.

Aesthetic Resource

In this general plan, the term aesthetic resource refers to the visual, audible, and other sensory factors within the Park setting and its surrounding landscape that, taken together, establish the Park’s character and sense of place.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President Bush in 1990. Divided into four titles, it guarantees people with disabilities equal access to employment, transportation and public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

Bedrock Grinding Feature

A groundstone feature on or in a bedrock outcrop. Bedrock grinding features include slicks, rubs, basins, mortars, and sometimes cupules.

Biotic Community

A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.

Biocorridors

Interconnected tracts of land characterized by significant natural

resource value through which native species can disperse.

Biodiversity

The number and abundance of species found within a common environment. This includes the variety of genes, species, ecosystems, and the ecological processes that connect everything in a common environment.

Buffer/Buffer Zone

An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that may be undesirable. Buffers may be set aside next to wildlife habitat to reduce abrupt change to the habitat.

Butterfield Overland Mail Company

Also known as the Butterfield Overland Stage or the Butterfield Stage. Named after John Butterfield (in partnership with the Wells Fargo and the American Express companies) and carried U.S. mail and paying passengers overland from St. Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, California. The stagecoaches were in operation from September 15, 1857 until the outbreak of the Civil War on April 12, 1861.

Cahuenga Pass

From the Spanish phrase: *Paso de Cahuenga* meaning “Pass of Cahuenga.” Cahuenga is from the Gabrieliño/Tongva term *kawé’nga* or *kavwé’nga* meaning “the mountain place” or “at the mountain.” Cahuenga Pass is the mountain pass through the eastern end of the Santa Monica

Mountains, which connects southeastern San Fernando Valley to the City of Los Angeles.

California State Park and Recreation Commission

Established in 1927 to advise the Director of the California Division of Beaches and Parks (earlier name for the California Department 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 each matter of classification or reclassification and the approval of CDPD's general plan for each park unit.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A state law requiring state and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an EIR must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General Plans require the preparation of a "program EIR."

California Species of Special Concern

This is a California Department of Fish and Game designation based on declining population levels, limited range, and/or continuing threats to certain vertebrate species. The goal of this designation is to halt or to reverse their decline by bringing attention to their status.

Carreta

An all purpose, two-wheeled, wooden wagon or cart in use during the Spanish Mission and Mexican Rancho

eras. The term is Spanish for "ox cart." Carretas were often pulled by two yoked oxen. They were used to carry goods and people along primitive roads.

Classification and Assessment with Landsat of Visible Ecological Groupings (CALVeg)

A land-cover mapping and monitoring system that produces vegetation maps that can pinpoint habitats and species likely to be affected by management decisions and monitor temporal vegetative changes. These maps can also help identify and prioritize conservation activities.

Chaparral

Characterized by stands of structurally homogeneous shrubs with tough evergreen leaves forming a continuous or intermittent shrub canopy depending on fire and precipitation regimes. Mixed chaparral generally occurs below 5000 ft on mountain ranges throughout California with Mediterranean climates (cool wet winters and hot dry summers).

Chumash

See Ventureño Chumash.

Corral

An enclosure for confining livestock. The Spanish word means "enclosure."

Cultural Resources

Archaeological, ethnographical, traditional, and historical sites, artifacts, features, landscapes, properties, and built environment resources, including but not necessarily limited to buildings, structures, objects, and districts.



Cupule

A small pecked or ground, shallow hole in a rock or outcrop. Cupules are often considered to be nonutilitarian forms of rock art. There are similarly-sized and shaped grinding holes that may have been used for processing specialty foods or other resources, or as a form of mineral extraction.

Department Administration Manual (DAM) (California Department of Parks and Recreation)

Provides the policies and procedures by which the California Department of Parks and Recreation functions. CDPR manuals are intended to contain general matters of policy and procedure. In certain areas there will be information and specifications that are too detailed or lengthy to include in a manual. These more detailed materials will be prepared and issued in the form of handbooks, with each handbook devoted to a single topic.

Department Operations Manual (DOM) (California Department of Parks and Recreation)

Provides the policies and procedures that are pertinent to the operation of the CDPR system. It is intended as a working guide for personnel in the Operations Division, and as a reference document for other CDPR personnel. It is intended to complement the CDPR manuals on administration (DAM) and planning and development.

Ecology

The study of interrelationship of living things to one another and their environment.

El Camino Real

Spanish for “the New Road.” The dirt road (basically a carreta trail) that linked Mexico City to Monterey (the

capital of Alta California) and beyond during the 1769-1810 Spanish Colonial Era. Also known as the “Mission Trail,” it connected Spanish California’s Franciscan missions from San Diego to Sonoma.

El Camino Nuevo

Spanish for “the New Road.” This was the original name for the Chatsworth Grade Road, which bypassed the older Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road in 1895

El Camino Viejo

Spanish for “the Old Road.” This was the colloquial name for El Camino Real during the Mexican Republic and early American periods. The name was also used to distinguish the Devil’s Slide segment of the original Santa Susana Pass Wagon Road after 1895.

El Paso Conejo

Spanish for “the Rabbit Pass.” This is an important pass leading down some 680 feet from the upper Conejo Valley to the eastern approaches to Pleasant Valley and the town of Camarillo in Ventura County.

Endangered Species

Any native species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This designation is made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game.

Environment

CEQA defines environment as “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 or 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 has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an EIR must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. General plans require the preparation of a “program” EIR appropriate to its level of specificity.

Exotic Species

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

Feldspathic Sandstone

Sandstone with high amounts of feldspar present in its matrix ranging from unassorted products of granular disintegration of granite to partly sorted river-laid or even marine deposits.

Fernandeño

The ethnographic territory of the Fernandeño includes the San Fernando Valley and into the Santa Clarita Valley. The name Fernandeño was given to them by the Spanish and indicates they were associated with the Mission San Fernando Rey de España. This mission included people of

Tongva, Tataviam, and Ventureño Chumash descent.

Floristic Province

A geographic area with a relatively uniform composition of plant species and similar growing conditions.

Gabrielino (Gabrieleno)/Tongva

See Tongva/Gabrielino (Gabrieleno).

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A computer system for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, manipulating, analyzing and displaying data related to positions on the earth’s surface.

Geomorphological

Pertaining to the study of the relief features of the earth’s surface and the forces that shaped them.

Groundstone

An archaeological term that refers to stone tools and features that were used to grind or process seeds, pigments, clay, fibers, or other food or materials. Also called milling. Groundstone tools include manos/ handstones, pestles, and portable metates and mortars. Groundstone features include bedrock slicks, basins, and mortars. Also called Bedrock Grinding Features.

Habitat

The sum total of the environmental factors, food, cover, and water that promotes occupancy by individuals of a given species and allows those individuals to survive and reproduce.

Hydrological

Having to do with the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.



Interpretation

In this general plan it refers to a communication process, designed to reveal meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage, through involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, and sites.

Kashi'wey

Ventureño Chumash for “the pass.” The term was used to refer to Santa Susana Pass.

La Cuesta/La Cuesta Vieja

Local name for the De la Osa family-operated swing station near the foot of Devil’s Slide, and for the road itself. This Spanish term means “hill, grade, slope, or ridge” the *La Cuesta Vieja* variation (used mainly for the Old Santa Susana Stagecoach Road) means “old grade or slope.”

Las Pilitas

The name of the central portion of the Park at the bottom of Devil’s Slide. This name was used by the Fernandinos who were interviewed by J. P. Harrington in the early 1900s. Spanish for “the little basins.” Possibly a reference to the historic cisterns, which are also called *pilas*.

Metate

In the Southwestern United States, a common term for an unshaped or shaped stone slab or basin, upon which seeds, plants, pigments, or other materials are ground with the use of a “handstone” or “mano.” Also called “groundstone” or “millingstone.”

Mortar

A shaped, circular hole or depression in a rock that is used as a container for the process of pounding and/or grinding seeds, plants, pigments, or

other materials and foods with the use of a pestle.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register, NRHP)

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources.

National Register Property

A site that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards and are considered to be of significance to the nation, state, or local community.

Native Daughters of the Golden West

A charitable and fraternal organization dedicated to promoting and preserving California's history. Organized locally into “Parlors,” the group, like the Native Sons of the Golden West, is best-known for the placement of commemorative markers throughout the state.

Notice of Preparation (NOP)

A document stating that an EIR will be prepared for a particular project. It is the first step in the EIR process.

Pastores

This is the Spanish term for shepherders. There were pastores who guarded, tended, and drove herds of sheep through Santa Susana Pass.

Petroglyph

A type of Native American rock art consisting of carved, scratched, ground, or pecked figures and/or shapes.

Pictograph

A type of Native American rock art consisting of painted figures and/or shapes.

Potable Water

Water suitable for human consumption.

Predation

Predatory behavior; the capture and consumption of prey.

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 recreational resources of the state.

Rancheros

Spanish term meaning “ranchers,” it was used in the American Southwest and California during the Spanish Colonial and Mexican Republican eras for owners of large ranches (*Ranchos*), or ranchers in general.

Rancho El Encino

Spanish for “Ranch of the Evergreen Oaks.” The Mexican government originally granted a parcel of land to three Mission Indians following the abandonment of the California mission system in 1833. Don Vincent de la Osa eventually acquired title to the land in 1851, and is credited with building a nine-room adobe. Also referred to as Rancho Los Encinos, it was a popular overnight rest place or roadhouse along El Camino Real.

Riata

American Spanish term for a long-noosed rope used to catch animals. From the Spanish *reata* meaning rope to tie horses and keep them in single file. *La riata* was Anglicized in American Western vernacular into “lariat.” Also called *lasso*, the Spanish word for snare.

Riprap

A loose assemblage of broken stones erected in water or on soft ground as a foundation. The broken stones used for such a foundation.

Sensitive Species

Any species of plant or animal potentially needing special management in order to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered due to habitat changes or impacts from various activities. This description is not part of the designation of Threatened or Endangered Species made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Game for animal species.

Slick/Grinding Slick

An area of a rock that has been worn smooth by grinding with a handstone or mano.

Species of Special Concern

A CDFG designation which applies to animals not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act, but which nonetheless 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist.



Swing Station

A temporary stop along a stagecoach route where horses, tack, and other items were kept to service arriving coaches. A person or family usually operated a swing station under contract with the stagecoach company.

Tataviam

The ethnographic territory of the Tataviam includes the northern San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and into the Antelope Valley. The name Tataviam means “people facing the sun.” The southern Tataviam were also associated with the Mission San Fernando (see Fernandeno above).

Taxon (pl. Taxa)

The general term for a biological classification group (e.g., a family, genus or species)

Threatened Species

Any native species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This designation is made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game.

Tinaja

Spanish for “large earthen jar.” Also refers to a basin-shaped water hole usually carved into bedrock by natural erosion, although some are human-modified or enhanced.

Tongva/Gabrielino (Gabrieleno)

The Tongva/Gabrielino inhabited most of the Los Angeles Basin including many of the Channel Islands. The name Gabrielino (or Gabrieleno) was given to them by the Spanish and indicates they were associated with the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel. The

Indian name Tongva means “people of the earth.”

Valleywood

Informal name for the San Fernando Valley in regards to its use by Hollywood motion picture producers and directors for location filming as early as 1910.

Vaquero

The Spanish term for cowboy or ranch hand, from the Spanish word *vaca* meaning “cow.” During Spanish Colonial and Mexican Republic eras it meant a skilled horseman who herds cattle, horses, or other livestock. The term was Anglicized during the early American Period into “buckaroo.”

Ventureño Chumash

The ethnographic territory of the Ventureño Chumash includes the northernmost portion of Los Angeles County and most of Ventura County. The name Ventureño is from the Spanish and indicates an association with the Mission San Buenaventura. The Indian name Chumash is a derivation of the name that the mainland Chumash called the inhabitants of Santa Cruz Island but it has come to be used for all the linguistically-related Indians from San Luis Obispo County down into northern Los Angeles County as well as across some of the Channel Islands.

Way Station

Also known as a “Home Station,” it was a building owned and managed by a station manager and his family who provided meals and overnight accommodations for passengers, coach drivers, and other stagecoach line employees.

List of Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
CALVeg	Classification and Assessment with Landstat of Visible Ecological Groupings
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Game)
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CDF	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
DAM	Department Administration Manual (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
DOM	Department Operations Manual (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
ECA	Environmental Condition Assessment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IMAP	Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Program
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NOF	Notice of Preparation
NPS	National Park Service
PRC	Public Resources Code
SMMNRA	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey



APPENDIX E

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California Department of Parks and Recreation Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation 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.

