# INITIAL STUDY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK EQUESTRIAN & LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT PLAN

August 2006



#### MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK

**EQUESTRIAN & LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT PLAN** 

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:** The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is

available for review at:

Angeles District Headquarters
 California Department of Parks & Recreation
 1925 Las Virgenes Road
 Calabasas, CA 91302

- Will Rogers State Historic Park
   1501 Will Rogers State Park Road
   Pacific Palisades, CA, 90272
- Los Angeles Public Library
   Pacific Palisades Branch
   861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
- Santa Monica Public Library 1343 Sixth St. Santa Monica, CA 90406

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan contains guidelines and standards to govern the development of equestrian programs and activities at Will Rogers State Historic Park. The Plan describes allowable uses and desired outcomes of interpretive programs, special events, and other agreements at Will Rogers State Historic Park that involve horses or other livestock.

The Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan can be found on the state park web site for Will Rogers State Historic Park: <a href="www.parks.ca.gov/willrogers">www.parks.ca.gov/willrogers</a> Additional information about the park, as well as historic photographs, may also be found at the web site.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Jennifer Ruffolo California Department of Parks & Recreation Archaeology, History & Museum Services Division 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 905 Sacramento, California, 95814 Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

RP Sil	8/10/06
District Superintendent	Date
Suganne Hoode	8-9-06
0	Date

Environmental Coordinator

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan at Will Rogers State Historic Park, Los Angeles County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 et seq.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant mitigate the potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

#### 1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Jennifer Ruffolo, Senior Park & Recreation Specialist California Department of Parks & Recreation Archaeology, History & Museum Services Division PO Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001 Fax (916) 653-3398

All inquiries regarding environmental compliance for this project, including comments on this environmental document should be addressed to Jennifer Ruffolo at the above address.



#### 1.3 Purpose and Document Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan at Will Rogers State Historic Park. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan to eliminate any potentially significant impacts or reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 Introduction.
   This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.
- Chapter 2 Project Description.
   This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.
- Chapter 3 Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.
   This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.
- Chapter 4 Mandatory Findings of Significance
   This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.
- Chapter 5 Summary of Mitigation Measures.
   This chapter summarizes the mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.
- Chapter 6 References.
   This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.
- Chapter 7 Report Preparation
   This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

#### 1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan would result in less-than-significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, a MND shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment after the inclusion of mitigation measures in the project. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that, after the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

## CHAPTER 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 2.1 Introduction

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan at Will Rogers State Historic Park. The proposed Plan establishes guidelines and policies for equestrian programs at Will Rogers State Historic Park. It describes allowable uses and expected outcomes of equestrian activities and programs involving horses or other livestock.

#### 2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Will Rogers State Historic Park is located in the community of Pacific Palisades within the City of Los Angeles, California. Pacific Palisades is dominated by six major canyons and many locations boast of panoramic vistas. It has a mild coastal climate and averages 15.5 inches of rain annually. The proposed Plan affects the many of the Park facilities, which include a polo field, pastures, the Jim Rogers barn, riding and roping arenas, Sarah's Point, trails, and the historic stable.

#### 2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

Will Rogers State Historic Park is located in Pacific Palisades, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It was the home of Will Rogers, his wife Betty, and their three children from 1928 to 1935. In 1935, Will Rogers died in a plane crash near Point Barrows, Alaska. Betty continued to live at the ranch until her death in 1944. She arranged to donate the ranch and its 186 surrounding acres to the State of California, and in August 1944 the ranch became a state park.

The ranch was a refuge and source of deep pleasure for Will Rogers, where he could relax with his family and close friends. Horses, roping, and polo were integral aspects of life at the ranch from the outset.

Since the 1950s, there have been horses at Will Rogers State Historic Park. DPR allowed privately owned horses to board at the park through a variety of concessionaires, leases, and other contract mechanisms. The 1992 General Plan for the Park specifies that horses are an integral part of interpreting Will Rogers' life at his Santa Monica Ranch. The General Plan authorizes boarding as one option for interpreting the role of horses at the ranch; other types of equestrian activities are also permissible as long as they help to achieve the specified goals of an equestrian concession.

Until 2001, horse boarding and horseback riding were significant activities at the Park. At that time, boarding became a highly controversial because of concerns that horses

were damaging the historic structures of the Park and that DPR was not adequately managing the horse boarding operation. There also were concerns about soil erosion and water quality from the boarding operation. In addition, the Rogers family believed that DPR was not operating the Park as required by the terms of the 1944 Grant Deed. Horse boarding was suspended in January 2002.

During and immediately after the controversy over boarding, DPR reviewed and audited the equestrian operations. DPR also convened an equestrian advisory committee to develop recommendations on appropriate equestrian activities at the park. Both the DPR staff report and the equestrian advisory committee report recommended that DPR prepare an equestrian management plan to guide future equestrian activities at the Park.

#### 2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan is to provide guidelines and standards for equestrian and livestock activities at Will Rogers State Historic Park. Rather than prescribing specific activities or programs, the Plan contains policies and criteria that will assist Park staff and managers in determining which equestrian activities ought to occur, and the manner in which they should occur.

One of the goals of the Plan is to have horses and other livestock at the park, on a temporary and permanent basis. By having livestock at the park, visitors will experience the park as it was in the 1930s, when it was a working ranch and the home of Will Rogers and his family. Although boarding<sup>1</sup> of privately-owned horses was formerly allowed, this activity is prohibited by this Plan.

#### 2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Equestrian & Livestock Plan is a policy plan that governs development of an equestrian program at the park. It is a tool for managing equestrian interpretive programs, special events, and agreements that will assist park management in balancing equestrian activities with historic preservation, other interpretive activities, and general park operations.

The Plan's policies and criteria create a framework of allowable uses and desired outcomes of an equestrian program. As a policy plan, the Plan does not prescribe which activities or programs should occur, the intensity of any specific activity, nor the locations for such activities. Those questions will be addressed by park management when implementing the Plan through an equestrian program. The equestrian program will vary, depending on the park budget, staff, and other resources available. This approach offers park managers the flexibility to determine which equestrian activities should occur, and the manner in which they should be carried out.

The text of the Plan consists of seven sections addressing background, objectives, and policies for different aspects of equestrian programs and activities. The Plan is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Boarding" refers to housing, care, and feeding of resident animals.

reproduced here for ease of reference in this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## Background

After boarding was suspended in 2001, the Department completed its evaluation of the park, and staff recommended the development of an Equestrian Management Plan. The Equestrian Advisory Committee also recommended developing an Equestrian Management Plan.

Preparation of this Plan began in March 2005. DPR staff conducted a series of informal meetings with a wide range of community members, interest groups, and staff to obtain information. Staff also reviewed the *General Plan, Equestrian Advisory Committee Report, Historic Landscape Management Plan, Interpretive Plan, Interpretive Strategy Report*, and other relevant documents. One public meeting took place in April 2005 to obtain community input on the scope and contents of the Plan. A second public meeting to obtain comments on the Draft Plan took place on November 16, 2005.

### **Objectives**

- a. Equestrian activities will be part of a balanced program of events and activities that inform the public about Will Rogers as a horseman and as a man who made extraordinary contributions to American history, folk life, and national character.
- b. By learning about the care and management of horses, polo, roping and riding, the general public will experience something of the Rogers family's lifestyle at the ranch when they visit WRSHP. Will Rogers loved horses, polo, roping and trick riding. These are the activities he enjoyed with family and friends at his California ranch.

#### **General Policies**

- a. DPR intends to have a program of regularly scheduled equestrian activities and events at WRSHP. Each equestrian event and activity shall have an interpretive and/or educational component.
- b. At its discretion, DPR may allow horses or other livestock to live at the park, consistent with Section 6 below.
- c. When feasible, DPR will use Mounted Patrol at WRSHP.
- d. Park staff shall monitor equestrian events and activities, both during and at the conclusion of each event, to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Plan. Failure of concessionaires or permittees to comply with the terms of special event permits or concessions, or other relevant agreements, may result in prohibition of future events or activities.

#### Policies for use of the Historic Stables

- a. The historic stables will be restored to and maintained in their 1935-condition as financial resources are available for the restoration. The stables shall be used primarily for educational and interpretive purposes.
- b. As soon as funding is available, DPR will prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) and Treatment Plan for the stables to determine appropriate uses and

activities. Because the stables are potentially eligible for National Historic Landmark status, uses and treatments shall be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic structures.

- c. Horses shall not stay overnight in the historic stables.
- d. Interpretive or educational programs involving horses may take place in the rotunda of the historic stables.
- e. On a very limited basis, horses may be placed in stalls in the historic stables for day-use only for educational or interpretive programs or for special events. This use of the stables must be approved in writing by park management, and shall be allowed only if there are no alternative locations for the horses, such as the rebuilt Jimmy's Barn or portable corrals, that will meet the objectives of the program or event. All such use of the historic stables shall be subject to terms and conditions specified by park management, including but not limited to requirements for repairing damage to the historic structure.

## **Policies for Equestrian Activities**

- a. The equestrian community is welcome to bring horses to the park to use the riding arenas and trails for casual riding on a day-use basis. Horses shall not be turned out in the riding arena or roping arenas, except for special events approved by park management.
- b. Permission to use park facilities for sponsored or organized equestrian activities shall be at the discretion of park management.
- c. Activities shall have a public benefit and be open to the public.
- d. Activities shall have interpretive value, relating to Will Rogers' California ranch life-style, the workings of a ranch, the care and management of horses, or other connection to Will Rogers. Equestrian activities could include (but are not limited to) horse shoeing, riding lessons, programs for the disabled, horsemanship, trick riding or roping, polo, trail riding, dressage and jumping clinics and demonstrations.
- e. Horse program providers or operators shall be experienced and reliable providers of services, and shall present references and qualifications to park management. Qualifications and references shall demonstrate proven ability to conduct horse programs safely and responsibly, and may include certifications from academic equine management programs or state or national equestrian societies or associations.
- f. Park management may authorize multiple-day special events such as clinics, shows, demonstrations, or performances.
- g. Privately-owned horses may board temporarily at the park for special events or programs, subject to approval and conditions required by park management. Horses may not stay overnight at the park for casual use, such as trail riding or riding in the arenas.

- h. There shall be a limit of three consecutive nights for privately-owned horses to board temporarily at the park for special events or programs, unless park management extends this limit for events of longer duration.
- Temporary boarding of horses or other livestock for special events or programs may occur in Jimmy's Barn or in portable corrals erected on Sarah's Point or at another location determined by park management.
- j. Park management may limit overnight stays and/or use of equestrian facilities in consideration of safety, footing, and other concerns. The frequency of events and the number of participants may also be limited by the condition of the footing in the riding arenas, Sarah's Point, the trails and other facilities.

#### **Policies for Resident Livestock**

- a. Park management may determine that horses or livestock used for interpretive or educational programs or public service or available for use by the general public may live at the park. Examples of such livestock include:
  - Horses or mules used for mounted patrol;
  - Horses or mules used for lessons or demonstrations;
  - Goats, cattle, and calves used for demonstrations;
  - Animals used for grazing to manage brush; and
  - Horses or mules used for public trail rides.
- b. Privately-owned horses shall not be boarded at the park.
- c. The number of animals living at the park shall be determined by a variety of operational conditions, including:
  - season, rainfall, and soil condition;
  - condition of pastures and forage; and
  - staff, budget, and other management concerns.
- d. Park management will develop and implement a regular pasture rotation program.

## **Performance Standards and Best Management Practices**

- a. Any equestrian program shall begin with small scale activities on a pilot basis. park management may then expand the pilot program to use more horses or offer more frequent services.
- b. Park management may limit equestrian programs in order to reduce environmental impacts.
- c. If Park management determines that it is appropriate and necessary for horses to reside at the park for interpretive or educational purposes, then those resident horses will be kept primarily in pastures. They may be kept overnight in Jimmy's Barn for health and safety reasons or in inclement weather. The number of resident horses may be limited; See Policy 6.c. above.

- d. Mitt, Heart, and Bone Canyon pastures may be used for livestock as long as the animals are rotated among the pastures so as to maintain adequate forage. To maintain forage, livestock must be removed periodically.
- e. Pastures shall be managed to provide forage and to meet the requirements of the *Historic Landscape Management Plan*.
- f. Pastures and trails shall be managed to minimize polluted runoff and erosion using best management practices.
- g. Jimmy's Barn, temporary corrals, the historic stables and any other animal facilities shall be maintained in sanitary condition, with regular removal of manure and bedding.
- h. All hay and feed used on the premises shall be certified "weed free."
- i. Facilities for storing feed, hay, and other supplies shall be consistent with the historic character of the park.
- j. Unless there are inadequate resources, the Department will:
  - provide appropriate and safe footing in areas used for equestrian activities;
  - regularly groom the riding and roping arenas and the riding area on Sarah's Point;
  - provide regular maintenance of trails; and
  - provide appropriate maintenance of the polo field.

The Department may further specify maintenance criteria and responsibilities in maintenance plans, special event permits, or contracts with third-party users of the facilities.

#### 2.6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The policies contained in the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan shall take effect immediately upon completion of the 30-day public review of this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the submission of the Notice of Determination to the State Clearinghouse.

Park management is responsible for implementing the policies and criteria contained in this Plan. Park management includes the Angeles District Superintendent, his or her designee and the Superintendent of Will Rogers State Historic Park.

#### 2.7 VISITATION TO WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK

Nearly two million people have visited Will Rogers SHP in the last ten years. Attendance was highest when more people were allowed free day use in 2001 (289,128 visitors) and 2002 (338,920 visitors), and was approximately 150,000 in 2005. With

recent renovations to the Ranch House completed in 2006, it is expected that attendance will rise again.

#### 2.8 Consistency with Local Plans and Policies

The provisions of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan are consistent with the General Plan (GP) for Will Rogers State Historic Park (1992). The criteria and standards in the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan will ensure that equestrian activities conform to the guidelines and objectives of the GP. The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan will assist park management to ensure that all equestrian activities have educational or interpretive value. Further, the Plan's monitoring policies and authority specifically vested in park management to curtail or expand equestrian programs based on existing conditions and available resources will help prevent inappropriate uses and the development of conditions that could result in damage to historic structures or harmful effects on the environment and landscape of the park.

The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan will promote achievement of the goals and objectives of the GP as noted below:

Land Use Goal No. 17: "To provide appropriate equestrian experiences, along with the needed equestrian visitor support facilities, without causing significant damage to the natural and cultural resources of the park." (GP p. 96)

Land Use Objective for Recreation: "Emphasize appropriate recreational uses which are compatible with historical and natural values." (GP p. 98)

- "Encourage appropriate equestrian activities that Will Rogers enjoyed, at limits determined by historic information and consistent with the protection of natural and cultural resource values."
- "Maintain and improve existing and historic horseback riding trails which extend to the Backbone Trail and the entire Santa Monica Mountains."
- "Maintain and interpret polo games and practices."
- "Allow for opportunities related to historical equestrian activities, using historical equestrian facilities (e.g., polo field, riding arena, roping arena).

Land Use Objective for Concessions: "Emphasize and interpret to the public the park's equestrian values" (GP p. 98)

"Promote Rogers' equestrian interests."

The equestrian concession management guidelines of the GP will be achieved through implementation of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan:

The following management guidelines and goals shall be used to balance historic integrity and resource protection with historical uses and the greatest public benefit to park visitors. In order to properly interpret the life of Will Rogers, the basic elements of his equestrian activities and lifestyle should be depicted in a reasonably accurate but practical manner:

- 1. Continue horse presence on the grounds;
- 2. Continue polo playing at Will Rogers State Historic Park;
- 3. Maintain the integrity of equestrian facilities....; (p. 135)

As demonstrated in the following excerpts, the GP recognizes the inherent conflicts among horses, safe public access and preservation of historic resources. The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan provides tools to park managers to help balance equestrian activities with safe public access and historic preservation:

The amount of use, the numbers of horses, and the adverse effects they have on historic and natural features need to be monitored periodically to assure that the level of equestrian activity does not jeopardize the resources...There is a need to improve public access and interpretation, while improving visitor safety in the primary historic zone, where the presence of horses helps to interpret the spirit of place. (p. 94)

The performance standards and best management practices included in the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan address this need for periodic monitoring. Specifically, the Plan gives park management the authority to limit equestrian programs in order to reduce environmental impacts (Policy 7.a.) Elsewhere, the Plan requires written permission of park management for deviations from standard requirements, such as overnight stays extending more than three nights. These policies will ensure that park management has the necessary tools to protect the cultural and natural resources of the park.

#### 2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

This Plan has been approved by the Angeles District Superintendent. No approvals from regulatory agencies are required.

#### 2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

The Will Rogers Historic Landscape Management Plan EIR, SCH # 2002101070, was approved in 2003 and includes the Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan as an element of its implementation. Additionally, future concession projects or special events may be approved as part of the Plan. Each of these related projects would undergo CEQA compliance according to the DPR Department Operations Manual (DOM) and comply with Public Resources Code 5024 for historic properties. The Plan serves as the guiding policy for the implementation of such future events.

# CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

1. Project Title: Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan

2. Lead Agency Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation

3. Contact Person & Phone Number: Jennifer Ruffolo, (916) 651-9523

4. Project Location: Will Rogers State Historic Park, Pacific Palisades, CA

5. Project Sponsor Name & Address: California Department of Parks and Recreation

**Angeles District Headquarters** 

California Department of Parks & Recreation

1925 Las Virgenes Road Calabasas, CA 91302

6. General Plan Designation: State Historic Park

7. Zoning: State Historic Park

8. Description of Project:

The Equestrian & Livestock Plan is a policy plan that governs development of an equestrian program at the Park. It is a tool for managing equestrian interpretive programs, special events and agreements that will assist park management in balancing equestrian activities with historic preservation, other interpretive activities and general park operations.

9. Surrounding Land Uses & Setting: Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use

Planning)

10. Approval Required from Other

**Public Agencies** 

Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.9

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:						
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.						
Aesthetics						
DETERMINATION						
On the basis of this initial evaluation:						
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.						
I find that, although the original scope of the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.						
I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or its functional equivalent will be prepared.						
I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An Environmental impact report is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.						
I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.						
Sugarne Hoode 8-9-06  Environmental Coordinator	-					

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

- 1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.
- 3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
- 4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- 5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:
  - a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.
  - b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.
  - c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.
- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.
- 8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
  - a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
  - b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### I. AESTHETICS.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The scenic values at Will Rogers State Historic Park are generally of very high quality. Set in a coastal canyon and originally designed as a "gentleman's ranch", the Will Rogers Ranch House and grounds soon became the principal residence of the family. Famous guests of the day were often invited to the site to play a game of polo or to practice roping. The historic setting includes the ranch house, pastures, the stable, the polo field, arenas, and various outbuildings and other landscape elements and panoramas. These features are described in detail in the Will Rogers State Historic Park Historic Landscape Management Plan. The park connects to Topanga State Park and is very distinct from the surrounding urban environment.

Would the project:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scer	nic vista?			
<ul> <li>Substantially damage scenic resources, inc but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings within a state scenic high</li> </ul>	and			
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual ch or quality of the site and its surroundings?	aracter		$\boxtimes$	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or which would adversely affect day or nighttin in the area?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-d) The historic setting at Will Rogers SHP is very sensitive, yet the ambiance of the ranch setting would be incomplete without the presence of horses. Horses and other livestock will add to the appropriate aesthetic character of the site, yet are known to damage historic fabric if not adequately contained. The Plan has developed policies to address these issues and they include the rotation of pastures and limited equestrian activity on site.

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS-1**

 The Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan incorporates park scenic values and will provide a guide for implementing equestrian activities that will enhance the scenic character and ambiance of the historic setting.

#### II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The sites are located within a state park and no commercial agricultural production exists.

<b>W</b> OULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, of Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Mapping and Monitoring Program of the Califf Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	l), as Farmland			
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural us a Williamson Act contract?	se or			$\boxtimes$
<ul> <li>c) Involve other changes in the existing environs which, due to their location or nature, could re conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural us</li> </ul>	esult in			

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-c) No land will be converted into a new use that eliminates agriculture. No zoning is proposed to be changed. The Historic Landscape Management Plan will provide plantings that are consistent with the historic landscape elements for the park.

#### III. AIR QUALITY.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project area is within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties in southern California. The site is in an air quality non attainment district. Nevertheless, according to the 2000 Air Quality Report for the South Coast Air Basin, this basin is no longer recording the highest ozone concentration in the nation.

<sup>\*</sup> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT		
Wou	ILD THE PROJECT*:			<u></u>			
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?						
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	y					
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increas of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal estate ambient air quality standard (including releasemissions which exceed quantitative thresholds ozone precursors)?	on or asing					
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutal concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individ with compromised respiratory or immune system	uals					
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantia number of people?	al 🗌					
	nere available, the significance criteria established by that be relied on to make these determinations.	ne applicable air qu	ality management	or air pollution co	ntrol district		
Disc	USSION						
exi coi act	a-e) The scope and scale of the proposed activities are small in nature and do not require excessive ground disturbance. More vehicular trips may be generated due to the equestrian concessions and activities, however the air quality effect would be nominal because the activities would average less than 100 trips per day. People would be exposed to outside activities in a non-attainment area, however this is not expected to be significantly greater than general exposure in the air basin.						
	MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1						
	<ul><li>None proposed.</li></ul>						

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

#### **Plant Communities**

Habitat types located within Will Rogers State Historic Park, and in the area of this project, include a mix of historic landscaped vegetation within the central portion of the park and outlying areas with live oak woodlands and mixed chaparral on the hills and in ravines, and southern willow scrub in the intermittent streams. Slopes are steep and the soils loose, resulting in erosion and slope failures where the native vegetation is no longer present. In open areas between native shrubs, wildflowers can be abundant in years of adequate rainfall. It is not expected that the Plan will affect the areas with native vegetation with the exception of trail use.

#### Sensitive Plants

The varied topography of the Santa Monica Mountain creates a variety of habitat types which in turn support a diverse suite of native plants. DFG's Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind 2003) identifies four sensitive plant species and one sensitive plant community from the Topanga USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map. Table 1 lists those species and communities known to occur in the vicinity.

Table 1. Sensitive Plant Taxa known to occur in the project vicinity

Species	Status	CNDDB Location	Potential for Occurrence
Astragalus brauntonii – Braunton's milkvetch	FE 1B	Topanga Canyon/Hub Junction, Los Liones Canyon, Temescal Ridge	High
Astragalus pynchostachyus var. lanosissimus – Ventura marsh milk vetch	FE SE 1B	Near seahore at Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat type does not occur within the project area.
Calochortus plummerae  – Plummer's mariposa lily	1B	Topanga Canyon	Moderate to high
Dudleya cymosa ssp. ovalifolia – Santa Monica Mountain's dudleya	FT 1B	South of Trippet Ranch within the Park. Occurs on conglomerate rock	Moderate to high
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland		Topanga Canyon, Temescal Canyon in riparian areas	Low – project does not occur in riparian areas

FE – Federally endangered; FT – Federally threatened; SE – State Endangered; ST – State threatened;

#### Sensitive Wildlife

Chaparral and oak woodland species are present near the project area. DFG's Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind 2003) search of the Topanga USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle presulted in seven sensitive species being known from the project vicinity. Table 2 lists tribse species and habitats found to occur within the project vicinity.

<sup>1</sup>B - Rare, Threatened or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

Table 2: Sensitive Wildlife Species Known to Occur within the Project Vicinity

Species	Status	CNDDB Location	Potential for Occurrence
Southern steelhead  - Oncorhynchus mykiss	FE CSC	Topanga Canyon/Topanga Creek	Low – Topanga Creek does not pass through the project area.
Southwestern pond turtle – Clemmys marmorata pallida	FSC CSC	Old Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat does not occur on site.
Coastal western whiptail – Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus	CSC	Topanga Canyon Blvd.	Moderate to high
Coast horned lizard  – Phrynosoma coronatum	FSC CSC	Topanga Canyon	Moderate to high
Santa Monica shieldback katydid – Neduba longipennis		Topanga Canyon	High
Globose dune beetle – Coelus globosus		Foredune habitat at Topanga Canyon	Low – habitat not present on site
Monarch butterfly – Danaus plexippus		Los Liones Canyon – known to overwinter at the Getty Museum	High

FE – Federally endangered; FSC – Federal Species of Special Concern; CSC – California Species of Special Concern.

### Listed Birds

No listed or sensitive bird species are known to occur in the project vicinity. However, migratory birds are protected during the breeding season (March 15 – Sept. 15), therefore any tree removal, trimming or thinning shall take place outside the breeding season.

Would the project:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly of through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special states species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv	tus			
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community ident in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, by the California Department of Fish and Game of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	ified or			

c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?						
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?						
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?						
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?						
Dis	SCUSSION						
	No native habitat modification is proposed in the on established trails. No new trails are propos			maintenand	се		
o) .	Activities proposed by the plan will not occur in	riparian or othe	er sensitive ha	bitat areas.			
<b>c</b> )	No federally protected wetlands exist in the part	rk.					
d)	Areas proposed in the Plan for equestrian activities and livestock housing are already developed. No equestrian use is proposed for native habitat areas, other than on existing trails.						
9)	No modifications to native trees or other biological resources, other than routine maintenance of existing trails, are proposed in the Plan.						
·)	No adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natur approved local, regional or state habitat conse which the park is located.	•			er		
	MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1						
	<ul> <li>Routine trail maintenance and any routine migratory bird breeding season. Any sens occur along trails will be avoided.</li> </ul>						

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Will Rogers SHP contains many significant historical resources, including the ranch house, golf course, polo field, historic stables, guest house (now used as park offices), hay barn, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop and foreman's home (now used for maintenance offices).

Will Rogers' western ranch house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the ranch has been altered over the years to suit the needs of a public park, much of the historic fabric and landscape remains as it was during Will Rogers' life. The historic landscape meets the National Register criteria for listing as an historic landscape district. In 2003, DPR adopted a Historic Landscape Management Plan that called for restoration of the park to its appearance in 1935.

The equestrian facilities of the ranch are much in their same location and appearance as in Will Rogers' day. The riding and roping arenas, although not in their historic configuration, are still used for equestrian activities. Similarly, the pasture on Sarah's Point has been altered from its original form, but is used for a variety of equestrian activities, including temporary stabling in pipe corrals, parking for horse trailers, handicapped riding programs and riding lessons. No horses are kept in the historic stables, and the Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan includes a general prohibition on stabling horses in that facility. The old mule barn was reconstructed in its original location between the hay barn and the roping arena, as a barn for stabling horses that are used for educational and/or interpretive activities, or for temporary stabling of visiting horses. This barn is known as the Jim Rogers Barn.

10/		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOU	LD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?				
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursua to §15064.5?	nt			
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interreduction outside of formal cemeteries?	ed 🗌			

#### **DISCUSSION**

- a) The Plan will allow equestrian activities that might affect historic structures including the roping arena, riding arena, and historic stables.
- b-c) There are no known archaeological sites, prehistoric native American sites or features, or burial sites at Will Rogers SHP.

#### **MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1**

Policies in the Plan call for park management to monitor potential effects of equestrian activities on the historic resources, and authorize park management to reduce or discontinue any equestrian program or activity because of resource impacts or environmental conditions, or to suit available management resources. Policy 4.e. on use of the historic stables assures that the effects of equestrian activity on the historic stables will be minimal, and any damaged caused by equestrian activities will be repaired.

#### VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The Santa Monica Mountains are a part of the transverse ranges of southern California, which is a region of great topographic and geologic contrasts. The Santa Monica Range is essentially a broad anticline which has been severely ruptured by faulting and intruded by sills and dikes of various materials. Much of the park area is steep, except for the areas that have been terraced to create enhanced flat areas near the stable, various outbuildings, arenas, ranch house, polo field and Sarah's Point. A highly complex network of faults underlies the entire Santa Monica range. There is a range of hazardous faults and landslide-prone areas.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
Wou	LD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:  i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?  (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)				
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including			$\boxtimes$	
	liquefaction?			N 7	
	iv) Landslides?				
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Ш			Ш
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable, as a result of the project and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	э, 🗌			
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal system where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

- The project sites are all located in the seismically active Los Angeles area. However, the project does not propose uses that would place park users in greater risk than currently exists.
- b & c) The Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan will reduce the existing erosion/landslide potential around the Historic areas of Will Rogers SHP.
- d, e & f) Only very limited activities will occur and they will be located in previously disturbed areas.

#### **MITIGATION MEASURE GEO-1**

• None proposed other than conformance with the Historic Landscape Management Plan.

#### VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

In general, implementation of the Plan should have little or no effect on hazardous materials. Events or programs that bring additional people into the park would subject them to potential fire hazard. Fire hazard in the park is high, particularly during the dry season and when Santa Ana winds are present.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
Woul	LD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upse and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?				
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	_			
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, crea a significant hazard to the public or environment?	ate			
e)	Be located within an airport land use plan or, wher such a plan has not been adopted, within two mile of a public airport or public use airport? If so, wou the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	S			
f)	Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so would the project result in a safety hazard for peopresiding or working in the project area?				
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere wit an adopted emergency response plan or emergen evacuation plan?				
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized a or where residences are intermixed with wildlands	areas			

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-h) DPR has public safety officers (Park Rangers) on site to address potentially dangerous conditions for park users. Such conditions include landslide during or after rain events and wildfire. Sections of the park are closed as necessary to project the visitors until conditions change.

### **MITIGATION MEASURE HAZMAT 1**

No mitigation expected to be necessary

### VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Will Rogers State Historic Park is located primarily within the steep crests and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains and contains several drainages. The park has existing erosion from runoff due to the slopes and historic design of the ranch setting and has an historic drainage system.

		POTENTIAL SIGNIFICAI IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
Woul	LD THE PROJECT:			
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?		$\boxtimes$	
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater to level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing newells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which perhave been granted)?	able earby ort		
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	ne		
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially incre the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	ease		
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exthe capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial addition sources of polluted runoff?			
f)	Substantially degrade water quality?		$\boxtimes$	
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard are as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?	or or		
h)	Place structures that would impede or redirect fl flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	ood 🗌		

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
loss, injur	eople or structures to a significant risk y, or death from flooding, including flo from the failure of a levee or dam?				
j) Result in	inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mud	Iflow?			
Discussion					
Livestock Managem quality im	e addressed in the Historic Land Management Plan will remain of nent Plan and allow park manag pacts through appropriate best	consistent with ers to respond management	the Historic La	andscape anner to preve	
	ON MEASURE HYDROLOGY & WAT				
	Management will employ best nagement and pasture rotation to by.	•	,	,	
ENVIRONMENT		unity of Docific	. Dolino don in th	a o City of Loc	
Angeles. Th	SHP is located within the commule park is adjacent to single fam ill system in the Santa Monica M	ily homes and		•	
		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
<b>N</b> OULD THE PRO	JECT:				
a) Physically	divide an established community?				
or regulation the project plan, spectordinance)	th the applicable land use plan, policy, on of any agency with jurisdiction over (including, but not limited to, a generalific plan, local coastal program, or zon adopted for the purpose of avoiding can environmental effect?	al ing			
	th any applicable habitat conservation cural community conservation plan?				$\boxtimes$

## **DISCUSSION**

a -c) The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan was developed to be consistent with the Park General Plan and the Historic Landscape Management Plan. It is not anticipated that the Plan will create any conflicts with adjacent land uses or local planning.						
X. MINERAL RESOURCES.						
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING						
There are no mineral resources on site used	for mining pur	poses.				
	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT		
WOULD THE PROJECT:						
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?						
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?						
DISCUSSION						
a-b) see above						
XI. NOISE.						
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING						
The setting is very quiet except during sports change the noise environment from the exist		pecial events.	The Plan wo	uld not		
	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT		
WOULD THE PROJECT:				<b>5</b>		
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in exc of standards established in a local general plan of noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, stat or federal standards?	or	Ц	Ш			
	30					
Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan						

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#### XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Will Rogers SHP is located within the community of Pacific Palisades in the City of Los Angeles. Pacific Palisades has approximately 27,000 residents but is close to the cities of Malibu and Santa Monica and near the urban core of Los Angeles. Pacific Palisades is an affluent community, however, park users come from many locations outside Pacific Palisades to use the park facilities.

Man a sus sa a sus	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-c) It is not anticipated that the project would have any effect on population housing or growth. There will be no direct effects on population or housing the project site because the project does not propose to build or demolish housing.

#### XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project is located in a park and will require park maintenance, follow up and ranger oversight to implement. It will provide a tool for park management.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?				$\boxtimes$
Police protection?				$\boxtimes$
Schools?				$\boxtimes$
Parks?				
Other public facilities?				$\boxtimes$

### **DISCUSSION**

a) The plan calls for park management to determine the appropriate level of equestrian activities, based on available park resources, including maintenance and ranger staff.

#### XIV. RECREATION.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Will Rogers SHP provides historic interpretation, recreational hiking, equestrian activity, including polo and picnicking on-site. Additionally, special events are held on-site.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
<ul> <li>a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?</li> </ul>				
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-b) This project will increase the use of the park's existing resources in the long-term but not in a significantly adverse way. The purpose of the Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan is to improve the use of the facilities at Will Rogers SHP while not causing any adverse impacts on the historic structures or landscape. Future Plan implementation and construction at these sensitive sites may cause adverse physical effects to archaeological, historic, and biological resources but will either be avoided or mitigated below a level of significance.

#### XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Access to the park is through residential streets located off of Sunset Boulevard.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
Wo	ULD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				
b)	Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c)	Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?				
d)	Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?				
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				$\boxtimes$
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				$\boxtimes$
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-g) Due to the low-intensity uses proposed in the Plan, traffic changes are expected to be nominal. The park currently hosts special events that require off site parking due to their popularity and this is not expected to change with the implementation of the Plan.

#### XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The park is currently located adjacent to residential development and has utility and service systems.

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
Wοι	JLD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?				
	Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?				
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?				
	Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?				
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	s			
e)	Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatmer provider that serves or may serve the project, that is has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?				

#### **DISCUSSION**

a-g) It is not expected that implementation of the Plan would change the existing utility and service systems affecting the park and nearby community due to the low level of uses proposed. Manure from horses on-site would be disposed of through approved methods for solid waste disposal and/or composted on site in a manner that would not adversely affect water quality.

# CHAPTER 4 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	<u>NO</u> IMPACT
Wot	JLD THE PROJECT:				
a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal commeduce the number or restrict the range of a rare of endangered plant or animal?	n munity,			
b)	Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	s 🗆			
c)	Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current project and probably future projects?)				
d)	Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirectly?	ctly			

#### **DISCUSSION**

- a) The Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan governs activities located within Will Rogers State Historic Park, a park with an approved Historic Landscape Management Plan for the historic portion of the park and many native flora and fauna in the outlying areas. The activities are located within existing day-use areas of the park.
- b) The Park contains significant historic resources. The primary purpose of the Plan is to incorporate an important historic element (the presence of horses and livestock) of the park on-site without damaging the historic fabric of the site. All work will be done in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- c & d) The activities contemplated by the Plan are small in scope and scale and will not cause cumulatively considerable or indirect adverse effects on humans or the environment.

# CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures would be implemented by DPR as part of the Equestrian and Livestock management Plan.

#### **AESTHETICS**

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES AESTHETICS-1**

 The Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan incorporates standards to protect park scenic values. It will guide equestrian activities that will enhance the historic ambiance of the park.

#### AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

#### MITIGATION MEASURES AG-1

• No impacts on agricultural resources are expected to occur from implementation of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan.

#### **AIR QUALITY**

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1**

 No impact on air quality is expected to occur from implementation of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MITIGATION MEASURES BIO-1

 Routine trail maintenance and any routine tree trimming will occur outside of migratory bird breeding season. Any sensitive or listed plant species that may occur along trails will be avoided.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

## **MITIGATION MEASURES CULT-1**

Policies in the Plan call for park management to monitor equestrian activities for
potential impacts to historic resources. The Plan also authorizes park management to
reduce any equestrian program due to insufficient staff resources to properly manage
the activities. Policy 4.e. on use of the historic stables assures that the effects of
equestrian activity on the historic stables will be minimal, and any damaged caused by
equestrian activities will be repaired.

### **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

### **MITIGATION MEASURES GEO-1**

• Implementation of the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan will not cause any significant impacts to geology and soils.

#### HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES HAZMAT-1**

 Although implementation of this plan is not expected to cause any exposure to hazardous materials or to create any hazards, DPR has public safety officers (Park Rangers) on site to respond to potentially dangerous conditions for park users. Such conditions include landslides during or after rain events and wildfire. Sections of the park are closed as necessary to project the visitors until conditions change.

## HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

#### MITIGATION MEASURES HYDRO-1

 Implementation of this plan is not expected to create any significant adverse impacts on hydrology or water quality. Performance measures are included in the Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan to ensure that the presence of horses in the park does not contribute to water quality problems.

### LAND USE AND PLANNING

### **MITIGATION MEASURES LAND-1**

 The Equestrian & Livestock Management Plan was developed to be consistent with the Park General Plan and the Historic Landscape Management Plan. It is not anticipated that the Plan will create any conflicts with adjacent land uses or local planning.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES MINERAL-1**

There are no mineral resources used for mining on the park property.

## Noise

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES NOISE-1**

 Implementation of this plan is not expected to cause any change to the existing level of noise.

#### POPULATION AND HOUSING

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES POP-1**

Implementation of this plan will not have any effect on population, housing, or growth.

#### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

#### **MITIGATION MEASURES SERVICE-1**

 Implementation of the Plan will impose some additional workload for park maintenance, management, and ranger staff.

#### RECREATION

#### MITIGATION MEASURES REC-1

 Implementation of the Plan will increase the level of recreation activity at the park in the long-term, but not in a significantly adverse way. The purpose of the Equestrian and Livestock Management Plan is to improve the use of the facilities at Will Rogers SHP while not causing any adverse impacts on the historic structures or landscape.

## TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

### **MITIGATION MEASURES TRANS-1**

 The Plan proposes a range of low-intensity uses, and traffic changes are expected to be nominal. The park currently hosts occasional special events that require off site parking due to their popularity and this is not expected to change with the implementation of the Plan.

## **UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

## **MITIGATION MEASURES AIR-1**

Implementation of the Plan is not expected to change the existing utility and service
systems affecting the park and nearby community due to the low level of increased
activities. Manure from horses on-site would be disposed of through approved methods
for solid waste disposal and/or composted on site in a manner that would not adversely
affect water quality.

## CHAPTER 6 REFERENCES

South Coast Air Quality management District, 2000 Air Quality Report. <a href="http://www.aqmnd.gov/">http://www.aqmnd.gov/</a>

## Biological Resources

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 21000 et seq. <a href="http://www.legoinfor.ca.gov/calaw.html">http://www.legoinfor.ca.gov/calaw.html</a>

CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et seg.

California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind, 2003)

### **Cultural Resources**

California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1992, Will Rogers State Historic Park General Plan

California Department of Parks and Recreation, 2003, Will Rogers Historic Landscape Management Plan

Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce website. http://www.palisadeschamber.com/

California Department of Parks and Recreation. 1979. Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Recreation.

California Department of Parks and Recreation. January 1977. Santa Monica Mountains State Parks, Topanga, Malibu Creek, and Point Mugu.

## **Report Preparation**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**Jennifer Ruffolo, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 905
Sacramento, CA 95814

MAPS, TABLES, AND CHARTS