Appendix B NOP Comments

Appendices

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OC PublicWorks
Integrity, Accountability, Service, Trust
Shane L. Silsby, Director

January 24, 2019 NCL-18-062

Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
City of Brea – Planning Division
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

Subject: Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Maribeth Tinio:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The County of Orange offers the following comments for your consideration.

OC Infrastructure Programs /Flood Programs/Hydrology

1. The Draft EIR for the proposed project must clearly identify the possible impacts to Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) facilities. Carbon Canyon Channel (Facility No. E03), and Loftus Diversion Channel (Facility No. A06) are in the subject project's vicinity. Please be advised that the mentioned channels contain deficient segments that are not capable of conveying runoff from the 100-year storm event. The potential development sites should not worsen existing conditions or shift flooding problems upstream or downstream of proposed developments. Appropriate mitigation measures should be provided to address adverse impacts, and minimize increased runoff resulting from the project.

2. The hydrology and hydraulic impacts resulting from the project must be assessed. These analyses of possible impacts to OCFCD's existing facilities and appropriate mitigation measures should be conducted in consultation with OC Public Works/OC Infrastructure Programs. The analyses must be consistent with the prevailing criteria of the Orange County Hydrology Manual (OCHM), Addendum No. 1 to the OCHM, the Orange County Flood Control Design Manual, the Orange County Local Drainage Manual, and other related design criteria.

3. The City of Brea and County of Orange, as floodplain administrators, should ensure that floodplains are properly identified and that structures are located outside the FEMA 100-year floodplain, or designed in conformance with local

floodplain ordinances, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations.

4. All work within or adjacent to any OCFCD right-of-way for flood control facilities shall be conducted so as not to adversely impact the channel's structural integrity, hydraulic flow conditions, access and maintainability. Furthermore, all proposed projects within OCFCD's right-of-way should be reviewed and approved by OC Public Works, and the work should be conducted only after an encroachment permit has been obtained. For information regarding the permit application process and other details, please refer to the Encroachment Permits Section link on OC Public Works' website located at http://www.ocpublicworks.com/ds/permits/encroachment_permits. Technical reviews and approvals for the proposed work will be accomplished within the permit process.

OC Environmental Resources - North Orange County Watershed Management Area

1. Potential long-term water quality impacts of such project elements should be evaluated in accordance with provisions outlined in Section 7 of the County of Orange Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP) (http://ocwatersheds.com/documents/wqmp). At a minimum, the following information are to be provided:

   i. Description of project characteristics with respect to water quality issues, such as project site location in a given watershed, site acreage, known soil contamination, known groundwater contamination, and anticipated change in percent impervious surface area.

   ii. Identification of receiving waters. The EIR should identify all downstream receiving waters that may receive contributory runoff from the project site.

   iii. Description of the sensitivity of the receiving waters. In particular, the EIR should identify Areas of Special Biological Significance, water bodies with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies.

   iv. Characterization of the potential water quality impacts from the proposed project and identification of the anticipated pollutants to be generated by the project.

   v. Identification of downstream hydrologic conditions of concern that may be affected by project-related changes in runoff volume and velocity; sediment load, makeup or characteristics; reduced infiltration; and/or increased flow, frequency, duration, and peak(s) of storm runoff.

   vi. Evaluation of thresholds of significance.

vii. Assessment of project impact significance to water quality.

viii. If the proposed project has the potential to create a new significant stormwater discharge to a water body with an established TMDL, the EIR should consider quantitative analysis of the anticipated pollutant loads in the stormwater discharges to the receiving waters.

ix. A reasonable analysis of the cumulative impacts of the proposed project together with past, present and reasonably anticipated future projects (related projects) that could produce cumulative impacts together with the proposed project.

x. Mitigation for long-term impacts in accordance with the 2017 Model Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and 2017 Technical Guidance Document (TGD) (http://www.ocpublicworks.com/ds/water). Please note that hydromodification exemptions for projects discharging to or through large rivers or engineered channels are not currently allowed. These exemptions are referenced in the TGD and Hydromodification Management Plan; however, they should be disregarded at this time.

2. Projects that, as part of a common plan of development, disturb one or more acres are required to obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities, Order 2009-0009-DWQ (As amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ), adopted on September 2, 2009.

3. On June 2, 2017, the Santa Ana Regional Board issued an Order pursuant to California Water Code section 13383, which required Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permittees to take initial steps in planning for the implementation of the Trash Amendments. The first of these steps was to submit a written notice stating the MS4 Permittee's selection of the Track 1 or Track 2 compliance pathway. The City of Brea selected Track 1; therefore, the City should consider this as it designs BMPs for the project.

OC Parks

1. Drainage – How will the drainage for the Brea 265 development project, specifically the west side of park above the maintenance road, be sufficiently addressed to ensure that the park is not impacted?

2. Defensible Space Clearance – For the area between the Home Owners Association (HOA) and Carbon Canyon Regional Park, defensible space clearance should be at minimum 100 feet per OCFA standards. Maintenance of fuel modification area to be completed by HOA.

3. Construction of the development – Where is the planned construction staging area? What, if any, impact will there be on the public accessing the regional park from Carbon Canyon Road?

4. Fencing/Access – Fencing along HOA and Carbon Canyon Regional Park must be constructed in a way that would not allow for homeowners to create independent gates and access into the park. Fencing to be approved by OC Parks, as well as language added to HOA by-laws prohibiting private access/gates into the park from private residents. Additionally, HOA by-laws should indicate authorized access points and trailheads.

5. Regional Trails – There are several planned regional bikeway and trail opportunities per the County's General Plan Transportation and Recreation Elements. The easterly planned regional bikeway actually terminates at the project site, providing opportunities for the City and developer to work with the County to ensure regional bikeway and trail requirements are met per the General Plan.

OC Infrastructure Programs, Traffic Engineering

1. Please provide a copy of the subject EIR Traffic Study to OC Traffic Engineering when it becomes available.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Penny Lew at (714) 647-3990 or Sahar Parsi at (714) 647-3988 in OC Flood Programs/Hydrology & Floodplain Management, Matt Tucker at (714) 955-0669 in OC Environmental Resources - North Orange County Watershed Management Area, Eric Hull at (949) 585-6446 in OC Parks, Jamie Reyes at (714) 647-3903 in OC Infrastructure Programs, Traffic Engineering or Cindy Salazar at (714) 667-8870 in OC Development Services.

Sincerely,

Richard Vuong, Manager, Planning Division
OC Public Works Service Area/OC Development Services
300 North Flower Street
Santa Ana, California 92702-4048
Richard.Vuong@ocpw.ocgov.com

cc: Penny Lew, OC Flood Programs/Hydrology & Floodplain Management
Sahar Parsi, OC Flood Programs/Hydrology & Floodplain Management
Matt Tucker, OC Environmental Resources - North Orange County Watershed Management Area
Eric Hull, OC Parks
Jamie Reyes, OC Infrastructure Programs, Traffic Engineering

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Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

January 23, 2019

Maribeth Tinio
City of Brea
Planning Division, Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA. 92821

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH# 2018121035
12-ORA-2018-01045
Brea 265 Specific Plan

Dear Ms. Tinio,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for the Brea 265 Specific Plan, for the City of Brea. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The Brea 265 Specific Plan proposes a master planned residential community of low-, medium-, and high-density residential neighborhoods, parks, recreational amenities and open space, linked together by an extensive trail network that connects to the Tracks at Brea and other regional systems. At build-out, the proposed project would provide 301 low density units, 273 medium-density units, and 526 high-density units, totaling 1,100 units with an overall average density of approximately 4 dwelling units per acre, provide 18.1 acres of parks/recreations uses and 55.7 acres of open space.

The project site consists of a 260-acre site located in the City of Brea, north of State Route (SR) 90, south and adjacent of SR 142, and east of SR 57. The 43-acre portion of the project site is in the incorporated City of Brea, and 217-acre portion of the project site is in the City's Sphere of Influence area. The project site is located to the south of Lambert Road/Carbon Canyon Road/SR 142, north of Rose Drive, east of Valencia Avenue and west of Carbon Canyon Regional Park. The specific plan area is bisected by Valencia Avenue which runs in a north-south direction, and by Lambert Road which runs in an east-west direction.
The project lies directly adjacent to SR 142, which is overseen by Caltrans. With Caltrans being a responsible agency, we have the following comments:

Traffic Operations Comments:

1. Please provide the Traffic Analysis and Queue Analysis for all ramps to SR-142 & SR-57.

2. Please provide the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Caltrans to review and comments.
3. Submit all works within Caltrans Right of Way to the Permit Branch for review & comment.
4. Please use HCM 2010 for Caltrans signals analysis.

System Planning

1. Please ensure there are adequate connections to the bicycle network near the Project site. This will increase regional connectivity since there are several existing and planned bicycle facilities nearby, including a proposed section of the OC Loop.

LD-IGR

2. For all projects resulting in 0.4 hectares (1 acre) or more of soil disturbance or otherwise subject to the NPDES program, the Contractor will develop, implement, and maintain a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) conforming to the requirements of the Caltrans Specification Section, "Water Pollution Control", the Department's Statewide NPDES Permit, the General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities, and the Storm Water Quality Handbooks "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) Preparation Manual", and "Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual", and subsequent revisions. In addition, the SWPPP must conform to the requirements of the SWRCB Resolution No. 2001-046, the Sampling and Analytical Procedures (SAP) Plan.

3. Any work performed within Caltrans right-of-way (R/W) will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans, and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction.

Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro at 657-328-6368 or Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

SCOTT SHELLEY
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning
District 12

CITY OF YORBA LINDA

4845 CASA LOMA AVENUE • YORBA LINDA • CALIFORNIA 92886

January 23, 2019

Ms. Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
Brea Planning Division, Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

Subject: City of Yorba Linda Comments Regarding the Notice of Preparation for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project

Dear Ms. Tinio:

The City of Yorba Linda has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project issued by the City of Brea on December 14, 2018. The NOP is the first step in the CEQA/land use approval process for the proposed development project. The purpose of the NOP is to solicit early input from the community on the scope and content of environmental review for the project The City of Yorba Linda understands the proposed Specific Plan consists of a master planned residential community of low-, medium-, and high-density residential neighborhoods, parks, recreational amenities and open space, linked together by an extensive trail network that connects to the Tracks at Brea and other regional systems. At build-out, the project would include 301 low-density units, 273 medium-density and 526 high-density units, totaling 1,100 units, with an overall average density of approximately 4 dwelling units per acre, provide 18.1 acres of parks/recreation uses and 55.7 acres of open space. The project site, owned by Aera Energy, is located on 260 acres of vacant land currently under oil production, with the exception of the southerly portion which presently is under agricultural production (i.e., Manassero Farms). The site is generally west and northwest of N. Rose Drive/ E. Birch Street, north of Blake Road, and north and south of E. Lambert Road/Carbon Canyon Road as reflected below. The project abuts the City of Yorba at its northwesterly corner, just west of the Vista Del Verde master planned residential community. As such, the City has identified several environmental concerns that potentially could affect Yorba Linda residents, infrastructure, and/or resources that should be addressed within the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). These concerns are described in detail below.

- Traffic and Circulation: Impacts related to access and circulation along Rose Drive must be addressed in detail within the Draft EIR. Based on information provided within the NOP, access to the project site would be provided at two points along Rose Drive, east of Valencia Avenue. Traffic impacts related to the proposed 1,100 dwelling units on Rose Drive and other proximal local roadways and intersections within the City of Yorba Linda must be quantitatively addressed based on the City of Yorba Linda's thresholds of significance. Excessive speed has been well documented along Rose Drive due to the vertical curve at the common boundary of Brea/Yorba Linda. The Draft EIR should consider the effect of the proposed project's access points along this segment of Rose on vehicles speeds and consider signalization and/or other traffic calming measures to mitigate excessive travel speeds. The Draft EIR must also determine roadway and/or intersections impacts along Rose Drive, Imperial Highway, and Yorba Linda Boulevard, among other potentially affected roadways. In particular, the analysis should consider what additional east and westbound 91 Freeway commuter "cut-through" traffic (that presently

diverts via Carbon Canyon Road as an alternate route to the 91 Freeway) may be encouraged to alternately divert through the City of Yorba Linda upon project build out via Rose Drive, Imperial Highway, La Palma Avenue and Gypsum Canyon Road due to increased project-related congestion at the intersection of Valencia Avenue and Lambert Road/Carbon Canyon Road.

- Aesthetics and Landform Impacts: The Brea 265 project would construct higher density residential development (PAs-1 and 2 @ 12-25 du/ac) within a visually prominent area at the base of the Carbon Canyon Dam, Carbon Canyon Park and the Redwood Grove. The Draft EIR should provide a detailed discussion of the visual impacts of the project as viewed from existing the Park and Redwood Grove, as well as residential uses within Vista Del Verde to the immediate east. Changes in the aesthetic environment pertaining to scenic vistas and visual character should be addressed as required under the CEQA Guidelines. The provision of visual simulations from key public viewpoints within the City of Yorba Linda (e.g., Vista Del Verde) may also be helpful in disclosing aesthetic impacts related to the project.

- Recreational Resources Impacts: A network of recreational trails is proposed as part of the Brea 265 project. The Draft EIR should identify opportunities to link proposed trails within the project to existing trails within the City of Yorba Linda to provide an expanded network of regional trails for the benefit of residents within both communities. Coordination of trails wherever there are opportunities to do so is encouraged.

The City of Yorba Linda appreciates the opportunity to provide input regarding the scope of the Draft EIR for the Brea 265 Project. We request that the City of Brea provide the City of Yorba Linda with the Draft EIR upon commencement of the public review period. The City of Yorba Linda also requests to be informed of any public meetings and/or public hearings for the project. Should you have any questions regarding the City's comments on the NOP, please contact David Brantley, AICP, Community Development Director at 714/961-7130 or dbrantley@yorba-linda.org.

Sincerely,

David Brantley

David Brantley, AICP
Community Development Director
City of Yorba Linda

c: Yorba Linda City Council Members
Mark Pulone, City Manager
Todd Litfin, City Attorney

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT

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January 16, 2019

Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
City of Brea
Planning Division, Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

Dear Ms. Tinio:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, "BREA 265 SPECIFIC PLAN," PROPOSES A MASTER PLANNED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY OF LOW, MEDIUM, AND HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS, PARKS, RECREATIONAL AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACE, LINKED TOGETHER BY AN EXTENSIVE TRAIL NETWORK THAT CONNECTS TO THE TRACKS AT BREA AND OTHER REGIONAL SYSTEMS, BREA, FFER 201800145

The Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION:

The subject property is entirely within the City of Brea which is not a part of the emergency response area of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (also known as the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County). Therefore, this project does not appear to have any impact on the emergency responsibilities of this Department.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

This project is located entirely in the City of Brea. Therefore, the City of Brea Fire Department has jurisdiction concerning this project and will be setting conditions.

This project is located in close proximity to the jurisdictional area of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. However, this project is unlikely to have an impact that necessitates a comment concerning general requirements from the Land Development Unit of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Should any questions arise regarding this report, please contact the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Land Development Unit's, SFPEA Claudia Soiza at (323) 890-4243 or Claudia.Soiza@fire.lacounty.gov.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

This project is located entirely in the City of Brea. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division has no further comments regarding this project.

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

The Health Hazardous Materials Division of the Los Angeles County Fire Department has no comments or requirements for the project at this time.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL Y. TAKESHITA, ACTING CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

MYT:ac

ORANGE COUNTY LAFCO
EST. 1963

January 16, 2019

Maribeth Tinio
Senior Planner
City of Brea, Planning Division
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2019
PLANNING DIVISION

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Brea 265 Specific Plan and Notice of Scoping Meeting

Dear Ms.Tinio:

On behalf of the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission ("OC LAFCO"), we would like to thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Scoping Meeting prepared for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project.

As you know, OC LAFCO seeks to serve the citizens of Orange County by facilitating constructive changes in governmental structure and boundaries through actions that resolve intergovernmental issues, by fostering orderly development and governance, and by promoting the efficient delivery of services. OC LAFCO also seeks to serve as a resource for local governments and citizens by providing a structure for sharing information among stakeholders in Orange County. To that end, we recognize the City of Brea's efforts to notify the public and public agencies of the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), and submit the following comments:

The City of Brea's Draft Environmental Impact Report should include municipal service responsibilities such as, police protection, fire protection, solid waste, library, animal control, code enforcement, education, maintenance of public facilities (e.g. roads, landscaping, street sweeping) and general government services.

In addition to the above, and as permitted under CEQA and the Ralph M. Brown Act, OC LAFCO requests that it be added to the mailing list for any and all notices related to the Project. This request specifically includes copies of any and all CEQA notices as well as any and all public meetings and/or hearing notices for the Project. The satisfaction of this written request is required both by CEQA (Public Resources Code, § 21092.2) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code, § 54954.1). Please send copies of any and all such notices to the following:

Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission
2677 N. Main Street, Suite 1050
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Attn: Gavin Centeno, Policy Analyst
Email: gcenteno@oclafco.org

Thank you again for your attention on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact Gavin Centeno at gcenteno@oclafco.org or 714-640-5100.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Emery
Executive Officer

January 21, 2019

Ms. Maribeth Tinio
Senior Planner
City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

Subject: **Brea 265 Specific Plan - Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Ms. Tinio:

Thank you for providing the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) with the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan (Specific Plan). The following comments are provided for your consideration:

Active Transportation

- OCTA has worked with Caltrans to improve the bikeway infrastructure along Carbon Canyon Road (SR-142). Staff recommends that the Specific Plan include improvements along both Lambert Road-Carbon Canyon Road and Valencia Avenue. This will provide bikeways consistent with City of Brea and County of Orange master plan documents.

- Please include plans to provide a paved off-road bikeway as identified on the County of Orange "Major Riding & Hiking Trails and Off-Road Paved Bikeways" map. This map includes both paved and unpaved trails along the project's easterly edge adjacent Carbon Canyon Regional Park. (http://www.ocparks.com/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=8223)

- New residential land use construction can provide an opportunity to encourage a variety of travel choices. OCTA encourages the Specific Plan include short- and long-term bicycle parking and bicycle facilities for residents and guests. Please consider a short-term parking ratio of one bicycle parking space for each four units, and inclusion of a secure ground floor indoor bicycle storage area for long-term bicycle parking.

Orange County Transportation Authority
550 South Main Street / P.O. Box 14184 / Orange / California 92863-1584 / (714) 560-OCTA (6282)

Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH)

- Please note that Rose Drive, currently built as two lanes, is classified as a primary arterial highway that is planned for 4 lanes per its MPAH classification. The proposed Brea 265 Specific Plan should consider the planned buildout of Rose Drive, as it relates to potential future right-of-way needs. If there is a desire to amend the MPAH, please contact OCTA staff.

Throughout the development of this project, we encourage communication with OCTA on any matters discussed herein. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (714) 560-5683 or at clarwood@octa.net.

Sincerely,

Charles Larwood
Department Manager, Transportation Planning

SCAG
INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
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January 22, 2019

Ms. Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
City of Brea, Planning Division
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92821
E-mail: maribethT@cityofbrea.net

RE: SCAG Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan [SCAG NO. IGR9797]

Dear Ms. Tinio,

Thank you for submitting the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan ("proposed project") to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. SCAG is the authorized regional agency for Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) of programs proposed for Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development activities, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372. Additionally, SCAG reviews the Environmental Impact Reports of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.

SCAG is also the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency under state law, and is responsible for preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) including the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 375. As the clearinghouse for regionally significant projects per Executive Order 12372, SCAG reviews the consistency of local plans, projects, and programs with regional plans.[1] SCAG's feedback is intended to assist local jurisdictions and project proponents to implement projects that have the potential to contribute to attainment of Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategies (RTP/SCS) goals and align with RTP/SCS policies.

SCAG staff has reviewed the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan in Orange County. The proposed project includes 1,100 low-, medium- and high-density units, 18.1 acres of parks/recreational uses, and 55.7 acres of open space on a 260 acre project site.

When available, please send environmental documentation to *SCAG's Los Angeles office in Los Angeles (900 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017) or by email to au@scag.ca.gov* providing, at a minimum, the full public comment period for review.

If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact the Inter-Governmental Review (IGR) Program, attn.: Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, at (213) 236-1874 or au@scag.ca.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ping Chang

Ping Chang
Manager, Compliance and Performance Monitoring

[1] Lead agencies such as local jurisdictions have the sole discretion in determining a local project's consistency with the 2016 RTP/SCS for the purpose of determining consistency for CEQA. Any "consistency" finding by SCAG pursuant to the IGR process should not be construed as a determination of consistency with the 2016 RTP/SCS for CEQA.

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BREA 265 SPECIFIC PLAN [SCAG NO. IGR9797]

CONSISTENCY WITH RTP/SCS

SCAG reviews environmental documents for regionally significant projects for their consistency with the adopted RTP/SCS. For the purpose of determining consistency with CEQA, lead agencies such as local jurisdictions have the sole discretion in determining a local project's consistency with the RTP/SCS.

2016 RTP/SCS GOALS

The SCAG Regional Council adopted the 2016 RTP/SCS in April 2016. The 2016 RTP/SCS seeks to improve mobility, promote sustainability, facilitate economic development and preserve the quality of life for the residents in the region. The long-range visioning plan balances future mobility and housing needs with goals for the environment, the regional economy, social equity and environmental justice, and public health (see http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx). The goals included in the 2016 RTP/SCS may be pertinent to the proposed project. These goals are meant to provide guidance for considering the proposed project within the context of regional goals and policies. Among the relevant goals of the 2016 RTP/SCS are the following:

SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS GOALS	
RTP/SCS G1:	*Align the plan investments and policies with improving regional economic development and competitiveness*
RTP/SCS G2:	*Maximize mobility and accessibility for all people and goods in the region*
RTP/SCS G3:	*Ensure travel safety and reliability for all people and goods in the region*
RTP/SCS G4:	*Preserve and ensure a sustainable regional transportation system*
RTP/SCS G5:	*Maximize the productivity of our transportation system*
RTP/SCS G6:	*Protect the environment and health for our residents by improving air quality and encouraging active transportation (e.g., bicycling and walking)*
RTP/SCS G7:	*Actively encourage and create incentives for energy efficiency, where possible*
RTP/SCS G8:	*Encourage land use and growth patterns that facilitate transit and active transportation*
RTP/SCS G9:	*Maximize the security of the regional transportation system through improved system monitoring, rapid recovery planning, and coordination with other security agencies**
	**SCAG does not yet have an agreed-upon security performance measure.*

For ease of review, we encourage the use of a side-by-side comparison of SCAG goals with discussions of the consistency, non-consistency or non-applicability of the goals and supportive analysis in a table format. Suggested format is as follows:

SCAG 2016 RTP/SCS GOALS		
	Goal	Analysis
RTP/SCS G1:	*Align the plan investments and policies with improving regional economic development and competitiveness*	*Consistent: Statement as to why;* *Not-Consistent: Statement as to why;* *Or* *Not Applicable: Statement as to why;* *DEIR page number reference*
RTP/SCS G2:	*Maximize mobility and accessibility for all people and goods in the region*	*Consistent: Statement as to why;* *Not-Consistent: Statement as to why;* *Or* *Not Applicable: Statement as to why;* *DEIR page number reference*
etc.		etc.

2016 RTP/SCS STRATEGIES

To achieve the goals of the 2016 RTP/SCS, a wide range of land use and transportation strategies are included in the 2016 RTP/SCS. Technical appendances of the 2016 RTP/SCS provide additional supporting information in detail. To view the 2016 RTP/SCS, please visit: http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx. The 2016 RTP/SCS builds upon the progress from the 2012 RTP/SCS and continues to focus on integrated, coordinated, and balanced planning for land use and transportation that the SCAG region strives toward a more sustainable region, while the region meets and exceeds in meeting all of applicable statutory requirements pertinent to the 2016 RTP/SCS. These strategies within the regional context are provided as guidance for lead agencies such as local jurisdictions when the proposed project is under consideration.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND GROWTH FORECASTS

Local input plays an important role in developing a reasonable growth forecast for the 2016 RTP/SCS. SCAG used a bottom-up local review and input process and engaged local jurisdictions in establishing the base geographic and socioeconomic projections including population, household and employment. At the time of this letter, the most recently adopted SCAG jurisdictional-level growth forecasts that were developed in accordance with the bottom-up local review and input process consist of the 2020, 2035, and 2040 population, households and employment forecasts. To view them, please visit http://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/2016GrowthForecastByJurisdiction.pdf. The growth forecasts for the region and applicable jurisdictions are below.

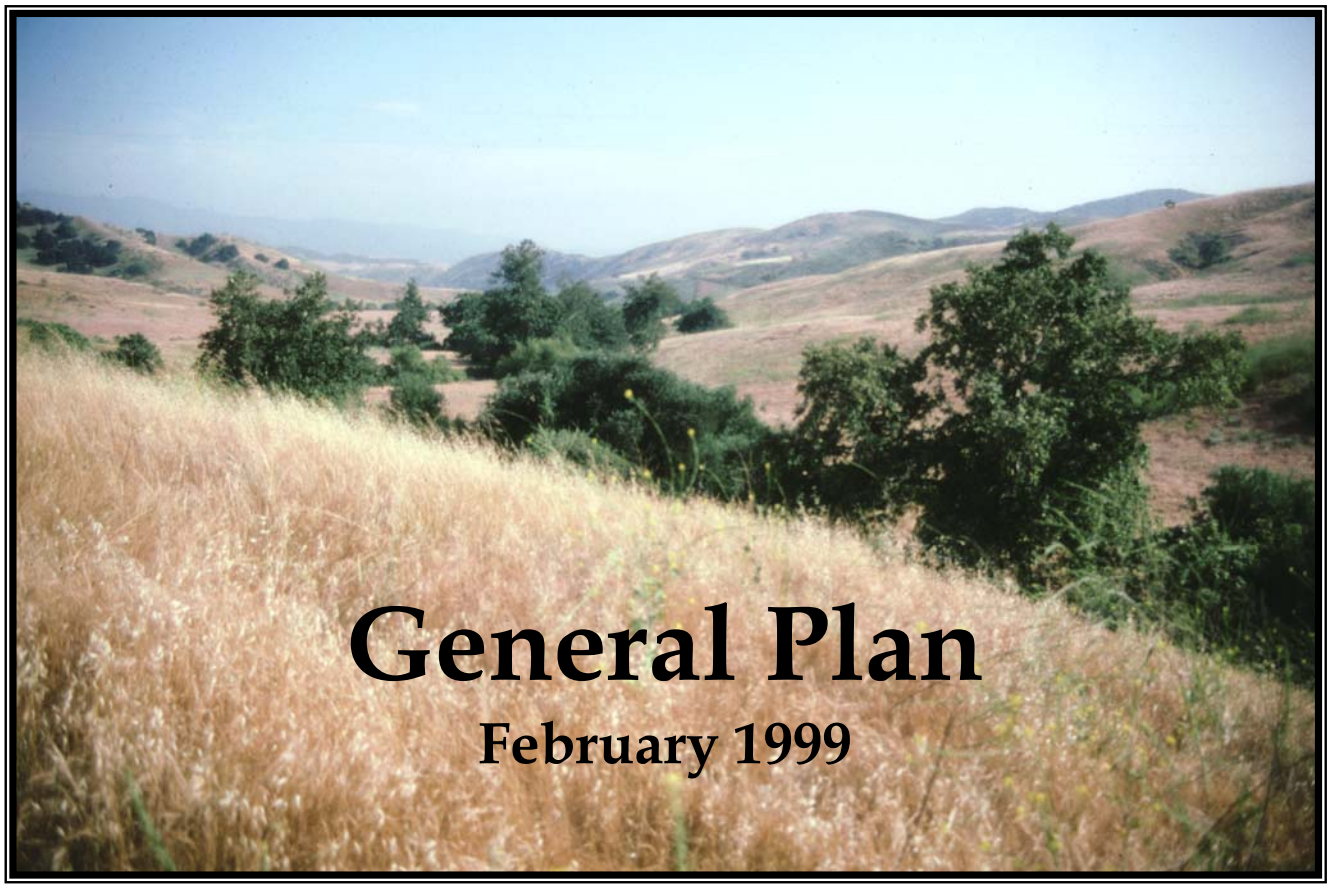
	Adopted SCAG Region Wide Forecasts			Adopted City of Brea Forecasts		
	Year 2020	Year 2035	Year 2040	Year 2020	Year 2035	Year 2040
Population	19,663,000	22,091,000	22,138,800	48,700	50,600	50,600
Households	6,458,000	7,325,000	7,412,300	17,300	18,100	18,100
Employment	8,414,000	9,441,000	9,871,500	51,800	53,400	53,700

MITIGATION MEASURES

SCAG staff recommends that you review the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final PEIR) for the 2016 RTP/SCS for guidance, as appropriate. SCAG's Regional Council certified the Final PEIR and adopted the associated Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (FOF/SOC) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) on April 7, 2016 (please see: http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/FINAL2016PEIR.aspx). The Final PEIR includes a list of project-level performance standards-based mitigation measures that may be considered for adoption and implementation by lead, responsible, or trustee agencies in the region, as applicable and feasible. Project-level mitigation measures are within responsibility, authority, and/or jurisdiction of project-implementing agency or other public agency serving as lead agency under CEQA in subsequent project- and site- specific design, CEQA review, and decision-making processes, to meet the performance standards for each of the CEQA resource categories.

Attachment 1: Chino Hills State Park General Plan

Chino Hills State Park



General Plan

February 1999

CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS®

GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

RUSTY AREIAS
Director of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 94286
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

General Plan Inquiries

The Chino Hills State 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

Publication Price and Order Information

Additional Copies of the approved Chino Hills State Park General Plan can be obtained for $6.00 each, plus $5.00 per copy for postage and handling. California residents must add 7.75% sales tax. Make checks payable to California Department of Parks and Recreation, and send your order to:

California State Parks Store
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - RESOURCES AGENCY
GRAY DAVIS, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 942896, SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-0524

Resolution 13-99
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Brea on
February 23, 1999

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for Chino Hills State Park; and

WHEREAS, this document reflects long-range development plans to provide for optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality, resources, and diversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Park and Recreation's Chino Hills State Park Preliminary General Plan, dated October 1998, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions of said plan.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - RESOURCES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 942896, SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-0524

Resolution 14-99
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Brea on
February 23, 1999

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed a 1425-acre Natural Preserve be established within Chino Hills State Park to provide for the recognition and protection of the important natural resources of the unit; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve is located in the hills and wooded canyons that encompass the Water Canyon and Brush Canyon watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve consists of rare plant communities, including coastal sage scrub, southern California black walnut woodland, and coast live oak woodland that support a wide variety of sensitive wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve is the northern extension of the Coal Canyon Biocorridor—a vital linkage between the wildlife habitats of the Puente-Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve offers an opportunity for the scientific study of wildlife movement in a rare regional biocorridor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies 1425 acres in Chino Hills State Park as a Natural Preserve and names the unit Water Canyon Natural Preserve.

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

GENERAL PLAN

FEBRUARY 1999

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS®

State of California……...….Gray Davis, Governor
The Resources Agency……..……...…...Mary D. Nichols, Secretary
California Department of Parks and Recreation…….….Rusty Areias, Director

Mission Statement

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.

Chino Hills State Park General Plan

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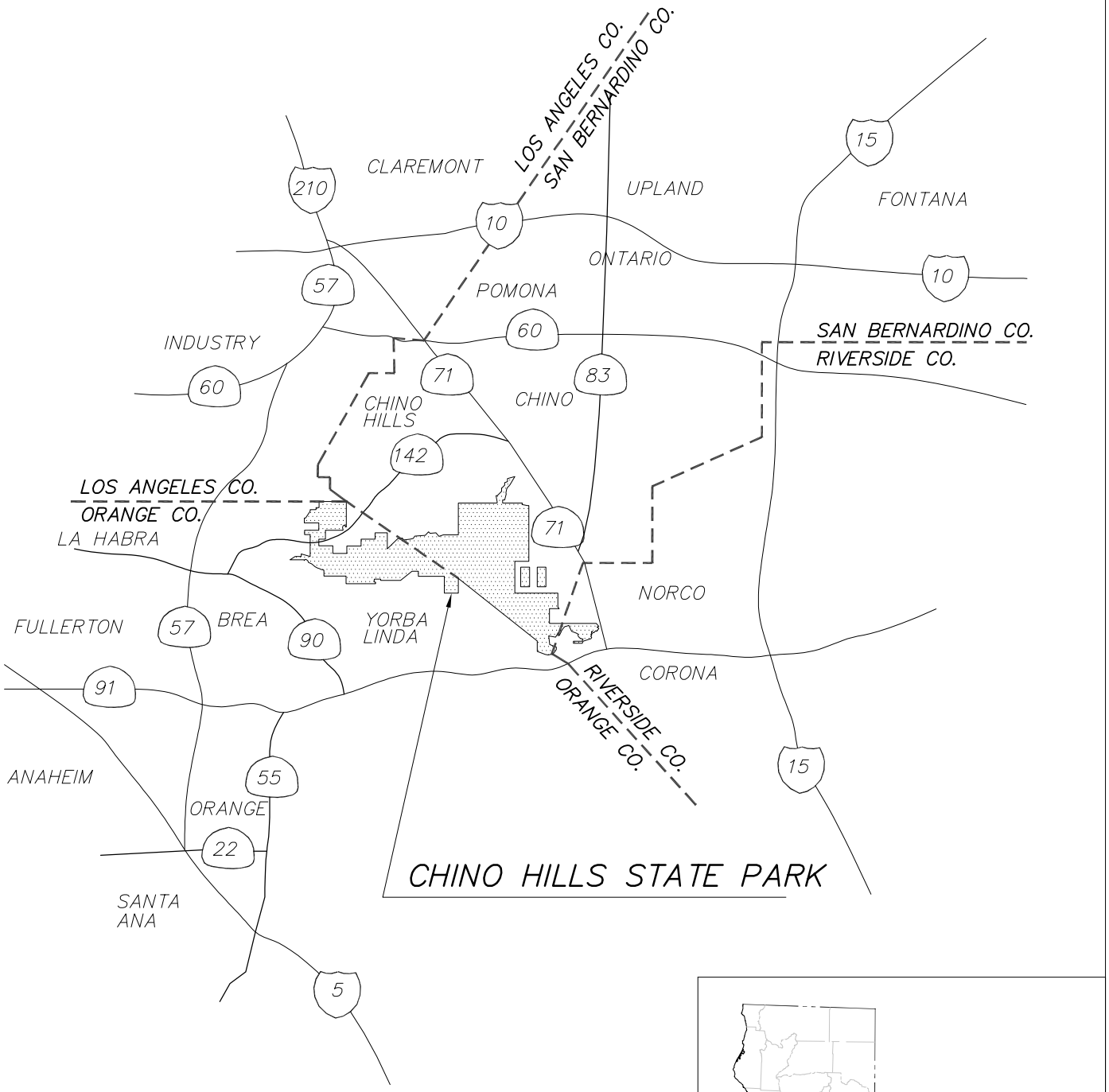


CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

VICINITY MAP

NO SCALE

NORTH

FIGURE 1

REGIONAL MAP

NO SCALE

NORTH

VI

Chino Hills State Park General Plan

INTRODUCTION

Sycamore trees in Lower Aliso Canyon

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARK

LOCATION

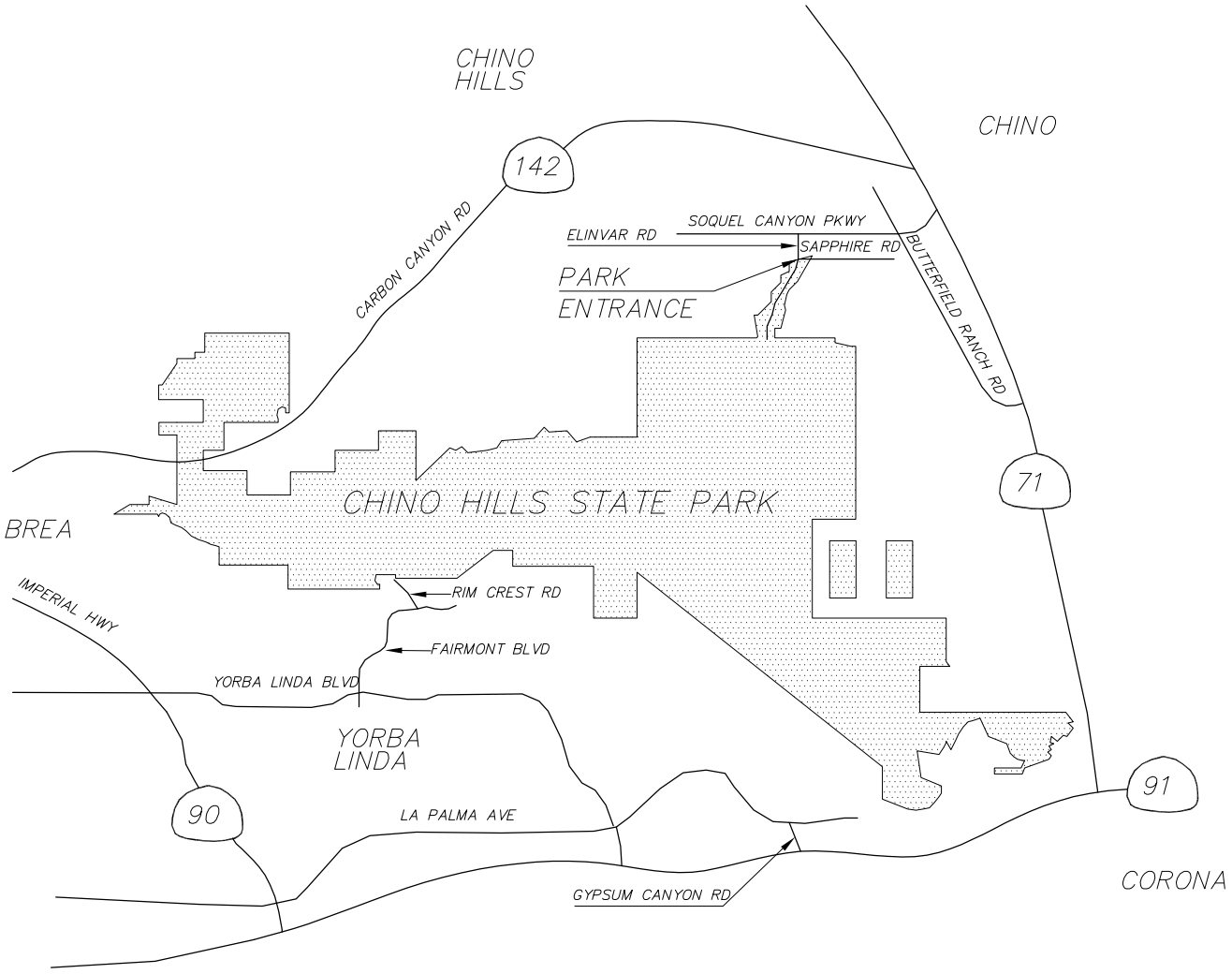
Chino Hills State Park is situated in the counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino (see Figures 1 and 2). Nearby transportation corridors include the Riverside Freeway (State Highway 91) to the south, State Highway 71 to the east, and Carbon Canyon Road (State Highway 142) to the north and west. The Sonome Canyon Area is just north of Carbon Canyon Road and is adjacent to Los Angeles County. The park is bordered on the north by the City of Chino Hills, on the south by the City of Yorba Linda, on the west by the City of Brea, and is close to the communities of Chino, Olinda Village, Sleepy Hollow, and Corona. Riverside is approximately 16 miles to the east of the park along Highway 91.

Chino Hills State Park lies within the densely populated urban communities of the southern California metropolitan complex. Approximately 15 million people live within a one-hour drive of the park. This number will escalate, as rural communities in the vicinity of the park are rapidly transformed into subdivisions.

Chino Hills State Park is within the Puente-Chino Hills, which are at the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains is just 2 miles south of the park boundary on the opposite side of Highway 91. It is biologically connected to Chino Hills State Park via the Coal Canyon biocorridor, which is the only remaining viable link between them. Other parks in the vicinity include Carbon Canyon Regional Park to the west, Prado Regional Park to the east, Featherly Regional Park to the south, and Yorba Regional Park to the southwest.

The nearest State Park System units are California Citrus State Historic Park, 13 miles to the east; Pio Pico State Historic Park, 18 miles to the northwest; Bolsa Chica and Huntington State Beaches and Crystal Cove State Park, all 24 miles to the southwest; and Lake Perris State Recreation Area, 29 miles to the east.

As of November 1998 the park encompassed approximately 11,770 acres, most of which is made up of rolling hills. The dominant vegetation type in the park is non-native annual grassland. However, walnut woodlands, coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, sycamore woodland, chaparral, and riparian scrub are also important components. In addition, a one-mile-long section of the Santa Ana River and its associated Fremont cottonwood riparian woodland are within park boundaries. This is the only remaining natural stretch of the Santa Ana River in Orange County.



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

LOCATION MAP

NO SCALE

NORTH

FIGURE 2

PURPOSE ACQUIRED

Chino Hills State Park was acquired primarily for the purpose of preserving its natural landscape features, its biological diversity, and the opportunities for solitude and recreation that open space provides for people in densely populated areas. In June 1977, the California Legislature passed Concurrent Resolution No. 17 directing the California Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) to undertake a study of the feasibility of acquiring land in the Chino Hills for State Park System purposes:

> *WHEREAS, The Chino Hills is an almost undeveloped island of unspoiled land surrounded by the urban sprawl and freeways of the Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange and is presently threatened with major development that is incompatible with its wildlife, aesthetic and recreational values; and WHEREAS, Securing the Chino Hills for park purposes would assure the preservation of those values to the benefit of residents of the state; now, therefore, be it resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to undertake, in cooperation with the Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange on a shared cost basis, a study of the feasibility of acquiring lands in the Chino Hills for park purposes and to report thereon to the Legislature on or before March 1, 1978…*

In April 1979, the Department issued the Chino Hills Feasibility Study that identified 30,000 acres of the Chino Hills as suitable for inclusion into the State Park System. The acquisition of 2,237 acres in November 1981 initiated the project.

A local conservation organization called Hills For Everyone initiated the Chino Hills Project and worked closely with the Legislature and the Department to make Chino Hills State Park a reality. In 1982, Hills For Everyone entered into a lease agreement with the Department of General Services to manage the land involved in the early acquisitions until the Department of Parks and Recreation was ready to assume management responsibility. Hills For Everyone opened the area to the public on a limited basis in the spring of 1983 and managed the property until 1984, at which time the Department of Parks and Recreation took over its management.

SPIRIT OF PLACE

Chino Hills State Park gives those who visit it a sense of being transported back in time to an earlier and more undeveloped California. Upon entering the park, the transition from the human-made environment to the natural environment is abrupt; housing tracts quickly give way to open hills, and once inside, the sights and sounds of modern intrusions are minimal and one feels many miles away from cities and freeways. The park interior is enveloped by its ridgelines, and one perceives the land as being secluded, protected, and still. Without city noises and visual obtrusions, visitors become aware of the park's subtle movements, natural smells, and variations in microclimate, vegetation, and topography. Many endearing values of the park are intangible. The qualities of open space, natural sounds, and fresh air cannot be quantified like physical resources can, but they allow visitors to be aware of and reconnected with the natural world.

Coast live oak forest in Telegraph Canyon

The forces of nature that have shaped the land are evident by the steeply cut valleys, landslides, and rolling hills of the park. These places mark the passage of time through their variation of seasonal colors. The park's landscape changes over the course of a year from one that is dry and dusty to one that is moist and lush. These variations can also be discovered while moving from the exposed ridgetops to the dense shade under riparian tree canopies.

The park is one of few in the Los Angeles Basin that offers opportunities for tranquility, solitude, and relief from the hectic urban life that surrounds it. It gives visitors a place to explore and recreate at their leisure. As the pace of life in this area quickens and the size of the population adjacent to the park grows, these values will become increasingly precious to many park visitors.

One comes away from Chino Hills State Park feeling refreshed. But the effect of one's experience at the park is most apparent when one returns to the urban environment. The park leaves visitors with a feeling of compassion for the disappearing values of California's past landscapes and a sincere appreciation for the remaining open space that is available for today's enjoyment.

PURPOSE OF THIS GENERAL PLAN

This general plan provides guidelines for long-term management, development, and operation of Chino Hills State Park. It replaces the original Chino Hills State Park General Plan approved in August 1986. After a review by the Department, it was determined that an amendment to the 1986 general plan should be developed. However, due to the extensive nature of the amendment, the planning team decided to completely revise and replace the original document.

This document is prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5002.2. The PRC specifies that a general plan be prepared prior to development of any new facilities and will consist of elements that will evaluate and define the proposed management of resources, land uses, facilities, concessions, and operation of the park. In addition, the plan serves as a first-tier environmental impact report (as defined in Section 15166 of the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines). The Chino Hills State Park General Plan must be submitted to, and approved by, the State Park and Recreation Commission.

The proposals in this general plan are conceptual in nature. They are intended to provide vision for the park rather than make detailed recommendations. Separate management and project plans will be developed that will provide the necessary details for specific actions. These plans are required to assess the potential environmental impacts of specific proposals made.

This general plan also discusses the potential for future acquisitions. Areas of interest extend beyond present Department of Parks and Recreation ownership for the purposes of long range planning. This does not constitute a commitment for acquisition nor portray an ultimate park boundary.

Telegraph Canyon Trail

Chino Hills State Park General Plan

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

Eastern view from Telegraph Canyon Trail

PARK SUMMARY

The Park Summary highlights and summarizes the existing land use, facilities, and significant resource values at Chino Hills State Park necessary to understand the goals and guidelines noted in the Plan Section of this document.

EXISTING LAND USE

Chino Hills State Park is a large area of relatively undeveloped land. One of the principal appeals for visitors is the natural character of the landscape. Most of the land is natural open space, cut occasionally by roads, trails, pipelines, and power lines. In a few locations, this land use changes to accommodate recreational and operational needs.

ROLLING M RANCH

For visitors, park staff, and volunteers, the Rolling M Ranch is the most actively used area of the park (Figure 3). It is at the end of the entrance road and offers a place for visitors to park their vehicles and access the trail network. Here, visitors can picnic, use the restroom, get water, and find park information. Park volunteers often use this area to meet and conduct business. The Rolling M Ranch is also a hub for park operations. It is a residential area for park staff as well as the operations center. The area is used for equipment and supply storage as well as a workspace for maintenance and ranger staff.

Cattle chute and barn – Rolling M Ranch

OTHER VISITOR-USE AREAS

There are additional visitor-use areas near the Rolling M Ranch that offer structured-type recreation. The equestrian staging area is used for large groups and special events. The campground area allows for night use of the park. Picnic areas and scenic overlooks are nearby. Panorama Point near the Rolling M Ranch offers a scenic viewpoint, parking, and interpretive information. There are no formal group-use areas in the park; however, the campgrounds can accommodate small groups as needed. Other visitor-use areas include pedestrian access points along the park boundary. Some visitors access the trail network via these access points after parking offsite on residential streets.

LEMON GROVE AREA

The Lemon Grove Area is located in Carbon Canyon on the far-western end of the park (see Figure 3). This trailhead area can be reached from Carbon Canyon Road by entering through Carbon Canyon Regional Park (County of Orange) and provides the only access from the western side of the park. Visitors can reach the park's interior by traveling through Telegraph Canyon from this area. The Lemon Grove Area contains significant riparian habitat as well as approximately 40 acres of trees that represent the only extant remnant of the historically significant citrus industry that once surrounded the park.

SONOME CANYON AREA

In November 1996, The Department of Parks and Recreation purchased the Sonome Canyon Area from Shell Western E&P Inc. This 965-acre property is north of Carbon Canyon Road (State Route 142) (see Figure 3). A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was developed and funded by Shell Western E&P Inc. as part of mitigation for nearby Shell Western E&P Inc. developments. Also in 1997 an additional 19 acres was added to the Park as part of an HCP mitigation obligation for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The intent of the HCP is to protect and enhance habitat on a 2,600-acre Study Management Area that includes the Sonome Canyon Area as well as other areas in the western portion of the park. As of 1998, the property had no developed facilities and was accessed by trail from the south.

SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS

There are currently no sub-classifications or formal land-use designations within Chino Hills State Park. Three land-use zones, however, were identified in the original (1986) general plan. These are Primitive, Park Land, and Developed Park Zones. All uses in these zones fall within the State Park classification of the Public Resources Code (Section 5019.53). The land use for the Primitive Zones is limited to trails and trail camping. The Park Land Zones include trails and trail camping as well as walk-in camping, family picnicking, and vehicle access limited to park personnel. The Developed Park Zones, in addition to the above, offer parking, day use, overnight use, administrative and operational use, and public vehicle access. The management zones described in this Chino Hills State Park General Plan supersede the land-use zones identified in the original general plan.

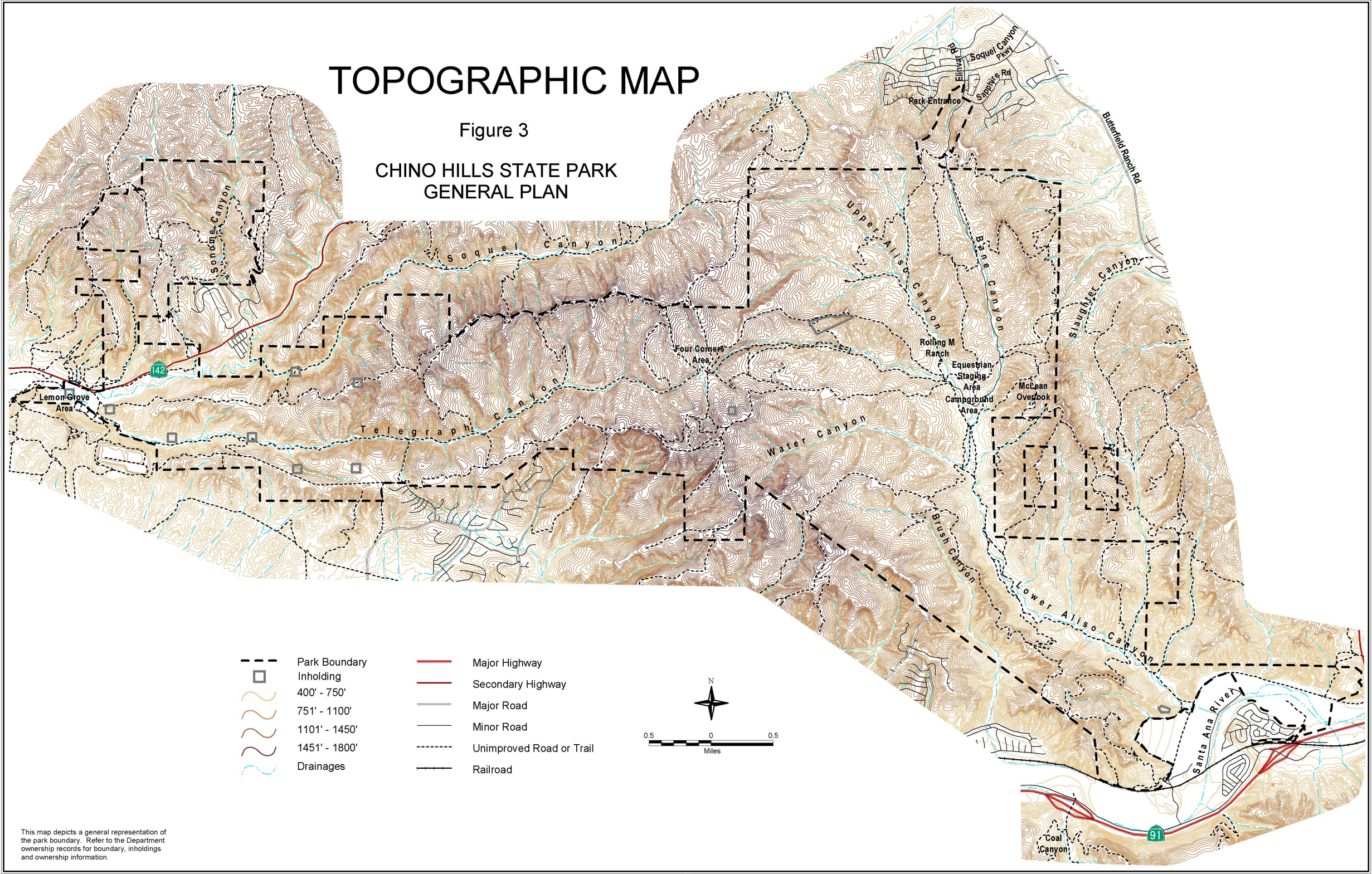
INHOLDINGS

Several property inholdings occur at Chino Hills State Park (see Figure 3). These inholdings are, in general, owned in fee by public agencies and privately held companies such as Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Shell Western E&P Inc, and Southern California Edison. The Department of Parks and Recreation cannot make substantial improvements in these areas. Refer to the Department Land Ownership Record for complete information about these inholdings.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Figure 3

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN



This map depicts a general representation of the park boundary. Refer to the Department ownership records for boundary, inholdings and ownership information.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Chino Hills State Park has few facilities (see Figure 4). In general, existing facilities in the park were constructed during three different periods: the historic ranching period, the Hills For Everyone management of the park, and the initial development by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Most of the existing structures at the Rolling M Ranch were constructed prior to ownership by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. These include two residences, a barn, and a shed. As of 1998, the smaller of the two residences was condemned due to structural damage. Some of these structures are over 50 years old, and are considered historic resources. Also, many of the existing park roads were built during this ranching period.

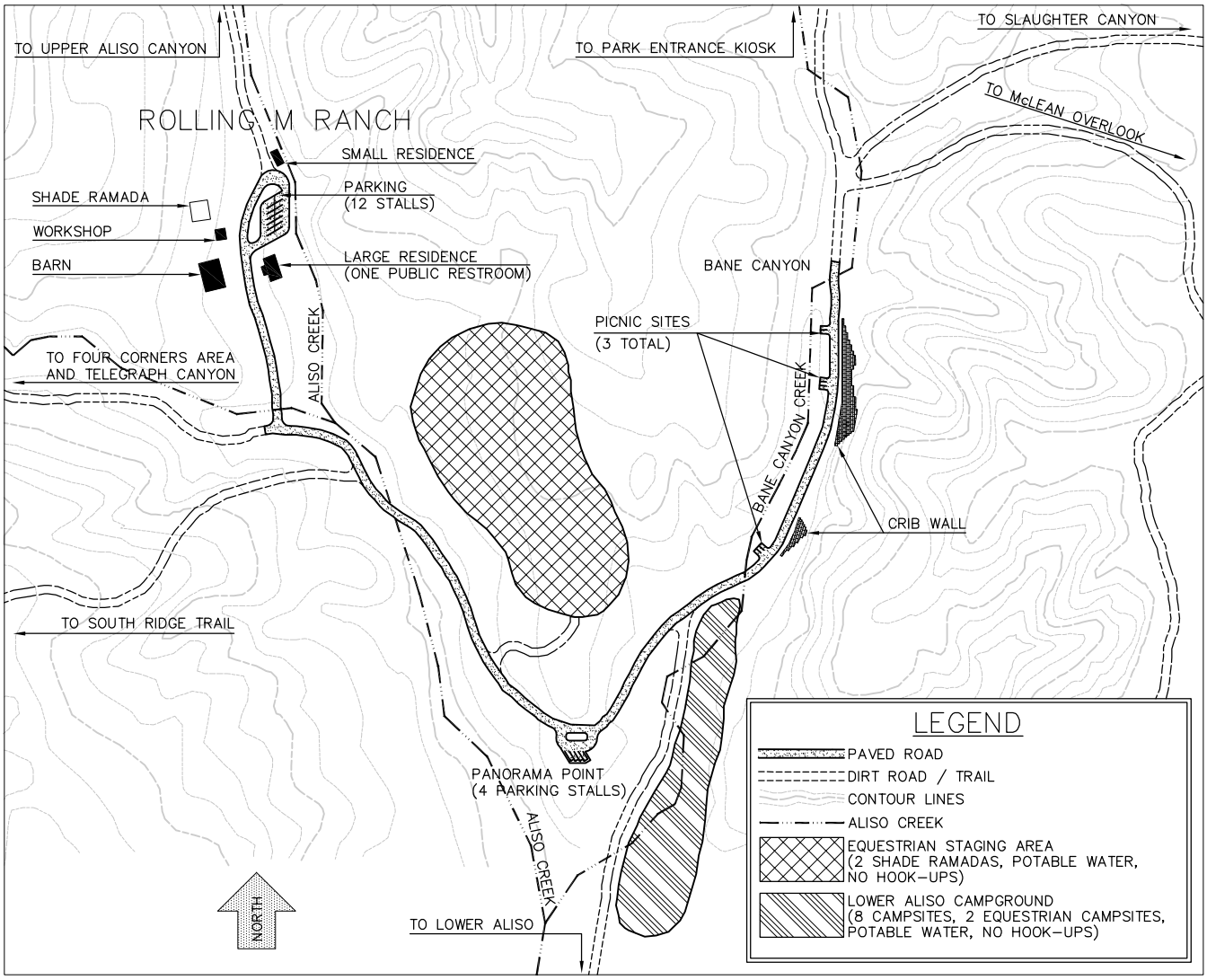
Hills For Everyone established some of the existing facilities during its management of the parkland from 1983 to 1984. These include a trailhead and trail, a viewpoint, an equestrian camping area, family camping and picnicking sites, parking areas, and signs. These facilities were established with volunteered labor and materials.

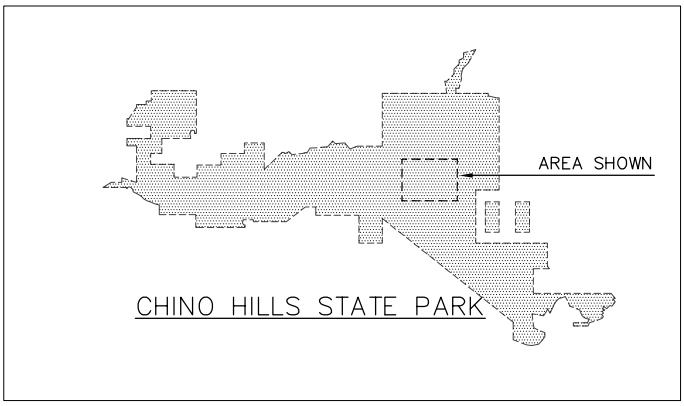
Initial development of the park by the Department consisted of building an entry station; paving portions of the entrance road; constructing retaining walls, family picnic sites with parking, a scenic overlook, and paved parking at the Rolling M Ranch; and installing water and underground electric utilities. The residences at the Rolling M Ranch use propane gas from tanks. Water is supplied by the City of Chino Hills and power is supplied to the Rolling M Ranch by Southern California Gas and Electric. No telephone service is available at the park.

Panorama Point looking south down Aliso Canyon

The park contains approximately 50 miles of roads and trails (see Figure 3), including single and double track trails, and dirt roads. The three-mile long entrance road is mostly unpaved, except for a three-quarter-mile paved section between the Rolling M Ranch and the road to McLean Overlook.

As of 1998, no concessions existed within the park.





CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

EXISTING FACILITIES MAP

NORTH

NO SCALE

FIGURE 4

PARK SUPPORT

VOLUNTEERS

Three groups of organized park volunteers are involved in recreation, land use, resource management, and interpretation issues and play an important role in the operation of the park. The volunteer groups include a Natural History Unit, Mounted Assistance Unit, and a Bicycle Assistance Unit. In 1997, these volunteer groups logged 3,980 hours of service. Typical volunteer activities include trail patrols and maintenance, interpretive programs, facility maintenance and construction, and habitat restoration projects.

COOPERATING ASSOCIATION

The Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association, a non-profit, cooperating association operating under a contract with California State Parks, provides funds to the park to assist with interpretive and educational activities. This association raises funds through membership fees, donations, and fundraising efforts.

HILLS FOR EVERYONE

Hills For Everyone is a citizen advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of the local hills for people and wildlife. Hills For Everyone was instrumental in preserving land in the Chino Hills for park purposes and they work closely with Department staff on planning and conservation issues.

Interpretive panel – Hills For Everyone Trail

SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE VALUES

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Topography

The Chino Hills are part of a group of hills that also includes the Puente Hills to the northwest. The Chino Hills and the Puente Hills form a roughly triangular area of approximately 35 square miles of valleys, canyons, hills, and steep slopes. The hills are bounded on the northwest by the San Gabriel Valley, on the northeast by the San Bernardino Valley, and on the south by the Santa Ana River Canyon and the Los Angeles Basin.

Telegraph Canyon running east to west and Aliso Canyon running north to south are the principal stream drainage areas in the park. Slopes are generally steeper in the Telegraph drainage than the Aliso drainage. The most level areas in the park are near Aliso Creek, adjacent to the Santa Ana River, and at the mouth of Telegraph Canyon. The highest elevations in the park are San Juan Hill (1,781 feet) and Gilman Peak (1,865 feet). The lowest elevations occur along the Santa Ana River (430 feet).

Meteorology

The climate at Chino Hills State Park is typically Mediterranean with cool, moist winters and warm, dry summers. Local weather conditions are greatly influenced by wind patterns. Westerly breezes bring in moist marine air, which moderates temperatures and frequently brings in low clouds or fog. Easterly breezes bring in dry desert air, which accentuates temperature extremes (raising maximums and lowering minimums). Occasionally, strong (35 to 50 miles per hour) easterly winds may blow for several days, sometimes raising temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. These Santa Ana winds produce low humidity and reduce fuel moisture, which, with the high wind speeds, create extreme fire hazard conditions.

Average annual precipitation in the Chino Hills area ranges from 15 to 18 inches. Typically, the summer months are dry. Late winter and early spring rains (December through March) usually produce 75 percent of the annual precipitation. These rains produce high runoff, which initiates the period of stream flow. The dry summer period typically leads to depletion of soil moisture, cessation of vegetative growth, and termination of stream flow in the creeks.

Air pollution is a significant environmental problem that restricts visibility and poses health hazards in the Chino Hills area.

Hydrology

The Chino Hills are part of the divide between the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Hydrologic Basins. Most of Chino Hills State Park is in the Carbon Canyon and Aliso Canyon watersheds. Bane Canyon and Water Canyon are part of the Aliso Canyon watershed and are completely within the park, as is 87 percent of Aliso Canyon. The Carbon Canyon Watershed includes Carbon Canyon, Soquel Canyon, Sonome Canyon, and Telegraph Canyon. The first three canyons are in private ownership outside the park, however, 96 percent of Telegraph Canyon is located within park boundaries. A majority of the headwaters is currently used for grazing, but significant upstream portions of the Carbon Canyon, Soquel Canyon, and Sonome Canyon watersheds are residential.

Several roads that cross streams exist in Bane, Aliso, Telegraph, and Soquel Canyons. In some areas, increased soil erosion, turbidity, and damage to aquatic habitat has occurred because of road use through stream channels.

Geology

The Chino Hills are made up of a thick sequence of middle to upper Miocene marine sedimentary rocks of the Puente Formation, deposited from five to fifteen million years ago. The Puente Formation has been divided into four members from oldest to most recent: the La Vida, Soquel, Yorba, and Sycamore Canyon members.

Petroleum and associated gas have been extracted from oil fields in the region since the late 1800s. In 1885 the first commercial production of oil in the Los Angeles Basin was at the old Puente oil field west of the park. Although numerous oil wells have been drilled in the Chino Hills, there is no record of commercial production in the park.

The hills are a result of uplift and folding along the Whittier fault zone and the Chino fault. Both the Whittier fault zone and the Chino fault may be branches of the Elsinore fault, which is a major structural feature of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province to the south. The state geologist classifies the Whittier fault zone as active. A branch of the Whittier fault cuts through the park in the vicinity of Telegraph and Carbon Canyons. Damage to structures or facilities could result from seismic shaking. Landslides could also be generated, especially if the slopes are saturated.

Chino Hills State Park has major geologic hazards and sensitivities. The Chino Hills are prone to frequent landslides. In fact, the area around and including the park has been identified as the most landslide-prone area in southwestern San Bernardino County. Even though many of the landslides occurred long ago by human standards, they must still be considered as areas of instability, because the landslide deposits are generally perched precariously on hillslopes, awaiting only the proper climatic, hydrologic, and perhaps seismic conditions to become activated.

Soils

Chino Hills State Park is located in Soil Region VII – Southern California. In this region, upland soils have clay or clay-loam surfaces, neutral to basic reacting, and often-calcareous subsoil. Alluvial soils are mostly sandy loam, light brown in color, and have neutral reactions. The Chino Hills area soils are primarily upland soils, formed in place with only minor occurrences of alluvial soils.

In Chino Hills State Park, the Soil Conservation Service has mapped 39 soil units representing 20 soil series. These soils vary widely in depth, fertility, permeability, and other important characteristics. Two important characteristics of the soils in the park, which may affect potential land uses, are erosion hazard and shrink-swell potential.

The steepness of watershed lands, past land-use practices, and the rapid surface runoff create a high potential for erosion throughout Chino Hills State Park. The park is riddled with a network of roads, fences, transmission easements, power lines, and gas lines. In some places livestock have created linear paths along steep fence lines, leading to development of gullies, loss of soil and vegetative resources, and potentially contributing to development of new landslides. The roads promote gullying, mass wasting, and loss of vegetative resources. Increased water runoff results from water concentration through culverts, removal of vegetation, and diversion from natural watercourses. Ditches, berms, and improperly constructed water bars also lead to erosion of the roads and adjacent lands in the park.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Connectivity

The Southwest Ecoregion, of which Chino Hills State Park is a part, is recognized worldwide as a significant area of biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of species occurring within a given area. The Southwest Ecoregion extends roughly from San Diego to Santa Barbara, as far east as the crest of the Transverse Ranges and west to the coast. This area contains a greater number of biological resources than any other area of comparable size in the United States (E.O. Wilson, *Biodiversity*, National Academy Press, Washington D.C., 1988). As land in southern California becomes more developed and open space dwindles, the importance of Chino Hills State Park to the preservation of biodiversity in the Southwest Ecoregion will greatly increase.

Even with continued protection, the biodiversity of the park is at risk. The Puente-Chino Hills, including the park, have become increasingly isolated by the conversion of the surrounding landscape to urban uses. Scientific studies have shown that the isolation of habitat can lead to ecosystem collapse. Small, isolated areas of habitat simply cannot support as many species as larger areas. In order for the biodiversity of

the park to be maintained at or near current levels it must remain connected to other protected open space in the region.

Without the ability to protect the entire landscape, biocorridors are the best known way to counteract the effects of the isolation of parks and their habitat areas. Biocorridors, like hallways between rooms, are extensions of habitat that connect one core habitat area to another. A core habitat is an area of high resource sensitivity because it supports habitat that is crucial for a majority of wildlife species in the park. Biocorridors provide for plant and animal movement between core habitat areas. The exchange of plants and animals between habitat areas is critical to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems for several reasons. These include the maintenance of genetic variation, the ability of species to shift their ranges over time in response to environmental change, and as a source of repopulating after a natural catastrophe. Without plant and animal exchange with other protected areas, many species populations within Chino Hills State Park will not be able to perpetuate and will eventually die off.

The habitat linkages important to the biological survival of Chino Hills State Park are: 1) Coal Canyon which links the park to the Cleveland National Forest and the Santa Ana Mountains; 2) the Sonome Canyon Area which links Chino Hills State Park to Tonner Canyon and other open space to the northwest; and 3) the Prado Basin area that links the park to the Prado Basin, and thereby to the Dairy Preserve, the Santa Ana River watershed, and open space east of State Route 71. Roads with heavy traffic bisect these linkages and are barriers to wildlife attempting to cross them. When future improvements to these roads are undertaken, including capacity increases planned for the regional transportation system, the construction or enhancement of suitable bridges, culverts or other acceptable structures are necessary to maintain corridor function and biological viability.

Mountain lion tracks (photo by Connie Spenger)

Biocorridor Areas

Coal Canyon

The most important biological linkage between Chino Hills State Park and adjacent, protected open space is the Coal Canyon biocorridor which connects the park and surrounding Puente-Chino Hills on the north to the Cleveland National Forest and the Santa Ana Mountains on the south. The biocorridor provides for the dispersal of plants and the movement of animals between the two areas. The much larger Santa Ana Mountains support the diversity of the Puente-Chino Hills by allowing animals to disperse into the area thereby bolstering populations, providing new genetic material, and helping to prevent local extinctions.

The Coal Canyon biocorridor extends within park boundaries through Brush and Water Canyons to the interior of the park. These two canyons constitute an important natural resource area that supports high quality examples of California walnut woodland, oak woodland, and riparian habitat. The area provides for the movement of special status species such as the mountain lion, as well as habitat that is crucial to the California gnatcatcher and the nesting success of a pair of resident golden eagles. All of Water Canyon and a large portion of upper Brush Canyon are within the park's boundary.

The Riverside Freeway (State Route 91) bisects the Coal Canyon biocorridor outside of park boundaries. Terrestrial animals attempting to cross the freeway are forced to either cross under it via a relatively small double box culvert or over it across multiple lanes and a freeway divider. Because the culvert crossing is small relative to its length, many animals do not use it. Deer, for example, typically will not use the 91 Freeway culvert crossing because they require a view of the opposite end of the crossing and the culvert does not provide this need. A freeway underpass at this location, which is currently fenced off from the wildland area, holds the potential to allow for the movement of many animals that cannot currently overcome the impediment of the freeway.

As of 1998, portions of the Coal Canyon biocorridor remained in private ownership and may be developed. If development occurs, the Puente-Chino Hills, including Chino Hills State Park will be biologically isolated. Eventually, this will result in local species extinction on a large scale and may result in the biological decline of the park and the Puente-Chino Hills because this area is too small to support many of the existing plant and animal populations.

Sonome and Tonner Canyons

The Sonome Canyon biocorridor lies within the Sonome Canyon Area. It links Chino Hills State Park with two adjacent open space areas in the Puente and Whittier Hills via the Tonner Canyon biocorridor on the north and west. This important connection

ties three significant core habitat areas together and allows for the passage of species between them.

The Sonome and Tonner Canyon biocorridor is bisected by Carbon Canyon Road (State Route 142). There are several culverts that pass under the road but they are very small and are, therefore, of limited value for wildlife passage. Larger mammals such as deer and mountain lions are unable to pass through and must cross the road in order to enter and leave Chino Hills State Park through this corridor. If Carbon Canyon Road is widened to accommodate greater vehicle usage, wildlife losses will increase unless adequate mitigation measures are enacted.

Prado Basin

The Prado Basin biocorridor links Chino Hills State Park with the high quality habitat within the basin and with the upper reaches of the Santa Ana River to the east. The State Endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo and the State and Federally Endangered least Bell's vireo have been documented within the Prado Basin. This corridor offers an important opportunity for exchange of these species between the park's Fremont Cottonwood habitat along the Santa Ana River and that of the Prado Basin. As with the other corridors connecting Chino Hills State Park to adjacent open space areas, this one is bisected by a major highway. As mitigation for the widening of State Highway 71, the California Department of Transportation installed fences in an attempt to direct wildlife into culverts and away from at-road crossings of the freeway.

Plant Life

Vegetation Types

At first look, Chino Hills State Park may appear to be simply composed of rolling hills covered with non-native grassland. Although these grasslands are truly the dominant vegetation type in the park, a closer look reveals a significant diversity of plant community types. In fact, Chino Hills State Park supports 14 different vegetation series as defined in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) classification, *A Manual of California Vegetation* by John O. Sawyer and Todd Keeler-Wolf (1995). A Draft Vegetation Map has been delineated for the park following this classification scheme (see Figure 5). The vegetation type series mapped for Chino Hills State Park are listed in the following table:

Series	
California Grassland Series	California Walnut Series
Purple Sage Series	California Sagebrush Series
Sumac Series	California Buckwheat Series
Coast Prickly Pear Series	Coast Live Oak Series
California Sycamore Series	Arroyo Willow Series
Fremont Cottonwood Series	Mulefat Series
Purple Needlegrass Series	Cattail Series

Of these 14 vegetation types, 9 are considered unique or significant in southern California because their acreage is rapidly dwindling and because of their importance as habitat to both sensitive and common wildlife species. These 9 are the California Walnut Series, California Buckwheat Series, California Sagebrush Series, Purple Sage Series, Coast Prickly Pear Series, Sumac Series, Arroyo Willow Series, Fremont Cottonwood Series, and California Sycamore Series.

California Walnut Series

The southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*) has a range limited to the Los Angeles Basin and surrounding foothills. Some of the largest remaining woodlands in southern California can be found in Chino Hills State Park, particularly throughout Water Canyon, on the south side of Telegraph Canyon, and in the Sonome Canyon Area. Walnut trees are found typically on north-facing slopes and in canyon bottoms and are often in association with coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Southern California black walnut woodland – Water Canyon

Coastal Sage Scrub Habitats: California Buckwheat Series, California Sagebrush Series, Purple Sage Series, and Coast Prickly Pear Series

The coastal sage scrub habitats have declined rapidly in southern California due to increased open space development. Remaining patches of habitat in the state have become crucial to the survival of many animal species, including the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), a Federally Threatened bird species. Even the coastal sage scrub habitat types that are not ideal for California gnatcatcher nesting sites are important for the species dispersal into nearby habitats that are more suitable.

California Buckwheat Series is a type of coastal sage scrub habitat that is dominated by California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) in association with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). This habitat type is important to California gnatcatcher survival. The California Buckwheat Series is well represented in various parts of Chino Hills State Park, with excellent examples in Telegraph Canyon.

California Sagebrush Series is another type of coastal sage scrub habitat. This vegetation series differs from the California Buckwheat Series in that it is dominated, sometimes entirely, by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and may also include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), or lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*). This habitat type is as important to California gnatcatcher survival as the California Buckwheat Series. As of 1998, the California gnatcatcher had been documented as nesting within park boundaries only in the California Sagebrush Series habitat along the park's southern boundary.

Purple Sage Series, another type of coastal sage scrub habitat, is different from the others in that it is dominated by purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*). Purple sage may be the sole component in this series, but typically California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) occurs in the canopy as well. Examples of this series can be found in the Sonome Canyon Area.

Coast Prickly Pear Series is dominated by the coast prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*). This habitat is found as small patches in various locations within the park. Some good examples can be found on the south-facing slope in Telegraph Canyon and in Upper Aliso Canyon. The cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), a California Species of Concern, is dependent upon this habitat and is found in many of the park's cactus patches.

Coast Prickly Pear – Upper Aliso Canyon

Sumac Series

Sumac Series is dominated by relatively tall shrubs such as laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*). This series is well represented in Chino Hills State Park particularly along the north ridge of Telegraph Canyon. Because the understory is composed of several coastal sage scrub species such as California buckwheat and California sagebrush, this series could provide habitat for the California gnatcatcher.

Riparian Habitats: Arroyo Willow Series, Fremont Cottonwood Series, and California Sycamore Series

Riparian habitat in general is uncommon in southern California. It is important habitat for many wildlife species that use it for nesting, foraging, perching, and cover from the hot sun. It has decreased dramatically over the years and continues to decline due to development and habitat degradation.

Arroyo Willow Series is a type of riparian habitat that is represented in several of the canyons in the park by thickets dominated by the arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Some examples of this habitat are found in Upper and Lower Aliso Canyon and Telegraph Canyon. It is excellent habitat for wildlife such as herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians), birds, and mammals. Within the park, this habitat supports the existence of the State Endangered willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

Fremont Cottonwood Series is another type of riparian habitat that is found in the park only within a small area along the Santa Ana River. This type of habitat is extremely limited in southern California and is of crucial importance for two bird species. These species are the State Endangered western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), which has been documented in adjacent habitat within the Prado Basin, and the State and Federal Endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), which has been documented within this habitat at Chino Hills State Park.

California Sycamore Series is a type of riparian woodland dominated by the California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). This habitat within Chino Hills State Park is well represented in Aliso Canyon. Dominated by mature sycamore trees, the woodland is valuable for various bird- perching and nesting sites and is habitat for various arboreal wildlife species. Sycamore tree seedlings are uncommon in the park, as well as elsewhere. This is due, in part, to competition with non-native annual grasses and forbs.

California sycamore – Bane Canyon

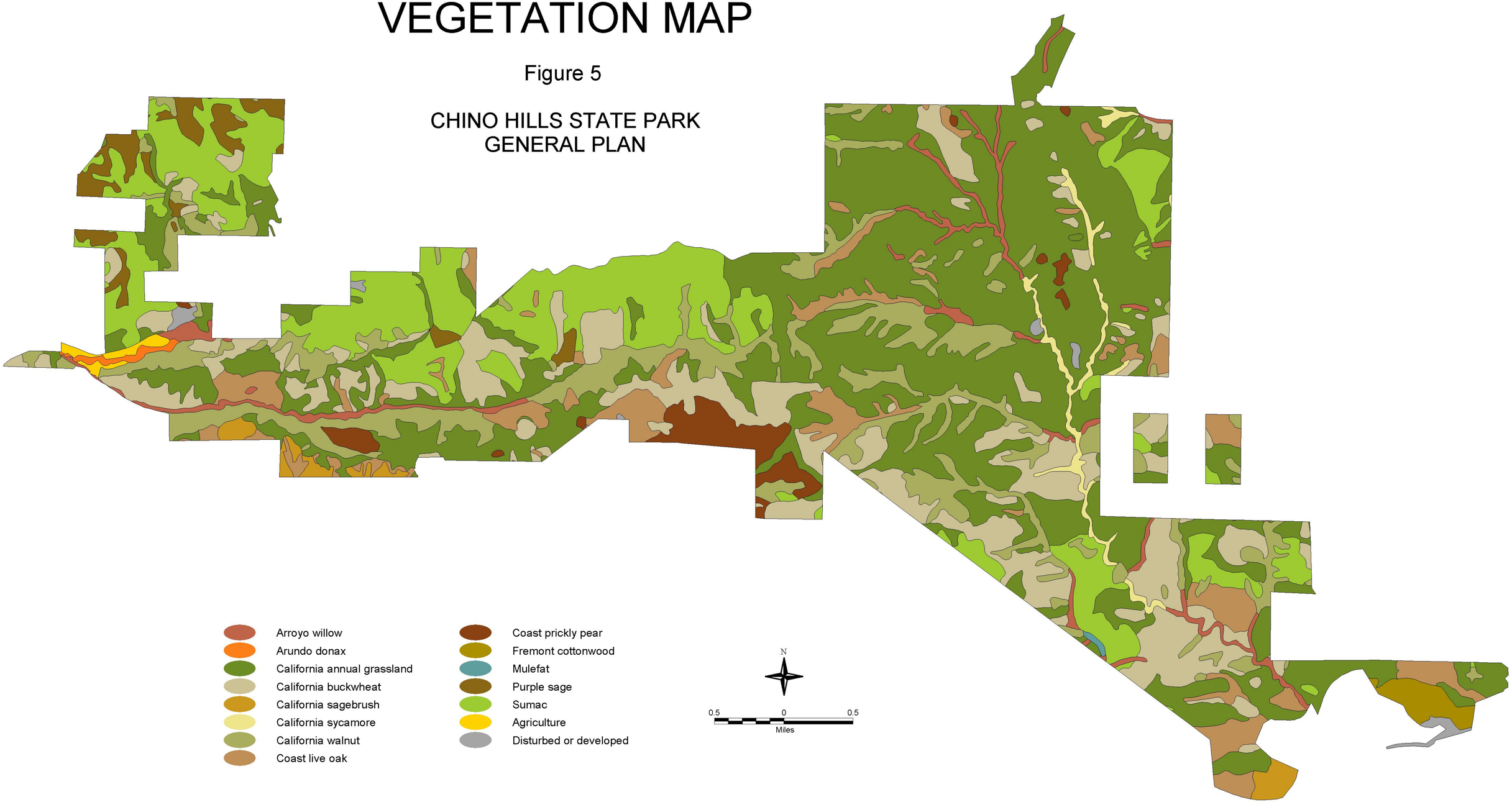
Cattail Series

Three livestock ponds, McDermott Spring, Windmill, and Panorama Ponds were constructed by previous land owners and offer year-round water for wildlife as well as suitable conditions for the establishment of aquatic plants and emergent wetland vegetation.

VEGETATION MAP

Figure 5

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN



Vegetation series defined in the California Native Plant Society's classification, "A Manual of California Vegetation" by John O. Sawyer and Todd Keeeler--Wolf (1995).

Purple Needlegrass Series
Small stands of the native bunchgrass called purple needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*) are recovering in some areas within Chino Hills State Park. Prior to heavy grazing and other disturbances in the Chino Hills, purple needlegrass and other native perennial bunchgrasses dominated the grasslands. Currently, the extent of native bunchgrass patches in the park is minimal compared to the coverage of non-native annual grassland.

Sensitive Plant Populations
There are three sensitive plant taxa known to occur within the boundaries of Chino Hills State Park (see below). One is a Federal Species of Concern, but all three are listed in the California Native Plant Society - Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

There are several other sensitive taxa that have a potential to occur within the park (see below). One of these, Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) is documented as occurring on property adjacent to the park and is likely to occur within park boundaries, as well. This species is currently listed as Federal Endangered. Seven other listed sensitive plant taxa have the potential to occur within park boundaries.

Catalina Mariposa Lily

1998 Sensitive Plant Taxa Known To Occur Within Chino Hills State Park

Taxon	Common name	CNPS List*	State/Federal List*
Dudleya multicaulis	many-stemmed dudleya	1B	FSC
Calochortus catalinae	Catalina mariposa lily	4	
Romneya coulteri	Coulter's matilija poppy	4	

1998 Sensitive Plant Taxa For Which Potential Habitat Exists Within Chino Hills State Park

Taxon	Common name	CNPS List*	State/Federal List*
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milk-vetch	1B	FE
Calochortus weedii var. *intermedius*	intermediate mariposa lily	1B	
Atriplex coulteri	Coulter's saltbush	1B	
Brodiaea filifolia	thread-leaved brodiaea	1B	CE/FSC

Hemizonia pungens ssp. *laevis*	smooth tarplant	1B	
Chorizanthe parryi var. *fernandina*	San Fernando Valley spineflower	1A	
Dodecahema leptocera	slender-horned spineflower	1B	CE/FE
Eriastrum densifolium ssp. *sanctorum*	Santa Ana River woollystar	1B	CE/FE

*Listing status codes: CNPS 1A = Presumed extinct in California; CNPS 1B = Rare and Endangered in California and elsewhere; CNPS 4 = Plants of limited distribution; FSC = Federal Species of Concern (formerly candidate species); CE = State of California Endangered; FE = Federally Endangered

Exotic Plant Populations

For over 100 years, livestock grazing occurred within the boundaries of what is now Chino Hills State Park. This grazing, along with fire suppression, disrupted natural ecological processes and allowed the introduction and rapid expansion of many non-native plant pest species to occur. The most noticeable disturbance has occurred in the many acres of open grassland which are now heavily dominated by non-native annual grasses and mustards. However, riparian areas have been adversely affected as well. Heavy grazing in riparian areas has disturbed habitat and degraded water quality thus paving the way for the proliferation of such exotic plant pests as the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

The giant cane (*Arundo donax*) is an invasive, exotic plant that is found in the Santa Ana River and Carbon Canyon Creek. Giant cane is currently manageable in the portion of the Santa Ana River within park boundaries, but has overrun Carbon Canyon Creek. Efforts will be necessary to further control and eradicate this species from park property.

Animal Life

The great diversity of vegetation types and habitat supports the existence of a wide variety of animal species. Some of the taxa occurring in the park are considered threatened, endangered, or species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Game.

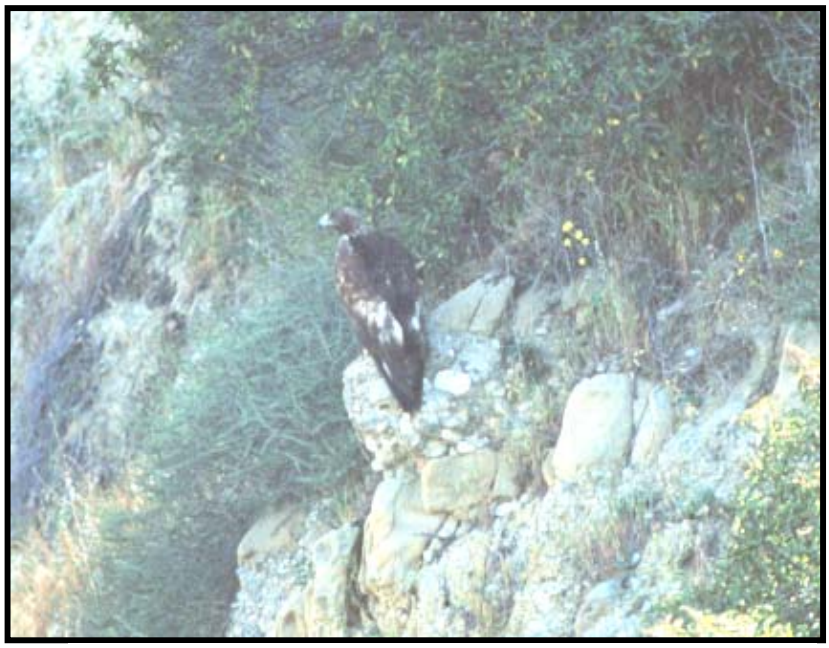
Sensitive Animal Populations

Mammals

Two California Mammal Species of Special Concern are known to occur within Chino Hills State Park. These are the western mastiff bat and the mountain lion (also a California Fully Protected Species). In addition to these, 22 special status mammal species have been recorded with the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) of the California Department of Fish and Game as occurring in the vicinity of the park. Although they have not been documented within the park as of 1998, suitable habitat exists within the park to support their existence (see Appendix A).

Birds

Chino Hills State Park provides suitable habitat for numerous bird species. Of the 15 sensitive bird species documented using the park, one is on the Federal Threatened list, two are listed as Federal Endangered, two as California Fully Protected, two as California Endangered, eight are California Species of Special Concern, and three are of local or regional concern even though they don't appear on current sensitivity lists (see Appendix A). Several of these taxa occur on more than one sensitivity list. Suitable habitat exists within the park for an additional 28 bird species that have special status although they had not been documented there as of 1998 (see Appendix A).



Golden Eagle – Brush Canyon (photo by Rick Jackson)

Reptiles

Six sensitive reptile species occur within the boundaries of Chino Hills State Park: the southwestern pond turtle, San Bernardino ringneck snake, San Diego (coast) horned lizard, northern red-diamond rattlesnake, coast patch-nosed snake, and coastal western whiptail. All of these are considered California Species of Special Concern, but the pond turtle and the horned lizard are also listed as California Fully Protected. Suitable habitat for eleven other sensitive reptile species occurs within the park boundaries (see Appendix A).

Amphibians

There are nine special status amphibian taxa that could occur in the park (see Appendix A). Three of these, the arboreal salamander (a species of local concern), the western spadefoot (California Fully Protected, California Species of Special Concern), and the Monterey salamander have been documented as occurring within park boundaries.

In all, 23 wildlife taxa with some level of sensitivity have been documented utilizing the habitats and resources of Chino Hills State Park. Also, suitable habitat exists to support 65 additional sensitive animal taxa. These numbers are very large for a park the size of Chino Hills State Park.

Aquatic Life

Fish habitat in the Santa Ana River and in most of its tributaries has been significantly reduced from its original extent. Stream channelization, dams, and other projects related to urbanization of the Los Angeles plain have contributed to this habitat loss. As a result, steelhead and Pacific lamprey, two anadromous fish species that once inhabited the river, are no longer present. Of the native freshwater fish species, only the arroyo chub still can be found in the Santa Ana River. The Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace, and unarmored three-spine stickleback no longer exist in this river system. Currently, the unarmored three-spine stickleback is listed as both State and Federal Endangered and a recovery team is inspecting the possibility of appropriate sites for reintroduction within the park (see Appendix A).

Lower Aliso Creek

Chino Hills State Park includes a one-mile-long unchanneled section of the Santa Ana River. Also within park boundaries, Aliso Creek, which provides suitable habitat for the four freshwater fish native to the area, is the only unchanneled tributary with access to the river downstream of the Prado Dam. It also contains a perennial reach that supports populations of the arroyo chub. Aquatic habitat in Aliso Creek has become increasingly important to the regional conservation of the arroyo chub. The introduction of pollutants and exotic animal species has reduced habitat quality in the Santa Ana River. Introduced crayfish, two species of non-native fish, and African clawed frogs are present in Aliso Creek. They are both a competitive and predatory threat to the arroyo chub.

Paleontology

Chino Hills State Park has not been systematically surveyed for paleontological resources. However, many fossils have been found in the Chino Hills area. The Puente Formation, present throughout the park, is well documented to contain abundant fossil deposits. Fossil specimens known to be present in that geologic formation include whales, porpoises, fish, shark teeth, leaves, marine invertebrates, and others. The Puente Formation is particularly well recognized for its fossil fish remains, especially near-shore species. Unique Pliocene-age fossil deposits may also be present in the southeastern portion of the park. Microscopic foraminifera are also contained in the marine sandstone members. A thorough paleontological survey may reveal that important fossil deposits exist within the park.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Native American Ethnographic Overview

Chino Hills State Park is located in the inland southern portion of the traditional Gabrielino territory in close proximity to the Juaneño, Luiseño, Serrano, and Cahuilla Indian groups. The Gabrielino were occupying lands in and around the park at the time the Spaniards arrived in southern California.

The Gabrielino are reported to have been the wealthiest, most populous, and most powerful ethnic nationality in aboriginal southern California, other than the Chumash. The Gabrielino possessed a material culture reflecting sophisticated knowledge of the working qualities of natural materials and elaborate artisanship. They were particularly known for their tool, utensils, and ritual objects. The Gabrielino traded their creations, food products, and animal skins over a broad region in present-day southern California.

San Gabriel Mission baptism records list village names and an occasional note concerning village locations. These location notes and the number of individuals baptized suggest that four large villages were situated in the Santa Ana River Basin near Chino Hills State Park. The Indians of these villages are hypothesized to have regularly exploited the natural resources of the Chino Hills.

Historic Overview

The historic period of the Park dates from the first recorded Euroamerican explorations along the Santa Ana River in the late-eighteenth century and continues through ranching endeavors of the mid-twentieth century.

This area was originally part of the extensive grazing lands granted to the San Gabriel Mission, which was established in 1771. During the Mexican Republic era, the area served as spillover grazing land for Rancho Santa Ana del Chino to the north, Rancho La Brea to the west, and Ranchos Cañon de Santa Ana and La Sierra Yorba to the south. In 1848, when Mexico ceded California to the United States, it became part of the United States public domain lands. Documented legal acquisition of public land in the park began during the last three decades of the nineteenth century.

Throughout its recorded history, the area served primarily as grazing land, although some late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century agriculture, horticulture, oil exploration, and mining activities occurred in parts of the park. Historic activity left only one complex of historic buildings (Rolling M Ranch) and scattered historic features. However, stock grazing had a significant effect on the park. Cattle and sheep grazing eliminated native grasses and grains once used by Native Americans as food sources, and ranchers introduced non-native grasses to feed stock herds.

Hispanic Period (1771-1848)
Although exploration occurred both north and south of the park, there is no documented evidence indicating the park was formally surveyed by Euroamericans during the eighteenth or early-nineteenth century, nor legally acquired prior to the 1830s. Mission San Gabriel was established just 20 miles northwest of the park, so stock grazing may have occurred on park land as early as the 1770s.

Early American Period (1848-1920)
In contrast to the surrounding region, there is no evidence of permanent activity other than grazing in the present-day park prior to the U.S. Surveyor General's public domain surveys. These surveys began in 1853 and were not completed until 1894. The deputy surveyor's field notes do not note any structures, fences, or wagon roads in the park, although much of the land was obtained and used for grazing during this period.

Legal acquisition of public domain land within Chino Hills State Park by private individuals did not begin until the early 1870s. Many of those filing were associated with the small ranching community of Rincon just east of the park boundary along the Prado Basin. Local ranchers such as Fenton Slaughter, who had purchased Raymundo Yorba's home and property in 1868, established successful sheep and cattle ranching operations that extended into the eastern limits of Chino Hills State Park. Activity and ownership increased during the Great Land Boom of the mid-1880s. Those who purchased Chino Hills land for ranching use included the founder of the town of Chino, Richard Gird. By 1895 much of the future park property was under absentee ownership, such as that of the San Francisco based Chino Land and Water Company.

Although most of the Chino Hills land was in ownership by 1900, the first published USGS quadrangle map of 1902 indicates only three miscellaneous structures and a wagon road running within current park boundaries. These structures were likely associated with various ranching and mineral extraction activities. Although no large deposits were located or exploited within the park, several oil wells and mines have been documented from this period.

Twentieth Century Development Period (1920s-1980)
During the inter-war years of the 1920s to the 1940s, the ranching industry reached its most active period at Chino Hills. In 1921, local dairy rancher Frank Pellissier purchased most of the Chino Land and Water Company holdings for his dairy herds, including the area of the future Rolling M Ranch. The first aerial photographs of the region in the late 1930s indicate numerous cleared areas that had obviously received regular grazing activity along almost all the watershed canyons of the park, including near the Santa Ana River and Carbon Canyon.

The 1940s would also see the increased development of the Rolling M Ranch complex. Aerial photographs show several structures and cleared areas on the site by 1940. In

1948, the Mollin Investment Company acquired 1,720 acres, subsequently giving the area the name of the Rolling M Ranch. The company enlarged and improved the corral system and rehabilitated and enlarged the main house. Mollin owned the property until the establishment of the State Park in the 1980s.

Cultural Resources Within The Park

Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources within Chino Hills State Park include those from both the prehistoric and historic periods. Some areas of the park have not been surveyed for archaeological resources, so, the full extent of archaeological resources occurring in the park is not known. Descriptions and locations of recorded sites are found in the park Resource Inventory, as well as in other Department files.

Prehistorical Archaeology

The Native American sites located in Chino Hills State Park indicate that the Indians of the Santa Ana River Basin used the area for hunting and gathering. To date, two Native American camp sites and many isolated artifacts have been identified and recorded in the park. The range of site types recorded within the park includes one site with occupational debris and appreciable depth, one with sparse occupational remains, an outcrop with one cupule petroglyph, numerous isolated metates and manos, and two isolated projectile points. Archaeological surveys of limited scope within the Sonome Canyon Area have yielded no archaeological sites to date.

The most recent dates for sites in the Prado Basin and Chino Hills are not well defined, but fall around 1,000 years before present (BP). Mission baptismal records indicate the former presence of aboriginal villages near Chino Hills State Park, however, archeological data on these villages is lacking. One site within Chino Hills State Park yielded dates between 1,070 and 2,380 years BP.

Historical Resources

The park's historic period resources include various structures, features, and cultural landscapes. Most are associated with ranching, the dominant historical land use. Other historic resources are associated with mineral and oil extraction, transportation and other public utilities, and varied agricultural and horticultural uses.

Only some of these resources are inventoried and identified. Most of these were evaluated as individual features. Those sites identified as locally or regionally significant include the Rolling M Ranch complex (seven structures) and four windmills, circa 1900-1930. Twenty other historic-period sites have been recorded. Most of these lack individual significance, but when evaluated collectively as features of the larger landscape, their historical significance is apparent. Such features include corrals, stock ponds, water troughs, water tanks, cross fencing, structure and equipment remains, and small, miscellaneous structures.

Cultural Landscapes

The most significant historic resource at Chino Hills State Park is the historic ranch landscape, a vernacular landscape that reflects the lives and activities of those occupying the land in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. This remnant, rural landscape provides a rich contrast to the dense urban development fast enveloping the park. The historic character is defined by patterned relationships of cultural features to the land—its inherent topography, soils, vegetation, and water sources—and also to climate patterns. Landscape components (old trails, ranch roads, fields, orchards); water system features (windmills, stock ponds, water troughs, tanks, pipes); and individual elements, such as the barn, sheds, stock fences, chute, scale, and other ranching equipment, remind us of this historic "working landscape".

Cattle chute at Rolling M Ranch

The park contains several sites associated with the history of the local oil industry and small-scale mining efforts. Research available at this time does not indicate that any of these sites is individually significant. However, they do represent locally recognized historic land uses within Chino Hills State Park.

Of six livestock ponds that were constructed in the park during the ranching era, four are still present. Three of these, McDermott Spring, and Windmill and Panorama ponds, have stable earthen dams, are not interfering with fish migration routes, and are deep enough to provide positive wildlife habitat values. These ponds represent a significant example of the historic ranching landscape.

Approximately 40 acres of lemon trees in the Lemon Grove Area represent the only extant remnant of the historically significant citrus industry that once surrounded the park. This area is located off Carbon Canyon Road at the far-western end of the park. It offers trailhead parking and access to Telegraph Canyon.

Collections

The most notable collection currently housed at the park is a collection of historic ranching artifacts once used at the Rolling M Ranch and surrounding ranchlands. These artifacts represent a prime resource for interpreting the events of the historic ranching era.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Aesthetic value is attributed by park visitors to experiences, features, and qualities in harmony with natural, unmanipulated conditions and is perceived through the senses; by seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting. In addition to the tangible natural and cultural features such as plants, animals, waters, geologic features, buildings, and archaeological sites, Chino Hills State Park also offers many intangible qualities. These include natural quiet, solitude, space, scenery, a sense of history, sounds of nature, and clear night skies that are important components of people's enjoyment of the park.

The appearance of the landscape in Chino Hills State Park is relatively unaltered by the works of humans, especially when compared to the surrounding urban landscape. Long distance views of natural terrain and vegetation are available from selected locations. The acquisition plans for this park have emphasized the value of acquiring ridgetops to protect the viewsheds within the park. As a result, the relative pristine views of the hills from Telegraph and Aliso Canyons and from selected panorama points have been mostly protected from urban encroachments. Viewpoints of particular interest are San Juan Hill, Gilman Peak, and McLean Overlook.

A wide variety of more intimate natural scenes are available throughout the park. Densely wooded canyon bottoms offer dark shade, lush vegetation, and running water. Many species of wildflowers provide scenes of great beauty during the spring. The grassy hills are brilliant green during the spring and golden brown in the summer.

Electrical transmission lines – Telegraph Canyon

Due to the proximity to urban environments, the hills are interlaced with utility easements, roads, and other human-made works that are significant negative visual features in the park. By far the most prominent negative visual features are the many high-voltage electrical transmission lines that traverse the park. Other negative visual features include partially buried natural gas pipelines and the many unsurfaced roads. Also, some modern facilities such as a large cribbed retaining wall along the entrance road and modern site amenities at the overlook area near the Rolling M Ranch are not compatible with the rural scenery and detract from the visitor's experience of the natural landscape.

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The proximity of its natural open space to urban populations and extensive trail network make Chino Hills State Park a popular and valuable recreational resource. Visitors enjoy both active and passive forms of recreation that focus primarily on trail use. People frequently visit the park from adjacent communities to walk, jog, bike, or ride horses. The park is also a popular spot for family and equestrian campers, as well as picnickers.

Trail Use

Trails are used by a majority of visitors for their recreational pursuits (see Figure 3). The trail network gives access to many of the park's special places, including wooded riparian areas, open grasslands, and scenic viewpoints. The variety of trails available at the park offers a wide range of difficulty and recreational experience. Many visitors use the trails for active-types of recreation such as jogging, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Other visitors use the trails for passive-type activities such as bird watching, photography, and nature study. Some hiking-only trails occur in the park to accommodate these activities.

Hiking trail in Water Canyon

Conflicts between trail users have occurred on multi-use trails in the park. These conflicts have resulted when trail users perceive their trail experience to be negatively affected by the behavior or activity of another. Trail users with different activity styles, modes of travel, or expectations sometimes perceive other trail uses to be incompatible with their use.

Camping and Picnicking

The shaded campground area near Aliso Creek offers a comfortable and appealing camping location. The site is suitable for families, small groups, and equestrians. The equestrian staging area is a large, flat area with scenic vistas of the park. This area is suitable for large equestrian groups as well as individuals and families with horses. Both sites are along the interior of the park, offering a quiet location and dark nighttime skies suitable for stargazing (see Figure 4).

Several family picnic sites occur along the interior of the park (see Figure 4). The most popular of these is at a shade ramada located at the Rolling M Ranch.

PLANNING INFLUENCES

The goals and guidelines established in the *Plan Section* of this document are the result of many factors. The existing conditions of the park; the natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources; and the public use of the park all shape general planning. In addition, there are other factors that influence long-range planning. The influences of system-wide planning, regional planning, and public concerns are summarized in this section.

SYSTEM-WIDE PLANNING

Some regulations, policies, and plans address issues that cross park and regional boundaries. Appendix B (Page 96) shows system-wide planning influences that may affect planning decisions at Chino Hills State Park. Any system-wide plans developed in the future that contain specific recommendations pertaining to the use, operation, or management of the State Park may also effect future planning decisions at Chino Hills State Park.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Certain plans and programs address regional issues and events. The following regional influences may affect planning decisions at Chino Hills State Park.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

The Department of Parks and Recreation has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) outlining each agency's responsibilities in the implementation of the Coastal Sage Scrub Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP).

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the NCCP is designed to provide for regional protection and conservation of sensitive species habitat at the natural community level and at the same time to allow for compatible development and urban growth. The program is attempting to do this by acquiring and protecting large parcels of adjoining quality habitat and by restoring adjacent habitat of lower quality within an interconnected core habitat system. California State Parks, as a leader in the conservation and management of the natural habitats, is playing an important role in the formulation of regional preserves for the NCCP.

Southern California, with its fast urban growth rate and urgent need to preserve rapidly declining natural habitats, is the first area of the state to implement the NCCP. The focus is on coastal sage scrub habitat, crucial to the survival of the Federal Threatened California gnatcatcher and an important habitat for species of concern such as the coastal cactus wren and the orange-throated whiptail.

Chino Hills State Park has a considerable amount of high quality coastal sage scrub habitat within its boundaries. Its lands have been enrolled as a reserve in the NCCP program, and its contribution to a regional NCCP Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is imminent. The park's inclusion in the NCCP program necessitates that management of the park should be consistent with NCCP long-term plans and management goals.

BIOCORRIDORS

Biocorridors, or habitat linkages, are imperative to the biological survival of Chino Hills State Park and the Puente-Chino and Whittier Hills. These biocorridors cross several jurisdictional and private property boundaries. To effectively manage them for the facilitation of wildlife movement requires cooperation and a regional perspective.

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) is a local joint powers authority (JPA) represented by city and state agencies, as well as members of the public. California State Parks is currently represented as a Governing Board member of the JPA. The mission of WCCA is to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Puente Hills in the west and the Chino Hills in the east, which connects to the Cleveland National Forest to the south. WCCA encourages the Department to pay special attention to the areas that are ecologically sensitive such as the north-south connection between the park and the Cleveland National Forest, and the east-west connection between the park and the Prado Basin. It is the responsibility of Chino Hills State Park to manage identified wildlife movement corridors within the park's boundaries in a manner consistent with the conservation and perpetuation of the species that use them and to facilitate their movement.

The results of resource studies undertaken by WCCA are available to Department managers for use at Chino Hills State Park.

SANTA ANA RIVER

A small area of Chino Hills State Park is in the Santa Ana Canyon and Santa Ana River Flood Plain. This area between the Green River Golf Course and State Route 71 is subject to the *Lower Santa Ana River Canyon Resource, Floodplain, and Habitat Management Plan*. The Department was a part of the Study Group that developed the plan. Flowage easement rights are also required in this portion of the park for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, per an agreement between the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) and the Department.

TRAILS

Many regional riding and hiking trails and bikeways exist in the vicinity of Chino Hills State Park. Because the park borders four counties and three cities, there are numerous opportunities to link regional trails with those at the park. The cities of

Anaheim, Brea, Chino Hills, and Yorba Linda, as well as the County of Orange, for example, currently show trail linkages to the State Park in their general plans. The following agencies have regional trail plans: City of Chino Hills, City of Anaheim, Orange County Transportation Agency, County of Orange, and City of Yorba Linda.

PARK ACCESS

The cities adjacent to the park, Yorba Linda, Brea, and Chino Hills, have expressed concerns about providing adequate park access and trailhead parking. This is a result of problems associated with visitors parking on residential streets to access the trail network.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

The City of Brea is concerned about park activities that may affect adjoining wildlands in the jurisdiction of the City of Brea. In addition, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), because of their operation of a water filtration plant adjacent to the park, as well as water feeder lines and easements within the park, is concerned about any wildfire management planning occurring at the park. Parties to the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) also are concerned about wildfire management planning at the park.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and Shell Western E&P Inc., adjacent property owners to the park with planned future activities that will have impacts on habitat, have developed a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the Department and other agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the County of Orange, the Cities of Yorba Linda and Brea, and Hills for Everyone) in accordance with Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act**.** The HCP is a plan to protect and restore coastal sage scrub habitat and the species that utilize it. The HCP was required as mitigation for the development by Metropolitan and Shell Western E&P Inc. of coastal sage scrub habitat used by the Federally listed California gnatcatcher. The HCP covers a 2,600-acre Study/Management Area in the western portion of Chino Hills State Park and results in the preservation of more than 1,200 acres, including the Sonome Canyon Area.

The HCP is a major component of the Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP) because it provides crucial habitat protection and enhancement for some of the last remaining coastal sage scrub habitat in the region. The HCP includes resource management objectives for the area that are consistent with Department goals and also provides for a resource ecologist to implement and monitor results of the program for a period of fifteen years.

UTILITY EASEMENTS AND ROADS

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) operates the Robert B. Diemer Water Filtration Plant at its 200-acre facility adjacent to the southern boundary of the park in Orange County. MWD's Yorba Linda Feeder tunnel and pipeline system traverses the park in a north-south direction to connect with the Diemer plant. In addition, MWD's Lower Feeder pipeline traverses the park in San Bernardino County in an east-west direction.

MWD's *Guidelines for Development in the Area of Facilities, Fee Properties, and/or Easements of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California* was developed to assist other agencies, including the Department of Parks and Recreation, in preparing plans that are compatible with MWD's facilities and easements.

In addition, MWD Operations personnel use several dirt roads, including those along the Lower Feeder and Yorba Linda Feeder rights-of-way and to miscellaneous substructure facilities associated with pipelines. Any of the Department's maintenance activities, land uses, or planning efforts that affect MWD's access is a concern of MWD.

MWD has an Emergency Response Plan. This plan addresses public safety issues associated with nearby storage areas of hazardous chemicals. These chemicals are currently used in the water treatment process and stored in bulk at the Diemer plant. Any public uses planned for park areas adjacent to the plant are a concern of MWD.

Heavy trucks must routinely travel through the park to access the solids drying ponds near Telegraph Creek. Any activities or planning that affect this access is a concern of MWD.

Southern California Edison

Southern California Edison (SCE) Operations personnel use several dirt roads in the park to access gas pipelines and electric transmission lines. Any of the Department's maintenance activities, land uses, or planning efforts that affect safe access to SCE facilities is a concern of SCE.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the authority for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that incorporates Chino Hills State Park and communities in the region. The 1998 RTP is known as *CommunityLink 21*, which covers the period from 1998 to 2020. This plan addresses mobility, economic, social, and environmental goals and objectives for transportation planning for the region.

The Orange County Transportation Agency and the Southern California Association of Governments are lead agencies of the Four Corners Policy Committee. This committee is made up of representatives from county, city, and local government agencies, as well as regional transportation agencies and private organizations in the affected area. The area that surrounds Chino Hills State Park is named for the four corners of the Counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside, which come together at this location and includes State Routes 57, 90, 142, 71, 91, 60, 83, and Interstate 15. Knowledge of proposals made in the RTP and by the Four Corners Policy Committee, as well as other potential regional transportation authorities, is crucial to understanding potential impacts to resources and operation of the park.

POPULATION TRENDS

The proximity of Chino Hills State Park to the intensely developed metropolitan areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties potentially offers an open-space retreat to 15 million people. By the year 2020, the California Department of Finance projects that the resident population of these counties will grow by 32 percent and exceed 22 million people. This means that approximately 45 percent of the state's population will live within 40 miles (a short driving distance) of the park. The estimated resident population of the three bordering communities of Brea, Yorba Linda, and Chino Hills is expected to exceed 225,000 people by the year 2025. These local populations will create the highest demand for park use.

The regional population is unparalleled in its cultural and ethnic diversity and includes a growing number of single-parent households. It is important to note that in the next twenty years there will be a population explosion of senior-aged citizens. To accommodate these citizens, Chino Hills State Park will need to provide for a wider range of recreational interests and abilities than it does now.

Visitor attendance at Chino Hills State Park steadily increased between the opening of the park in 1984 and 1995. There were an estimated 9,845 visitors to the park in 1990. This amount increased to an estimated 193,891 visitors in 1995. Attendance from 1995 through 1997 decreased slightly to an average 171,835 visitors per year.

PUBLIC CONCERN

Public input was solicited at several steps in the general plan process. Several meetings were held to familiarize the public with the planning process and park issues. The first public meeting, held in the City of Brea, was informative and provided an opportunity to describe the significant resources and unique features that make Chino Hills State Park a special place. The meeting was opened to public comments, and all comments were noted. In addition, a questionnaire was distributed to those attending to gauge what issues and concerns were considered most important. Responses from the questionnaires indicated that the primary interest in

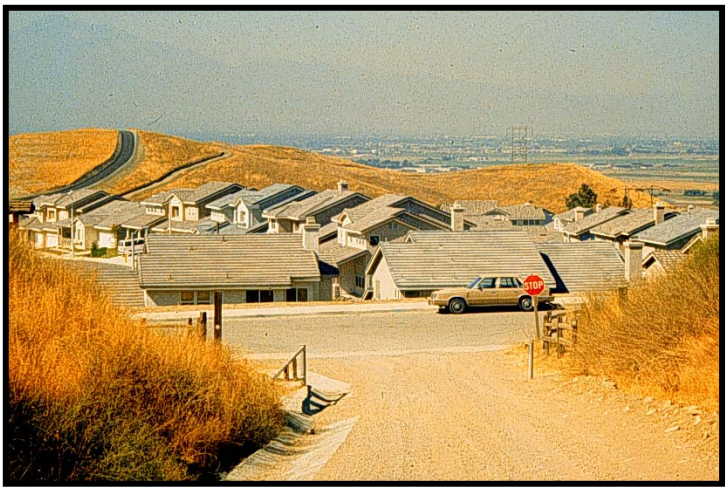
Chino Hills State Park was for natural resource preservation, interpretation, and recreational activities. The majority of respondents thought that the park should be left natural and undeveloped. Trails and public access were important concerns as well.

The second public meeting, held in the City of Chino Hills, was a workshop where participants noted specific concerns and commented on proposed general plan guidelines. A similar workshop was held in the City of Yorba Linda to expand opportunities for public involvement to surrounding communities. After each workshop proposed guidelines were reevaluated and, where appropriate, rewritten to incorporate these comments and suggestions. The overriding concerns were public use of the proposed Core Habitat Zone, the need for improved public access points into the park, and the desire to restrict future developments and concessions within park boundaries.

A final public meeting, describing plan alternatives and the preferred plan, was held in the City of Corona. At the end of the meeting, the public was invited to ask questions. These were again noted and reviewed after the meeting.

Throughout the course of public involvement in the general plan process for Chino Hills State Park, it was clear that the primary issues of concern for park users are those related to park access, trail use, and maintaining the wildness of the park by restricting further developments and concessions.

In addition to the meetings held for the general public, the Chino Hills State Park General Plan team held a meeting with public agency representatives. Concerns were voiced about public access points and parking, continued access to utility company structures and maintenance of utility roads, and the need for more interpretive programs, including campfire programs, designed to increase public awareness of the park's resources.



Residential subdivision adjacent to park entrance at Bane Canyon

ISSUES

The *Issues Section* highlights the important issues derived from the *Park Summary* (beginning on Page 9) and from the *Planning Influences* (beginning on Page 37). The goals and guidelines of the *Plan Section* address these issues.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

BIOCORRIDORS AND CORE HABITAT AREAS

Urbanization within and surrounding the Puente-Chino Hills has resulted in the near biological separation of Chino Hills State Park from adjacent open-space areas. The remaining biological connections to these adjacent areas are tenuous. They are bisected by roads and reduced in size by the conversion of surrounding open space urban uses. In some cases, portions of remaining, viable habitat linkages are privately owned and unprotected. Development of these private parcels will jeopardize the diversity and integrity of the park's biological resources by eliminating or reducing wildlife movement through these corridors. The identification and management of areas containing representative, sensitive, or otherwise important habitats within the park and the biocorridors that link these habitats to those outside of the park, are essential to the maintenance of the park and regional ecosystems.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Increased awareness of the diversity and fragility of sensitive plant and animal species, as well as their supporting habitats has created greater need to protect and interpret these resources. Further guidance to direct resource management and conservation efforts at the park is needed to ensure the perpetuation of these values for future generations.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Information acquired since the original general plan places new emphasis on the park's historic resources, particularly the historic ranching landscape and features associated with the Rolling M Ranch. Greater protection and interpretation of these historic resources is needed in order to preserve California's heritage and for the education and enjoyment of park visitors.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Aesthetic qualities of the park can be adversely impacted by man-made intrusions such as developments, activities, or land uses that are incompatible with the park's natural character. Increasing development and more intensive land uses surrounding the park place increased emphasis on protecting scenic features and preserving the visitor's experience of the park's aesthetic qualities.

INTERPRETATION

Current knowledge of natural and cultural resources at Chino Hills State Park places new emphasis on habitat connections, native plant and animal diversity and fragility, Native American involvement in the area, and historic ranching. Interpretive topics need to reflect this current knowledge and emphasis.

VISITOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT

VISITOR-USE FACILITIES

The original (1986) general plan proposed the development of a large number of campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailhead parking areas in the park, specifically within Lower Aliso Canyon and the Santa Ana River floodplain. Continuing resource inventory work within the park has increased the Department's understanding of the sensitivity of the resources located at these proposed campground sites. Also, the current demand for camping at the park places question on the need for many large, developed campgrounds. The placement of facilities at these sites is no longer considered appropriate, yet additional facilities to enhance the visitor's park experience may still be needed. Guidance for the development of both visitor-use and operations facilities is needed to accommodate new recreational opportunities and at the same time protect park resources.

PARK ACCESS

Public vehicle access into the park is limited to the Bane Canyon entrance. This entrance is accessed through a residential area. The location makes it difficult to access the park and causes off-site parking conflicts. Furthermore, the access into the park from this point is on a one-lane, steep, dirt road. This road cannot be upgraded to an acceptable condition because of the steepness of the grade and adjacent slopes.

The emergency vehicle access at Rim Crest Road (see Figure 2) is being used as a pedestrian access point and certain problems have developed because of it. There are no developed parking, restroom, or trash facilities at this location, and visitors are parking on residential streets. This situation points to the need for coordination with local jurisdictions in addressing access. Also, information on sensitive park resources indicates that some of the park's access points proposed in the original general plan may be inappropriate.

ACQUISITIONS

Acquisition plans for the park have, among other things, emphasized the value of acquiring ridgelines to protect the viewsheds within the park. However, additional guidelines are needed to help Department staff evaluate the desirability of proposed land acquisitions at Chino Hills State Park.

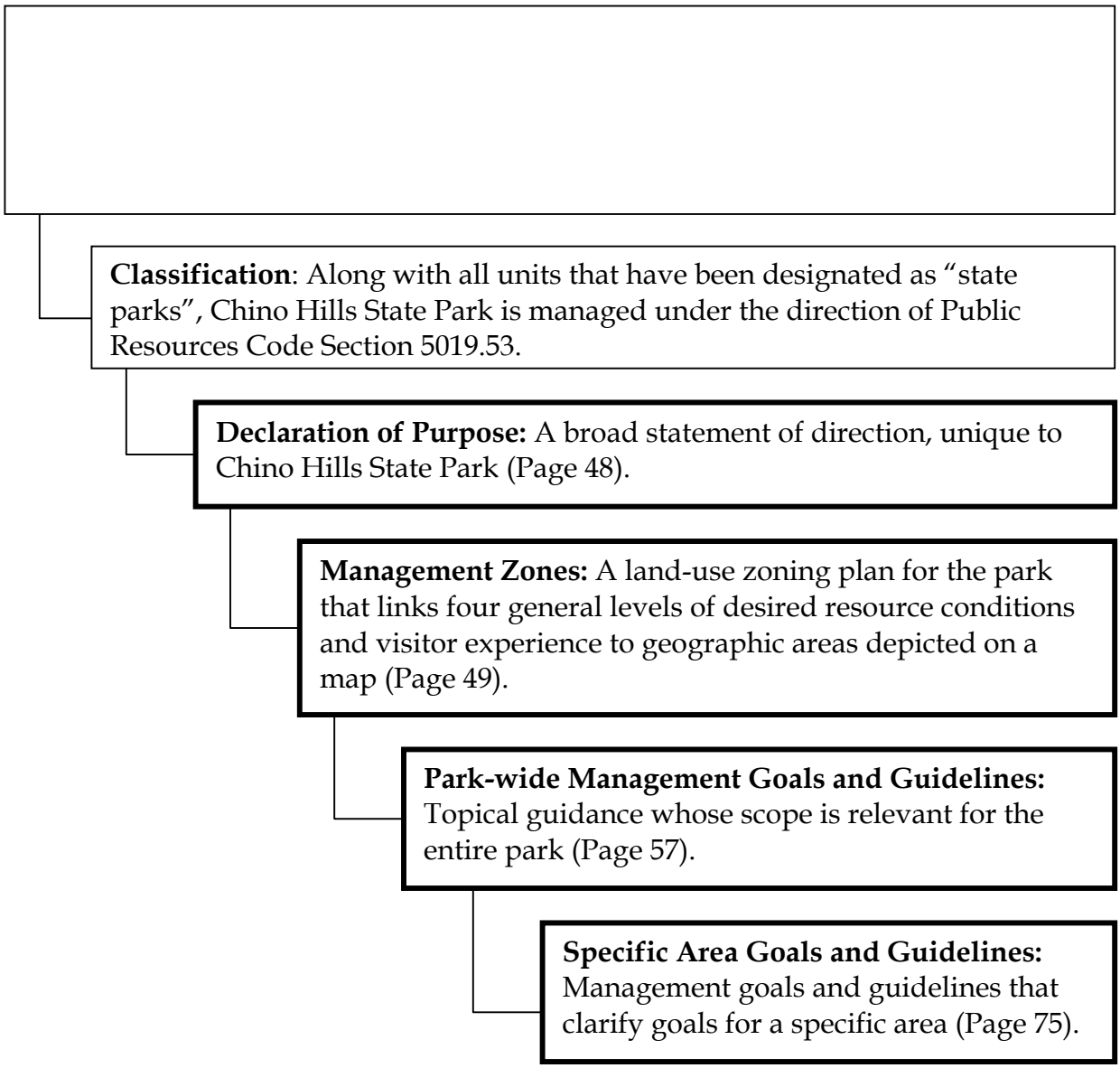
PLAN SECTION

Riparian vegetation – Lower Aliso Canyon

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN SECTION

The long-range vision for Chino Hills State Park is depicted in the *Plan Section*. The purpose here is to portray both the desired resource condition and visitor experience of the park and to provide goals and guidelines that will direct future management efforts toward achieving those desires. The *Plan Section* does not designate detailed facility improvements with specific sizes and capacities. Over the next 5, 15, or 30 years there will be different technologies, different recreational needs, and new opportunities that can not be foreseen with the writing of this document. In short, there will be many ways to achieve the desired conditions within the parameters provided by the *Plan Section's* goals and guidelines.

The following planning hierarchy provides direction for the future of Chino Hills State Park. Items in bold boxes were created as part of this general plan effort.



DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Declaration of Purpose defines the purpose of the park and is the broadest statement of management goals. A declaration of purpose is required by the Public Resources Code, Section 5002.2 (b), "setting forth specific long-range management objectives for the park consistent with the park's classification..." The Declaration of Purpose for Chino Hills State Park will be as follows:

Purpose

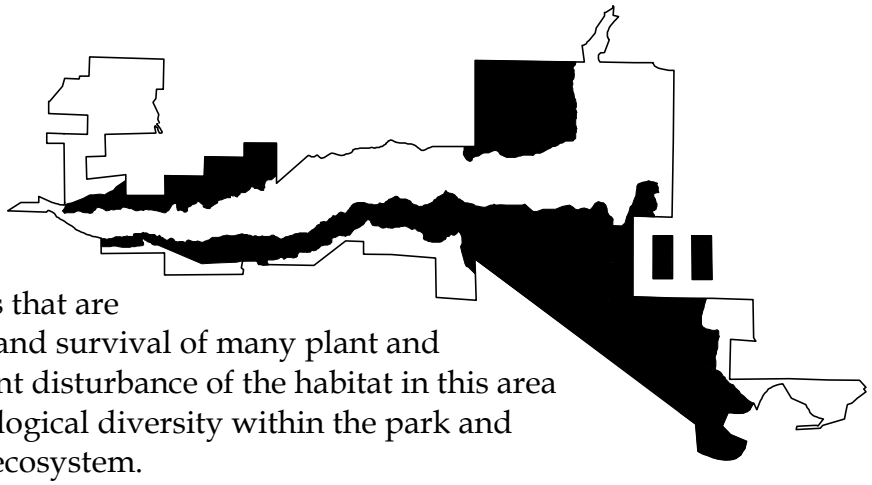
The purpose of Chino Hills State Park is to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the rolling hills, wooded canyons, and riparian forests that are representative of the early California landscape, and make them available for public enjoyment and education.

California State Parks will endeavor to preserve and restore native habitats in the park for their intrinsic natural values, to promote biological diversity, and to support the integrity of regional ecosystems. California State Parks will endeavor to protect the cultural and scenic resources, promote an understanding of the park's unique features, and provide recreation opportunities in a manner consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones spatially define the management scheme for the unit (see Management Zones Map – Figure 6). The management zones for Chino Hills State Park are based primarily on the degree of natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource value and sensitivity. Secondarily, they are based on recreational, visitor service, and management needs, and ecological and geographical parameters. Four management zones for Chino Hills State Park are presented below, along with goals and guidelines for visitor activities, resource management, and facility development within the management zones. The management zones are the Core Habitat Zone, Natural Open Space Zone, Historic Zone, and Recreation and Operations Zone. The Management Zone Matrix on Page 55 further defines the vision for these four management zones.

CORE HABITAT ZONE



The Core Habitat Zone is the area of highest biological resource sensitivity in the park. The area includes very sensitive wildlife habitats that are crucial to the movement and survival of many plant and animal species. Significant disturbance of the habitat in this area could seriously affect biological diversity within the park and throughout the regional ecosystem.

WATER CANYON NATURAL PRESERVE

Statutes for classification of units of the State Park System are contained in Article 1.7 of the Public Resources Code. Based on these statutes and an evaluation of the park's resources it is proposed that a portion of the Core Habitat Zone be sub-classified as the **Water Canyon Natural Preserve**, as described in Public Resources Code Section 5019.71. The natural preserve will incorporate the entire Water Canyon watershed as well as the entire upper Brush Canyon watershed. The boundary of the natural preserve is generally delineated by the watershed boundaries of Water and Brush Canyons up to the southern park boundary and existing park trails in Lower Aliso Canyon (see Figure 6).

The Water Canyon Natural Preserve contains the northern extension of the Coal Canyon biocorridor, thereby preserving habitat crucial to the movement of sensitive wildlife and providing an important connection to the park's interior. The natural preserve also contains large stands of coastal sage scrub habitat which is necessary for the success of the California gnatcatcher, as well as fine examples of California Walnut Woodland and Coast Live Oak Woodland.

The creation of the Water Canyon Natural Preserve within Chino Hills State Park will provide the highest level of protection for the sensitive resources found in the preserve and will protect wildlife movement within the park and throughout the region. This sub-classification is necessary to ensure that development, inappropriate land use, or improper management decisions do not adversely affect the resources contained within the natural preserve boundary.

The sub-classification of the area to a natural preserve will require some adaptation from current land uses and management for this area. Currently, this area is governed by the state park classification as stated in Public Resources Code, Section 5019.53. The change to a natural preserve status will amend the primary goal for the area from balancing resource protection with recreational opportunities, to resource protection taking precedence over recreational opportunities. The Public Resources Code, Section 5019.71 governs the intent, management, and use of natural preserves:

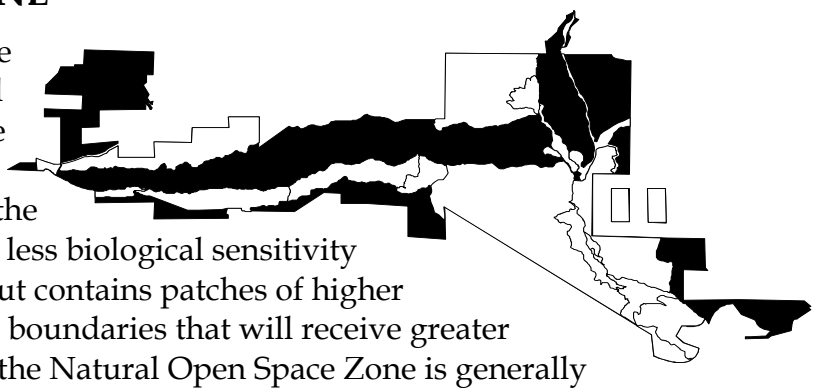
> PRC Section 5019.71: *Natural Preserves consist of distinct areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other state park system units. The purpose of natural preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of civilization, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns. Areas set aside as natural preserves shall be of sufficient size to allow, where possible, the natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference, and to provide, in all cases, a practicable management unit. Habitat manipulation shall be permitted only in those areas found by scientific analysis to require manipulation to preserve the species or associations which constitute the basis for the establishment of the natural preserve.*

The Water Canyon Natural Preserve will be managed according to PRC, Section 5019.71, the *Management Zones Section* of this general plan, and applicable Departmental policies as outlined in *System-wide Planning* of this general plan. Furthermore, the natural preserve will be managed according to the *Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Parks and Recreation,* Section 1812.2, which states that:

> *Boundaries of wildernesses and natural preserves will be established to give full protection to environmental and ecological integrity, from the standpoints of watershed influences, scenic and visual unity, cultural values, and other appropriate environmental factors.*

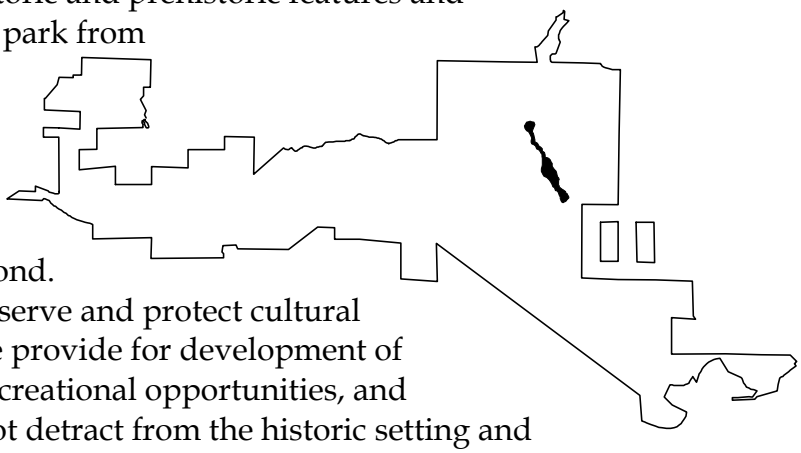
Developments in natural preserves are limited to trails and interpretive facilities required to make possible the visual and sensory enjoyment of the resources by visitors. Vehicle access and parking are not appropriate; visitor centers, restrooms, structures, and facilities other than signs shall be placed outside natural preserves.

NATURAL OPEN SPACE ZONE



The Natural Open Space Zone protects natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources, and at the same time allows for recreational opportunities at the park. The zone generally has less biological sensitivity than the Core Habitat Zone but contains patches of higher resource sensitivity within its boundaries that will receive greater protection. The boundary of the Natural Open Space Zone is generally delineated by roads and trails, the park boundary, and other management zone boundaries.

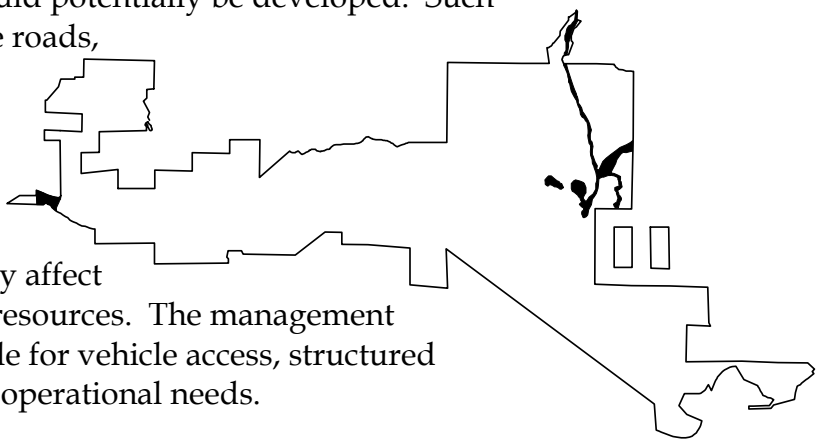
HISTORIC ZONE



The Historic Zone protects historic and prehistoric features and cultural landscapes within the park from impacts that may compromise their integrity. The zone incorporates the Rolling M Ranch complex, the windmill area west of the campground, and Windmill Pond. The intent of the zone is to preserve and protect cultural resources and at the same time provide for development of appropriate visitor services, recreational opportunities, and operational facilities that do not detract from the historic setting and experience. The Historic Zone allows visitors to experience a landscape from a past era. Management efforts and land use decisions will be based on the preservation of this value. The Historic Zone boundary includes significant historic landscape features, important views from the Rolling M Ranch, and other cultural resources.

RECREATION AND OPERATIONS ZONE

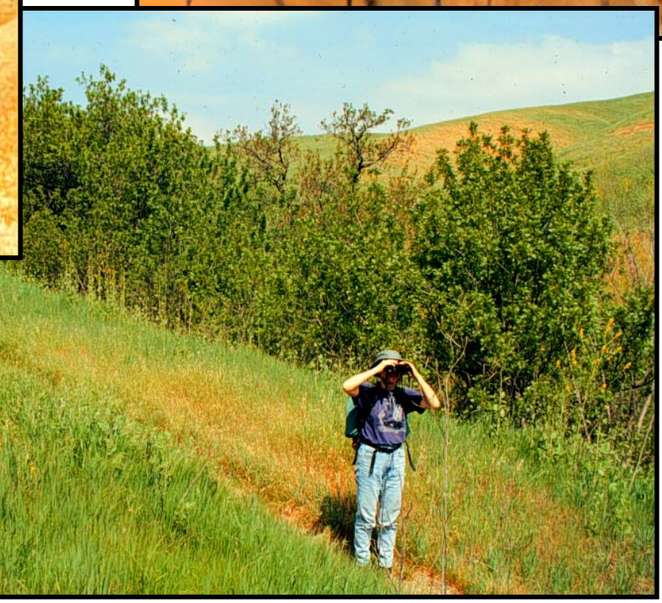
The Recreation and Operations Zone is designated where visitor services and operations facilities exist or could potentially be developed. Such facilities include public vehicle roads, maintenance structures, a visitor center, campgrounds, a campfire area, and employee housing. This zone is already developed or future development will not adversely affect significant natural or cultural resources. The management intent for this zone is to provide for vehicle access, structured recreation, visitor service, and operational needs.



The boundary of the Recreation and Operations Zone is generally delineated by existing roads, and campground and staging areas. The zone incorporates the current entrance road up to the Historic Zone, a proposed entrance road through Slaughter Canyon, the road leading to and including the McLean Overlook, the area currently used for equestrian staging, an area west of the Rolling M Ranch, and the Lemon Grove Area. In the event of a developed park entrance road through Slaughter Canyon, the Bane Canyon entrance road will be included in the Natural Open Space Zone.

Cattails – lower Aliso Creek

California gnatcatcher (photo by D. Rossack)



Birdwatching – upper Telegraph Canyon

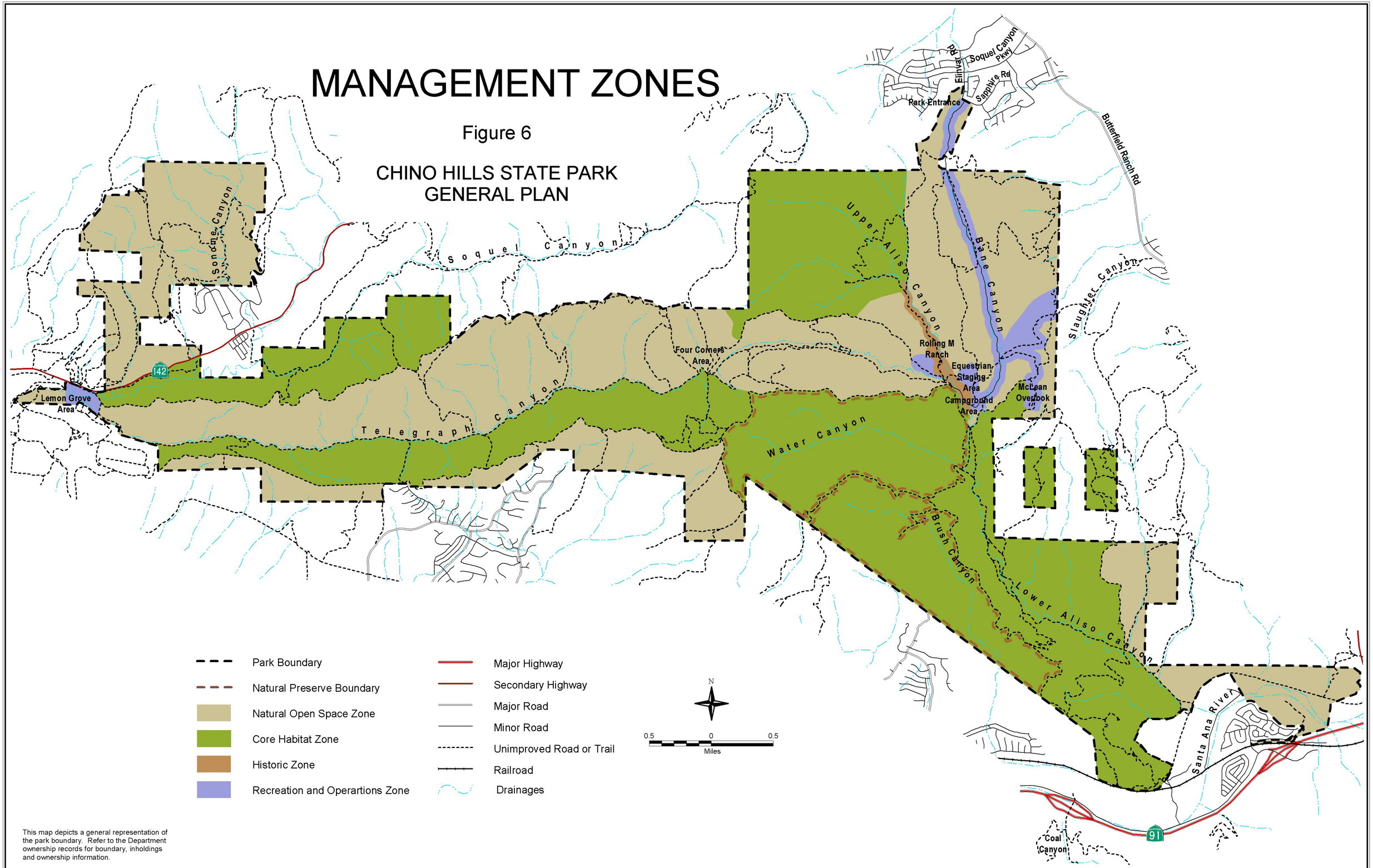
Coastal sage scrub vegetation – Telegraph

Fence lizard

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Figure 6

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN



This map depicts a general representation of the park boundary. Refer to the Department ownership records for boundary, inholdings and ownership information.

Figure 7

Management Zone Matrix

Figure 7

	Core Habitat Zone	*Natural Open Space Zone*	*Historic Zone*	*Recreation and Operations Zone*
PRIMARY GOAL	The primary goal of the Core Habitat Zone is to preserve and protect sensitive plant and animal species and their supporting habitats, as well as to protect the movement of plants and animals within the park and throughout the region. Resource protection will be the foremost consideration for all land use and management decisions.	The primary goal for the Natural Open Space Zone is to preserve and protect the resources and at the same time to provide for quality recreational opportunities.	The primary goal of the Historic Zone is to protect the cultural resources and at the same time to provide for quality recreational and educational experiences.	The primary goal of the Recreation and Operations Zone is to provide for vehicle access, structured recreation, visitor service, and operational needs.
RESOURCE MANAGE-MENT	Visitor and management activities within the zone will have no significant adverse impact on resources. Patrol and utility company vehicles and motorized equipment use is permitted on designated park roads and trails.	Visitor use and management activities will not have more than minimal impacts on resources. Patrol and utility company vehicles and motorized equipment use is permitted on designated park roads and trails.	Visitor use and management activities will not have more than minimal impacts to natural and aesthetic resources, and will include only those that do not detract from the historical setting and experiences. Vehicles and motorized equipment will be allowed on designated park roads and trails and will be managed to minimize impacts. Protection of cultural sites will include preservation of the surrounding cultural and natural landscapes by the elimination and exclusion of modern intrusions that adversely affect the cultural landscapes.	Visitor use and management activities will be mitigated to reduce significant impacts to resources. Activities may include the movement of vehicles, and intense visitor use. Vehicles and motorized equipment will be allowed on designated park roads and trails.
CARRYING CAPACITY	Visitors will experience a sense of remoteness and calm. The sights and sounds of nature will be more prevalent than those of human use. The chance of encountering other people will be low, and there will be extensive opportunities to experience natural quiet and solitude. Encounters with others should be less than 2/hour during peak use periods. Human uses will not disrupt or compromise sensitive resources.	The social environment will be leisurely and uncrowded with occasional sights and sounds of people. During some seasons, days, and times of day, there will be a good chance of encountering other people or groups of people. Opportunities for natural quiet and solitude will be variable depending upon the park location and season, day, and time of day. Encounters with others should be less than 6/hour during peak-use periods.	The social environment will be active and communal. At times, the sights and sounds of human use and activities will be more prevalent than those of nature. There will be frequent encounters with vehicles, other people, and groups of people. The chance of interacting with others will be high.	The social environment is active and communal. At times, the sights and sounds of human use and activities are more prevalent than those of nature. There are frequent encounters with vehicles, other people, and groups of people. The chance of interacting with others will be high.
TYPICAL VISITOR ACTIVITIES	Acceptable uses of the Core Habitat Zone include approved scientific research that increases our knowledge of the resources and improves management strategies. Conducted and self-guided interpretive programs are acceptable in the Core Habitat Zone. Visitor activities will be confined to daylight hours only.	Conducted and self-guided interpretive programs are acceptable in the Natural Open Space Zone. Visitor activities will be confined to daylight hours only.	Acceptable activities include interpretational and educational programs, exhibits, and historic structure museums. Opportunities for other interpretive programs and appropriate visitor services also exist. Overnight use is limited to educational and environmental living programs.	Acceptable activities include vehicle circulation, interpretation, camping, picnicking, and other forms of recreation suitable in the park. Overnight uses will be permitted only in specific areas designated for such use.
PUBLIC ACCESS	Public access through the zone includes hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Bikers and horseback riders are restricted to designated trails only.	Public access through the zone includes hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Bikers and horseback riders are restricted to designated trails only.	Public access through the zone includes hiking, biking, horseback riding, and driving (highway legal vehicles). Bikers and horseback riders are restricted to roads and designated trails only.	Public access through the zone includes hiking, biking, and horseback riding on designated trails and driving (highway legal vehicles). Bikers and horseback riders are restricted to roads and designated trails only.
RANGE OF APPROPRIATE FACILITIES	Multiple-use trails, trailhead features, and trailside rest stops are appropriate.	Multiple-use trails, trailhead features, trailside rest stops, and day-use parking along boundary (see *Park Access Points,* Page 70) are appropriate.	Only those facilities that support the visitor's use, understanding, and appreciation of the historical landscape and that are visually compatible with the historical scenery are appropriate.	Any visitor service and support facilities that are consistent with Parkwide and Specific Area Goals and Guidelines are appropriate. These could include but are not limited to: - Overnight Accommodations (camping, lodging) - Concession Facilities - Restrooms - Park Operations Buildings - Roads and Trails

PARKWIDE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section presents the broad goals and guidelines developed for managing park-wide resources, interpretation, visitor uses, and development. It addresses related planning issues that are not tied to a specific geographic area of the park.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

NATURAL RESOURCES

Biocorridors

Protecting biocorridors and facilitating the movement of animals and dispersal of plant seed within Chino Hills State Park, and between the park and other wildland areas, is imperative to maintain ecosystem health and support regional conservation.

Mountain Lion
(Photo by Mountain Lion Foundation)

Goal: Maintain and enhance the movement of native animals through the park and regional ecosystem. Visitors will gain an understanding of the importance of biocorridors and management efforts at the park aimed at supporting wildlife movement in the region.

Guidelines:

- Biocorridors within Chino Hills State Park that interconnect the park and its core habitat areas to other protected lands are of the highest priority for protection.

- The collection of baseline information and the monitoring of the health and function of core areas and biocorridors are high management priorities for the park. An emphasis should be placed on measuring the effects of human uses on the integrity of the system.

- Biocorridors will be recognized when there is enough information to indicate the necessity or importance of these connections to the movement of wildlife between Chino Hills State Park and other wildland areas. The adequacy and effectiveness of these habitat linkages will be monitored by tracking and documenting the presence, distribution, movement, and habitat associations of the representative species using them.

- The Department will actively work with local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, and regulatory agencies in the planning of future transportation projects. The Department will discourage the fragmentation and isolation of habitat by such projects and ensure that adequate mitigation measures are incorporated into all road improvement and construction projects. The Department will advocate measures that consider known information on wildlife use of biocorridors, principles of conservation biology, and other professionally accepted design criteria. An emphasis should be placed on the maintenance of habitat linkages and construction of under-crossings and bridges that allow full wildlife movement between the affected areas.

- The Department will support and work towards the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the lands that make up the Coal Canyon, Sonome and Tonner Canyons, and Prado Basin biocorridors. Efforts will be directed towards enhancing wildlife habitat linkages so as to accommodate as many different native species as possible. Enhancement tools may include:
  - restoring or expanding native habitat to facilitate wildlife movement.
  - installing fencing to direct wildlife into underpasses or culverts and away from roads and freeways;
  - limiting vehicular use of underpasses to daytime use by land management agencies and emergency vehicles only;
  - widening of underpasses;
  - removing lighting in underpasses to make crossing more conducive to wildlife;
  - removing all or some of the pavement in underpasses;
  - reducing noise impacts by erecting structures to block freeway noise

Buffers

Land uses outside park boundaries can cause significant impacts on parklands. Possible impacts include exotic plant infestations, chemical pollution, predation and competition from domestic pets, wildfire, artificial light and noise, and loss of foraging or nesting habitat. Buffers, such as dedicated open space and agricultural lands, are low-intensive-use areas between the park's boundary and adjacent developments that help to separate conflicting land uses and protect natural habitats from destructive impacts.

Goal: Establish, maintain, and protect buffers adjacent to Chino Hills State Park.

Guidelines:

- The Department will work with adjacent landowners, neighbors, and local jurisdictions to provide for necessary buffers adjacent to park boundaries.

- The Department will assist local jurisdictions in the development of plant palettes for proposed projects in the vicinity of the park.

Vegetation Management

Past management practices, including livestock grazing and fire suppression, changed the ecological conditions under which native plant communities flourished at Chino Hills State Park. Current conditions favor the existence and continued domination of non-native annual grasses and forbs over much of the park, effectively eliminating native perennial bunch grasses. Changes such as these alter the ecological dynamics of the system and reduce wildlife values.

Goal: Restore and protect the native vegetation within Chino Hills State Park through active resource management programs. Planning and conservation efforts will address unique or important plant and wildlife resources at the community level and provide for their continued health and protection.

Guidelines:

- Vegetation management will be directed toward reestablishing the natural ecological processes that are essential for the development of native plant communities, expansion of these native communities, and the removal or reduction of exotic plant taxa. These objectives will be met through various studies, updates to the park's Unit Data File, and the preparation of comprehensive management plans.

- Management actions will minimize and, where possible, prohibit activities that further the spread of non-native plants.

Native Plant Communities

Chino Hills State Park supports a number of important native plant communities such as the California Walnut Series, California Buckwheat Series, Coast Prickly Pear Series, Arroyo Willow Series, Fremont Cottonwood Series, California Sycamore Series, and the Purple Needlegrass Series. These plant communities are essential habitat for both rare and locally important wildlife species and communities.

Guidelines:

- The Department will actively work to restore native plant communities and the natural processes that ensure their perpetuation.
- All seedlings and saplings used in habitat restoration projects will originate from seed collected from native plant taxa within park boundaries or from a

nearby area, with the exception of plants used for historic restoration within the Historic Zone. Only non-native plant taxa that are considered to be non-invasive are allowed within the Historic Zone.

Sensitive Plant Populations
The park offers open space that is vitally important to the continuation of several sensitive plant taxa occurring within or adjacent to Chino Hills State Park.

Guideline:

- All current, professionally recognized lists will be used to determine sensitivity. Current lists include state taxa of special concern; the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Lists 1A, 1B, 3, and 4; taxa of local concern (including endemic species); and taxa that are State or Federally listed or are candidates for listing. The Department will protect all sensitive plant taxa to the degree necessary to maintain or increase populations.

Wildlife Management

The protection and perpetuation of native wildlife populations will be accomplished, in part, through restoration and enhancement of native plant communities, removal of exotic plant taxa, and perpetuation of aquatic habitats.

Goal: Protect, perpetuate, and restore native wildlife populations and native aquatic species at Chino Hills State Park.

Guidelines:

- All sensitive wildlife species and their habitats will be protected. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species), whether or not they appear on any endangerment list, as well as those protected by Federal and/or State law. Management and protection of sensitive species is dependent upon adequate maps and other data regarding species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park.

- Avoid ecological imbalances resulting from human-caused activities. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, use methods based on sound principles of ecosystem management and consistent with Department Resource Management Directives. Avoid disturbance to other natural values of the park.

- The Department will work with surrounding property owners and jurisdictions to reduce numbers of non-native animals such as feral cats, starlings, and cowbirds that enter the park. This can be most effectively accomplished by developing a program to monitor and control non-native pests.

- Regular monitoring of medium and large mammals is necessary to gauge the effectiveness of biocorridors and to identify declines or increases in wildlife populations.

- Re-introduction of extirpated species will be appropriate only if historical documentation exists to confirm the presence of the species of interest within the Chino Hills at some time in the past and if suitable habitat exists to support its survival. Re-introduction of a species will be conducted using sound ecological methods and will not negatively affect populations of other native species. Animals to be re-introduced will come from a nearby area.

- Specific management programs using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods are necessary to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats.

Wildfire Management

Wildfire is a threat to structures and human safety in the dry hills of southern California. The prescribed use of fire can simulate a more natural fire regime for the Chino Hills and reduce the risk of catastrophic fires. In addition, controlled fires provide the added benefit of enhancing conditions for the expansion of native plant communities. However, extremely dry and windy conditions along with a high incidence of human-caused ignition dictates that wildfires will continue to occur in these hills. It is, therefore, prudent to plan for such an emergency.

Planning for wildland fires can considerably reduce damage to natural and cultural resources, particularly that caused by the activities of fire suppression. For example, adverse impacts can be caused by the hasty bulldozer construction of fire-control lines. These lines have the potential to remove roots and upper organic soil horizons, thereby increasing erosion and slowing the re-establishment of vegetation. Damage to resources can also occur from improper applications of chemical fire retardant that affect aquatic systems.

Goal: Plan for the occurrence of wildfires in order to preserve sensitive park resources and protect human lives and structures.

Guideline:

- The Department will work with appropriate agencies such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, county and city fire Departments, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to develop and implement a wildfire management plan for Chino Hills State Park. This plan will address all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression. The plan will identify modified fire suppression methods and ways to protect sensitive park resources.

Prescribed Fires

Since the early 1900s, fire suppression practices have effectively reduced the occurrence of wildfires in southern California. Over time, fire plays an important role in the development of native plant communities. The near-elimination of wildfires has stressed the ecological balance, thereby allowing non-native plant pest species to establish and, in some cases, dominate the landscape. Fire suppression also results in the increased build-up of dry fuels, which can then lead to large-scale, catastrophic fires.

Goal: Restore the role of fire in the natural ecological processes of Chino Hills State Park.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The presence of a Miocene-age marine geologic formation within Chino Hills State Park, which is known to yield abundant fossils in adjacent land, suggests that important fossil resources may exist within park boundaries.

Goal: Document and protect paleontological resources that are found within the park.

Guideline:

- As fossil remains are discovered during the course of a survey or if new resources are uncovered, professional measures will be taken to protect the resources found at the site.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological Sites (Prehistoric and Historic)

Chino Hills State Park includes significant archaeological resources. Prehistoric sites located in Chino Hills State Park indicate that the area was used for hunting and gathering by Indians of the Santa Ana River Basin. Several historic archaeological sites are also found within the park and reflect examples of historic land use of the area.

Goal: Protect the archaeological resources at Chino Hills State Park.

Guidelines:
Management guidelines for protecting archaeological resources can be found in the *Visitor Use and Development Section* (see Page 68).

Historic Resources (Structures, Sites, and Landscapes)

Chino Hills State Park includes a number of locally significant historic resources, including buildings and structures, features, and cultural landscapes. Windmills, water troughs, tanks, and water piping are scattered throughout the park. These features are visible reminders of the ranching landscape and reflect historic land uses over the past two hundred years. The semi-rural landscape, a remnant of nineteenth and early twentieth century southern California, is rapidly being eliminated by urbanization. The non-renewable historic resources of Chino Hills State Park, in juxtaposition with its significant natural resources, offers a revealing view of past cultural patterns to future generations.

Goal: Protect the significant historic sites at Chino Hills State Park.

Guidelines:

- All historic resources identified within the Historic Zone (i.e. structures, sites, and landscapes) will be preserved and protected through implementation of applicable Department policies and the application of professional standards.

- Recognized historic resources or sites outside of the Historic Zone should be removed based on the determination that they create physical or visual impacts to natural resources. Of those chosen for removal, the ones with historic integrity and interpretive value should be considered for relocation to the Historic Zone or another interpretive facility.

Windmill near Rolling M Ranch

Historic Ranching Landscape

The most historically significant land use associated with the lands of Chino Hills State Park is that of cattle ranching. From the early days of the Spanish missionaries and their Native American neophyte workforce, through Mexican Californio vaqueros and American ranchers and settlers, the grazing of stock represents one of the most profound human impacts upon the land.

Goal: Preserve and interpret the historic ranching landscape within the Historic Zone for the education and enjoyment of park visitors.

Guidelines:

- Preservation treatments will be based on primary research to identify historic fabric of features.

- Ranch buildings and structures can be utilized for appropriate operational and interpretive functions.

Oil Industry and Mining Sites
The park contains several sites associated with the history of the local oil industry and small-scale mining efforts.

Goal: Allow oil and mining sites to remain in place.

Guideline:
- Oil and mining sites will be passively managed with onsite interpretation, restoration, or reconstruction discouraged.

Historic Roads and Trails
Portions of several historic roads and trails, some dating to the nineteenth century, are located within the boundaries of the park. Many are currently in use as transportation and circulation routes for park visitors, utility companies, and staff.

Goal: Preserve historic roads and trails and at the same time provide for visitor, Department, and utility company use.

Historic Electrical Towers and Utility Lines
The first electrical towers to be erected on the parkland were completed in the late 1930s. A few of these historic towers still exist within the park. Additionally, many more modern towers and utility lines also exist within the park. Efforts are being made to remove the modern towers because they adversely affect both the natural and cultural landscapes of the park. Historic towers are not considered to be individually eligible historic resources, however, they may be compatible with the historic ranching landscape of the park.

Goal: Preserve the historic electrical towers within the Historic Zone that are considered to be contributing elements of the historic landscape.

Guideline:
- Placing electrical lines underground is preferred. However, historic towers may be considered for use within the Historic Zone when evaluating options for powering park facilities.

AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Visitors to Chino Hills State Park enjoy many aesthetic qualities inherent to the park's natural conditions. Some of these include open space, sounds of nature, and scenic views. Impacts to aesthetic qualities are, at times, created by developments, activities, or land uses, within or outside the park, that are incompatible with these qualities.

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

Guidelines:

- Unnecessary structures such as interior fences and signs will be removed. The Department will work with utility companies to remove electric lines that are no longer used and are not considered historic resources.

- The Department will work to reduce the negative impacts of utility easements in the park. All utility companies will be encouraged to reduce the impacts by consolidating easements into fewer or smaller corridors, or by placing the equipment underground. The Department will work with utility companies to remove unnecessary utility roads and reduce road widths, and will discourage any new easements within the park unless mitigated to benefit park resources.

- Ridgeline and knoll developments outside the park that adversely affect significant views will be discouraged. The Department will work with park neighbors and local government to review and plan adjacent developments in a manner that protects views.

- Tranquility and the sounds associated with the park's natural resources will be preserved. Unnatural sounds that adversely affect park resources, values, or visitors' enjoyment will be prevented or minimized.

- The Department will cooperate with park neighbors and local government agencies to minimize the intrusion of artificial light into the night scene, recognizing that darkness and the night sky play significant roles in the overall visitor experience. Artificial outdoor lighting within the park will be limited to basic safety requirements and shielded when and where possible.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is based on the premise that knowledge deepens the park experience and provides lasting benefits not only to individuals but also to society in general. Interpretive themes define the point of view given to the park's natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources.

Goal: Expand the visitor's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the park's resources. The unifying theme explores how Chino Hills State Park is part of southern California's natural and cultural heritage.

The following primary and secondary themes will support the unifying theme:

Primary Theme: Chino Hills State Park is a remnant of California's past natural and cultural landscapes.

Secondary Theme: Native plants and animals find refuge in the fragile natural environment of Chino Hills State Park.

Secondary Theme: The connection of Chino Hills State Park to other wildland areas is crucial to the survival of plants and animals throughout the region.

Secondary Theme: Chino Hills State Park is a landscape reflective of its prehistoric and historic inhabitants and their cultures.

Secondary Theme: Fossil remains and petroleum deposits in Chino Hills State Park tell the secret of how natural forces shaped the land.

Secondary Theme: Showing respect for the environment and other visitors while recreating at Chino Hills State Park will ensure safety for the park and people.

COLLECTIONS

The Department acquires and maintains collections for several reasons. First, to preserve elements of the natural and cultural environment original to the park; second, to document the people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose; and third, to support the interpretation of themes that are important to the park.

Goal: Provide for the collection of natural and cultural artifacts original to Chino Hills State Park which support the Declaration of Purpose and Department mission.

The following Scope of Collections Statement for Chino Hills State Park states the management objectives and provides guidance for the type of park collections.

Scope of Collections Statement

> Natural and cultural material and object collections at Chino Hills State Park will have a specific connection to the natural and cultural history of the park, or provide support for interpretive themes and programs. Archaeological and paleontological materials, natural history specimens of park flora and fauna, and objects like historic furnishings, equipment, or personal items associated with the park are all potential collection items at Chino Hills State Park. Historic object collections will include those of the ranching period up to the year 1950.

- Acquisitions of ranching era artifacts and props will have a local historical association to the Rolling M Ranch, or other ranching activities within or near Chino Hills State Park.

- Natural history specimens of rare species will not be collected. Only lawfully salvaged specimens will be maintained in collections.

- The Department will establish safe and secure spaces for storage and display of park collections, and systems for inventory and management. Policies as outlined in the Department Operations Manual (DOM) Chapter 20 will be followed.

Hills For Everyone Nature Trail interpretive sign

VISITOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT

RECREATIONAL USES

Chino Hills State Park is a place where visitors can appreciate undeveloped scenic open spaces; enjoy diverse, abundant wildlife and vegetation; and recreate on a regionally significant trail system.

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

Guideline:

- Recreational uses will satisfy both user needs and resource protection requirements, and for the most part be compatible with other visitor experiences. Recreational uses will generally occur where manageable with existing park staff or volunteers and where there is adequate, safe access to the recreation activity areas.

Mountain biker in Telegraph Canyon

DEVELOPMENT

Chino Hills State Park offers public facilities for visitor use and education, as well as maintenance and operational facilities for park management.

Goal: Provide essential visitor services and operations facilities to enhance the visitor's experience and at the same time maintain the park's natural, cultural, and aesthetic values.

The following guidelines for development pertain to all built and maintained facilities for public and park use, including such facilities as roads, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, utilities, and buildings.

Natural Resources

- Resource protection and management will take priority in decisions regarding development and use. Development will not adversely affect park resources, including natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Development will be located a sufficient distance away from sensitive habitat areas, such as riparian zones,

wildlife corridors, or where sensitive species are known to occur. Design of public-use facilities will protect resources by preventing inadvertent damage by users. The location and type of facilities and visitor uses will be consistent with the protection of biological exchange (biocorridors) and the maintenance of core habitat areas.

- Programs, projects, and developments within the park will be designed so that sensitive animal populations, aquatic systems, and native plant communities are protected. When disturbance is unavoidable, efforts will be made to minimize and mitigate disturbance.

Cultural Resources

- Cultural resource surveys will be completed at proposed development sites prior to any facility development. Additional archaeological investigations, such as archival research, detailed site mapping, and subsurface testing will occur at any project or undertaking that would disturb a known or potential cultural site. Project design modifications and/or monitoring can further serve to minimize or prevent disturbance of significant archaeological resources.

Aesthetics

- The design and placement of facilities will be aesthetically pleasing and blend with the natural environment. Development will not compete with nor dominate park features. Visitor services will be provided, however, the number of buildings will be minimized and their visual impacts reduced.

- Structures will be placed away from prominent locations, such as ridgelines, and screened and blended into the natural terrain with native vegetation, strategic siting, appropriate grading, and natural-appearing materials. The general appearance and design details of new structures will be compatible with a ranch style.

- Manufactured slopes will be graded and planted so as to blend into natural, adjoining slopes. Utilities will be placed underground where feasible, and erosion control will be used for all projects that involve grading.

Roads and Trails

- The Department will study the feasibility of realigning existing roads to avoid sensitive habitat when and where possible, with an emphasis on riparian areas. The benefits of reducing the current adverse effects on sensitive habitat by realigning roads will be balanced against the possible adverse effects of new road construction on alternative alignments.

- Road maintenance standards will be developed and implemented in cooperation with utility companies. These standards will be designed to maintain natural drainage patterns, reduce erosion and stream siltation, and minimize road widths and impacts to aquatic habitats.

- When road or trail conditions are such that further use is either unsafe or would result in significant impacts to natural or cultural resources, the affected routes will be closed until appropriate repairs are made or conditions change.

- The Department will seek the input and cooperation of local jurisdictions, park neighbors, and significant user groups to develop and implement a trails management plan. This plan will address pedestrian access points, trailhead parking facilities, the trail system and connections to regional trails, trail maintenance, and appropriate recreational uses of trails.

PARK ACCESS POINTS

Access points that are properly placed enable visitors to reach all primary-use areas of the park and access facilities such as trails, campgrounds, and visitor centers with minimal impacts on park resources.

Vehicle Access

A vehicle access point currently exists at the Bane Canyon entrance. Using this road, park visitors can reach the Rolling M Ranch, a focal point of the park that provides structured recreation and houses park operations. A better and more reliable vehicle access point in Slaughter Canyon may be considered in the future. A second access point identified at Carbon Canyon could be improved for trailhead parking.

Goal: Provide safe, reliable vehicle access points for park visitors to enter the park and travel to the primary park destinations.

Guidelines:

- The main park access road will clearly orient and safely guide the visitor from the park entry to the primary park destinations. The road design will reduce vehicle speed and minimize impacts on park resources. The road alignment should allow, if possible, a scenic and panoramic view of the park, complement the land's natural contours, and minimize any visual impacts. Park access roads will fall within the Recreation and Operations Zone (see Figure 6).

- If additional accessibility is needed, trailhead parking will be developed adjacent to the park boundary within the zone designated as Natural Open Space as long as such development is consistent with the protection of park resources.

Pedestrian Access

Trailhead parking should be developed in appropriate locations to provide access to park facilities. On the other hand, when development occurs adjacent to the park, coordination and advance planning should avoid the creation of de facto trailheads that cause damage to park resources.

Goal: Create appropriate pedestrian access points to meet the needs of both the park and the local jurisdictions that are contiguous to the park boundary.

Guidelines:

- The Department will seek the input and cooperation of local jurisdictions to develop appropriate pedestrian access points and trailhead parking facilities, and in developing solutions to localized parking concerns.

The following criteria will be used to determine appropriate pedestrian access point locations. Designated access points should generally:

- Provide access to trails that offer scenic and panoramic views of the park
- Accommodate multiple trail uses (hikers, bikers, equestrians)
- Avoid adverse impacts to sensitive resources and important resource values (gnatcatchers, coastal sage scrub, raptor nests, archaeological sites, etc.)
- Be manageable with available park staff and reasonably accessible to park patrol and emergency vehicles
- Require minimum grading
- Have minimal affect on significant viewsheds and aesthetic resources
- Be in close proximity to trail loops and connectors
- Include parking that is limited in size to ensure that visitor use is within the park's carrying capacities (see Management Zone Matrix, Figure 7)
- Be spaced so that resources and visitor experiences are not adversely affected by overuse of an area
- Provide a connection to local or regional trail systems outside the park boundary to the extent feasible and appropriate. Efforts will be made to integrate the park's trail system with regional and local trail systems where feasible. These pedestrian access point criteria, where applicable, will be used in determining linkages to other trail systems.

ACQUISITIONS

Past land acquisitions have emphasized the inclusion of ridgelines, watersheds, and buffer areas. This practice helped to maintain views and protect resources as the park was formed and as new parcels were added.

Goal: Protect and enhance park resources and improve visitor's enjoyment and education in the park through appropriate land acquisitions.

When evaluating the desirability of proposed land acquisitions at the park, the Department will consider the following guidelines:

- The Department will evaluate each proposal of land dedication and accept only those dedications that are in keeping with the purposes of Chino Hills State Park. Land acquisitions will support the park's resource management goals by enhancing watershed protection and adding significant or unique resources, habitats, or features to the park. They will create buffer areas (areas between developments and park resources) and include ridgelines whenever possible, increase the size and improve the effectiveness of biocorridors, and establish park facilities outside of sensitive resource areas. Land acquisitions may also add to the park's recreational opportunities and establish links to regional trail systems.

- The Department must exercise caution when considering land adjacent to developed areas. Difficulties arise from illegal-refuse dumping, illegal off-highway vehicle activity, the spread of exotic plant species onto parkland, and wildlife predation and harassment by domestic animals.

- The Department will actively work towards acquisition of properties that contribute to biocorridors ensuring that key linkages will be preserved.

- In order to accomplish mutual goals such as resource protection, biocorridor enhancement, and providing recreational opportunities, partnerships with local and regional jurisdictions as well as state and federal agencies will be encouraged.

CONCESSIONS

Concession operations in Chino Hills State Park are governed in part by Public Resources Code, Section 5080.02, by State Park and Recreation Commission policies, and the Department Operations Manual (DOM).

Goal: Concession operations will provide visitor services that enhance recreational and educational experiences at the park and at the same time will protect natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources.

Guideline:

- Concession operations will be consistent with the park's purpose and classification, and in conformance with the park's general plan. No concessions will be permitted in the Core Habitat Zone. Concessions will be compatible

with the historic settings and the visitors' experiences of the Historic Zone. Concessions will not typically compete against similar private concessions that are within a reasonable distance to the park. Examples of possible concessions may include, but are not limited to, an equestrian center, bicycle rentals, and camp store.

Corrals in campground area

SPECIFIC-AREA GOALS AND GUIDELINES

This section defines the management goals and guidelines that are more specific to individual areas in Chino Hills State Park and will clarify the application of broader park-wide goals and guidelines.

LEMON GROVE AREA

The Lemon Grove Area is a part of the Recreation and Operations Zone, and is located in Carbon Canyon on the far-western end of the park (see Figure 6). This trailhead area can be reached from Carbon Canyon Road by entering through Carbon Canyon Regional Park (County of Orange) and provides the only access from the western side of the park. Visitors can reach the park's interior by traveling through Telegraph Canyon. The area contains significant riparian habitat as well as approximately 40 acres of trees that represent the only extant remnant of the historically significant citrus industry that once surrounded the park.

Goal: Management efforts will support the use of the Lemon Grove Area for park access, habitat restoration, and interpretation of the historic citrus industry that once surrounded the park.

LIVESTOCK PONDS

Of the six livestock ponds that were constructed in the park during the ranching era, four are still present. Three of these ponds offer year-round water for wildlife and suitable conditions for the establishment of aquatic plants including emergent wetland vegetation. The increase in wildlife habitat and diversity that the McDermott Spring, Windmill, and Panorama ponds provide justifies maintaining them. In addition to its wildlife value, Windmill Pond is located within the Historic Zone and is a contributing element to the historic ranching landscape.

Goal: Preserve the Windmill Pond for both its natural and cultural value. Preserve McDermott Spring and Panorama Ponds for their natural habitat values. Visitors will learn about historic uses of the ponds as well as present-day management activities associated with the preservation of sensitive plants and animals.

Guideline:

- Appropriate efforts will be made to maintain the earthen dams and to conserve and enhance native vegetation around the ponds. Other ponds in the park will be evaluated for their contribution to habitat enhancement and historic significance. If it is determined that they will be removed, the streambed will be restored to natural contours and native vegetation will be re-established.

SANTA ANA RIVER

The Santa Ana River passes through the park in the southeast corner. It drains a large watershed area of southern California and passes through the cities of San Bernardino, Riverside, Corona, and other communities before entering Chino Hills State Park. Treated sewage effluent as well as non-point source pollution is discharged into the river by many of these communities, resulting in river pollution. Poor water quality seriously threatens aquatic resources, including the native fishes and the wildlife species that feed upon them.

As of 1998, the invasive, non-native plant giant cane (*Arundo donax*) in the Santa Ana River portion of the park was manageable. However, efforts will be necessary to limit and eradicate this invasive species from park property.

Goal: Protect and enhance natural resources in the Santa Ana River and adjacent habitat.

Guidelines:

- The Department will work with state and regional water quality control entities and other appropriate agencies to seek solutions to the water quality problems in the section of Santa Ana River that passes through Chino Hills State Park.

- The Department will work with local jurisdictions regarding land use and resource management decisions that may affect the Santa Ana River. (See *Planning Influences*, Page 37)

- The Department will work to eradicate invasive species such as the giant cane (*Arundo donax*) from its property along the Santa Ana River.

ISSUE RESOLUTION

There are a number of issues and planning efforts that require attention beyond the scope of this general plan. Funding and staffing limitations restrict what issues and studies the Department is able to immediately address and require that the Department set priorities. Many goals and guidelines of the *Plan Section* (Page 47) provide direction for each issue. Some of these goals and guidelines recommend future planning efforts such as management plans and studies. The following lists are not intended to be a restriction to working on other issues or lower priority issues or planning efforts.

The general plan recommends that the following issues be resolved:

- **Biocorridors and Core Habitat Areas –** Protect and enhance the park's wildlife habitat linkages with nearby wildlife habitat areas through coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, and acquisition and restoration projects.

- **Park Access Points –** Resolve main park road and boundary access problems through detailed site planning, coordination with local agencies, and facility implementation. Solutions to access problems may require additional property acquisitions.

- **Appropriate Recreational Uses –** Provide quality recreational activities and public-use facilities without compromising resource integrity.

Note: Interpretation plays a significant role in the resolution of these general plan issues. The general plan recommends that educational programs, interpretive planning, design, and facility implementation be accomplished with the resolution of the above issues.

The general plan recommends that the following planning efforts and studies be undertaken. See the referenced page number for a complete description of the guideline:

- Collection of information and monitoring of the health and function of core areas and biocorridors (Page 57)

- Management plans, studies, and updates to the park's Unit Data File as necessary to meet vegetation management guidelines (Page 59)

- Collection of information regarding sensitive species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park (Page 60)

- Management programs to monitor and control non-native pests (Page 60)

- Regular monitoring of medium and large mammals necessary to gauge the effectiveness of biocorridors and to identify declines or increases in wildlife populations (Page 61)
- Management programs to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats (Page 61)
- Wildfire management plan (Page 61)
- Trail management plan (Page 70)

Looking southwest toward lower Aliso Canyon

Chino Hills State Park General Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS SECTION

Coast Horned Lizard (photo by Gordon Ruser)

INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of environmental review documentation for the proposed Chino Hills State Park General Plan, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (PRC §§21000 et. seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (CCR §§15000 et. seq.). This Environmental Analysis Section and other sections of this document, incorporated by reference, constitute the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in fulfillment of CEQA requirements (CCR §§15166, 15120[b]), and reflect the independent judgement of the Department. 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 management plans and site-specific projects are proposed they will be subject to further environmental review, and appropriate environmental documents will be prepared with specific mitigation measures, as necessary.

The proposed Chino Hills State Park General Plan intends to reduce the potential for significant environmental impacts allowed in the original general plan (approved in 1986). It also includes modifications to the declaration of purpose for the park, changes in land-use designations and management goals to reflect the new statement of purpose, and the incorporation of new guidelines for the protection of resources, future acquisitions, and the development of recreational, interpretive, and operational facilities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See the *Introduction* (Page 1) and *Plan Section* (Page 47).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

See the *Existing Conditions and Issues* (Page 7), *Significant Resource Values* (Page 16), and *Planning Influences* (Page 37).

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Initial Study for the Chino Hills State Park General Plan EIR identified potential impacts related to soil erosion, drainage, water quality, flooding, air quality, plants, animals, noise, light and glare, transportation/circulation, fire protection, utilities, recreation, and cultural resources. A Notice of Preparation was circulated through the State Clearinghouse, to local city and county planning offices, as well as to affected utility companies and special interest groups. A total of twelve comment letters were received representing the following agencies and groups:

California Department of Transportation, Districts 8 and 12
County of Orange, Planning and Development Services

City of Anaheim
City of Brea
City of Chino Hills
City of Yorba Linda
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Hills for Everyone
Friends of Tecate Cypress
Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority

In general, the environmental issues raised for consideration in the draft plan were in regards to potential impacts to transportation/circulation (roads and trails), plants and animals (acquisition of biocorridors), public services/hazards (existing water utility right-of-ways, proximity of a landfill and fire suppression), noise, and aesthetics/viewshed.

A high number of significant resource values are recognized within Chino Hills State Park. These include sensitive plants and animals, plant communities, natural open space connectivity, solitude, scenic vistas, and cultural landscapes (See *Significant Resource Values,* Page 16). Due to the location of the park within a highly urbanized area and its tenuous connection to other open space areas in the region, the significance of these values is amplified. Therefore, any proposals that affect these values have the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. In addition, any proposals for the development and management of the park have the potential to cause impacts to the surrounding communities and associated public services, due to their proximity to the park.

UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The land-use designations and the management goals and guidelines presented in the general plan are intended to avoid or mitigate all significant environmental effects of facility development, maintenance, operations, and visitor use. If a specific project is proposed that does not conform to all of the guidelines contained in the plan, it will not be implemented. Therefore, there are no unavoidable significant environmental effects.

MITIGABLE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Impact: Even though the majority of development will occur within a limited portion of the park (Recreation and Operations Zone), development and maintenance of facilities such as roads, trails, parking lots, camp sites, picnic areas, utilities, septic systems, and buildings 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 or animal populations or their habitat.

Mitigation: Site-specific searches for sensitive species of plants and animals will be conducted in areas proposed for development or for other activities. The proposed project will be modified to avoid significant adverse impacts to any detected sensitive populations. Impacts to rare plant communities will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. Where unavoidable, the loss of a rare vegetation type will be compensated for through restoration of the same vegetation type at an appropriate location within the park at a replacement ratio of at least one to one.

Mitigation: Site-specific cultural resource surveys will be conducted in areas proposed for development or for other ground disturbing activities. The proposed project will be modified to avoid significant adverse impacts to any archaeological or historical resources, in accordance with the Department's resource management directives and professional standards for the treatment of historic properties.

Mitigation: Facilities will be designed and constructed to minimize the footprint of impact and will generally be located in relatively flat areas to minimize the potential for soil disruption. Any bare disturbed surfaces resulting from construction, which is not part of a trail or parking area, will be revegetated with appropriate native plant species for the site. See *Vegetation Management Guidelines*, Page 59.

Mitigation: Design, construction, and maintenance of facilities will follow the best management practices for the elimination or reduction of adverse effects to air quality, water quality, and drainage patterns. No activities or developments that significantly affect the park's aquatic systems will be allowed.

Impact: The soils of the Chino Hills are such that they become very slippery when wet and are prone to landslides and other forms of erosion. Use of roads and trails within the park may, under certain conditions, be unsafe for the public or increase the potential for soil movement and erosion.

Mitigation: When trail or road conditions are such that further use is either unsafe or would result in significant impacts to natural or cultural resources, the affected routes will be closed until appropriate repairs are made or conditions change.

Impact: The locations of trailhead parking sites on the boundaries of the park have the potential to create impacts to adjacent residential areas, in terms of an increase in traffic, noise, and litter. They also have the potential to concentrate public use in sensitive resource areas.

Mitigation: The Department will coordinate trail access points with appropriate local planning agencies and avoid significant environmental impacts by following a set of criteria contained in the general plan (See *Park Access Points*, Page 70). Appropriate mitigation is also discussed in the plan and made a part of specific site plans, where necessary.

NONSIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The following potential impacts have been determined to be less than significant:

Impact: Construction of facilities and their recreational use may increase noise, dust, and traffic levels either temporarily or periodically.

Discussion: Most of the development activities and higher intensity recreational uses are located within the Recreation and Operations Zone, which is primarily located within the interior portion of the park, or adjacent to State Route 142 and Carbon Canyon Regional Park. As such, the potential for significant noise, dust, and traffic impacts to residential or commercial areas is limited to temporary construction impacts of the main park entrance (east end of Slaughter Canyon) and boundary trailhead parking. Development within these areas is not anticipated to be substantial and will utilize standard construction noise and dust reduction measures.

Impact: Potential development may produce associated increases in light or glare.

Discussion: The general plan states that materials for facilities will be chosen to preserve the rural qualities of the park and lighting of use areas will be limited to the minimum necessary to provide for public safety and shielded where feasible. Therefore there should be no significant impacts from light or glare.

Impact: Use of camping facilities within wildland areas has the potential to place the public at risk due to wildfires caused by inadvertent ignition from within, as well as from outside the park.

Discussion: No campfires or nighttime activity will be allowed outside designated areas within the Recreation and Operations Zone or Historic Zones. Following Department standards, these designated areas will be designed to reduce the chance of accidental escape of fire to surrounding vegetation. A wildfire management plan will be developed, as appropriate, to ensure protection of human lives and property, and will emphasize control of fires along predetermined suppression lines, which divide the park into control compartments, and will include evacuation procedures.

Impact: The use of prescribed fire as a vegetation management tool has the potential for significant impacts to regional air quality and may, in the event of an escape, place the public in danger.

> **Discussion**: 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 significant 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 is invoked, which provides for public evacuation and appropriate suppression activities.

Impact: The proposed Chino Hills State Park General Plan calls for an overall reduction in the number of vehicles trips to and from the park relative to the original general plan. Even so, an increase and change to the current traffic pattern as a result of potential future development allowed in the proposed general plan is anticipated (See Appendix C - *Comparison of Public Use Under Plan Alternatives*, Page 97).

> **Discussion**: The majority of the maximum vehicle trips estimated to be generated would result from recreational development in the main use area located in Upper Aliso Canyon (See Appendix D - *A Public-Use Scenario*, Page 98). This area is currently accessed through the Bane Canyon park entrance located on Sapphire Road (15,000 Average Daily Traffic [ADT] capacity) and accessed via Soquel Canyon Parkway (56,300 ADT capacity) and Elinvar Road (15,000 ADT capacity) in the City of Chino Hills. The general plan calls for relocating this park entrance to Slaughter Canyon off Butterfield Ranch Road (56,300 ADT capacity) also within the City of Chino Hills, when and if associated acquisitions or rights-of-way can be obtained. Recent (November 1997, January 1998) traffic estimates indicate that current use of these roads is well below their capacity (5-9% of rated capacity). The projected increase in traffic potentially generated as a result of the proposed Chino Hills State Park General Plan (estimated 945 maximum trips per day) is not anticipated to add significantly to the volume of traffic on these routes. Furthermore, if at the time park developments are proposed, it is determined that the development would produce an increase in vehicle trips in excess of the capacity of the access roads, the proposed facilities will be downscaled to avoid significant impacts.

Impact: According to the Metropolitan Water District, the Robert B. Diemer Water Filtration Plant, located adjacent to the southwest boundary of the park, uses and stores various hazardous chemicals. Accidental release of these chemicals may affect park users in the immediate vicinity. In addition, abandoned oil wells in the park may present a potential hazard.

Discussion: Park facilities adjacent to or within the drainage from the Robert B. Diemer Plant are limited to existing roads and trails. No new facilities are planned for that area. Any abandoned oil wells in the vicinity of planned development will be re-abandoned in accordance with PRC 3208.1 to assure public safety. There are no significant public health risks anticipated as a result of the general plan.

Impact: Development of visitor use and operational facilities within a rural park has the potential to adversely affect aesthetics and viewsheds.

Discussion: The proposed general plan calls for facilities to be located off of ridgelines and to be sited, designed, and constructed to blend into the natural (or historic, where appropriate) terrain and setting, thereby avoiding significant impacts to aesthetics.

BENEFICIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Many of the proposed management practices will protect or enhance park resources, such as plants, wildlife, viewsheds, and cultural resources, above and beyond that required for mitigation of impacts resulting from development and use of the park. The following sets of management guidelines provide for beneficial environmental effects:

Biocorridors
Water Canyon Natural Preserve
Historic Zone
Resource Management and Protection
Core Habitat Zone

GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Implementation of the general plan will result in an increase in the number of day-use and overnight visitors in Chino Hills State Park. Based on *Appendix D - A Public-Use Scenario* (Page 98), an estimated peak total of 1,310 people and 395 vehicles may be present within the unit at a moment in time, if full development of the park is achieved. These levels of visitor use are not expected to contribute to an increase in need for local services. The developing cities adjacent to the unit provide services adequate to meet the needs of the local residents and visitors to the local parks, including Chino Hills State Park. The projected peak number of vehicle trips per day has been estimated to be 945, but at no time will parking facilities be developed that cause an increase in vehicle trips in excess of the capacity of the affected roads. Therefore, there will be no significant growth-inducing impacts.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

None of the proposals contained in the plan will contribute significantly to the cumulative impacts of past, ongoing, or future projects, which include primarily residential, highway, and public service developments within the region. In fact, this plan recognizes and attempts to provide for the increasing rarity of natural open space

and rural landscapes within the region, by setting guidelines for the preservation of natural and cultural resources within the park and of biological corridors that link the park to similar wildland areas. These guidelines reduce some types of recreation proposed in the original general plan (such as camping and picnicking). However, several regional parks in the vicinity of Chino Hills State Park, including Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Carbon Canyon, Featherly Regional Park on the Santa Ana River, Prado Regional Park, and Yorba Regional Park provide for structured daytime recreation (picnic facilities). Camping facilities in the Chino and Puente Hills area are not now, nor are they anticipated to be, in high demand.

PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Based on the accumulation of information from biological studies, local planners, park managers, and the general public (at four public meetings), three plan alternatives were considered during formulation of the proposed general plan.

Alternative 1: the Existing General Plan Alternative (representing the "no project" alternative required by CEQA) which allows for more intensive recreational use and development of the park unit relative to the other two alternatives;

Alternative 2: the Core Habitat Zone Without Trail Corridors Alternative, which provides for an increase in protection of natural resource values at the expense of some recreational opportunities; and

Alternative 3: the Core Habitat Zone With Trail Corridors Alternative or the "preferred" alternative, which (like Alternative 2) provides for an increase in natural resource protection, but allows for the maintenance of existing recreational opportunities (see Figure 7 – Management Zone Matrix, Page 55).

ALTERNATIVE 1: EXISTING GENERAL PLAN - "NO PROJECT"

Under this alternative, the park unit would continue to be managed in accordance with the existing general plan (approved in 1986). The land-use section of the original general plan provides equivalents to three of the four management zones found in the proposed general plan, but in differing relative proportions. The "primitive zone" of the original 1986 plan, described as a precursor to natural preserve designation, encompasses portions of Upper Aliso Canyon, Water Canyon, and Brush Canyon for a total of approximately 2,825 acres. The "developed park zone" provides for public vehicle access, parking, day use, camping, administrative facilities, and operational facilities development, and includes portions of Upper (Rolling M Ranch) and Lower Aliso Canyon, Slaughter Canyon, Santa Ana River floodplain, and the mouth of Telegraph Canyon adjacent to State Route 142 (640 acres). The remainder of the park is designated as "park land zone" with land use limited to trails, picnicking, and

primitive trailside camping. Access to the main use area of the park would eventually be limited to the entrance through Slaughter Canyon.

Given the current knowledge and understanding of sensitive resources within the park, this alternative would likely cause significant impacts to riparian habitat, rare birds, rare aquatic animals, animal movement, and water quality due to the extent of park development proposed in the original general plan for Lower Aliso Canyon and the Santa Ana River floodplain. In addition, campground and picnic facilities proposed for the Santa Ana River floodplain would cause an increase in noise, light and glare, impacts to local air quality (smoke from campfires and barbecues) and traffic, immediately adjacent to private residences and a major freeway (State Route 91). Also under the original general plan the significance of historical resources within the park is not recognized nor defined, possibly leading to significant impacts to recently recognized important cultural resources, such as ranching-era features and landscapes.

ALTERNATIVE 2: CORE HABITAT ZONE WITHOUT TRAILS

This alternative, like the preferred alternative, would designate four types of management zones: Core Habitat, Historic, Natural Open Space, and Recreation and Operations. The Core Habitat Zone would encompass about half of the unit (approximately 6,000 acres) and provide increased protection for large portions of the Aliso Creek drainage, Water Canyon, Brush Canyon, and the north-facing side of Telegraph Canyon. No mechanized vehicles or bicycles would be allowed within this zone. The Historic Zone (approximately 70 acres) is a new designation that would recognize and provide guidance for the protection of ranching-era features and landscapes associated with the Rolling M Ranch. The Recreation and Operations Zone (approximately 370 acres) would no longer include the Santa Ana River floodplain or sensitive reaches of Lower Aliso Canyon as in Alternative 1, but would include a portion of Bane Canyon to allow for the existing entrance road and picnic areas.

This alternative would reduce short- and long-term impacts associated with park facility development, such as loss of vegetation, increased erosion, reduced water quality, and impacts to sensitive fish, animals, and riparian habitat. It would also eliminate impacts to adjacent residents in the Santa Ana River floodplain area, including noise, light and glare, local air quality, and traffic. The Core Habitat Zone designation would, however, reduce recreational opportunities by causing closure of some trails to bicycles, and reduce accessibility of utility and emergency response vehicles to portions of the park, thereby potentially affecting public services. Facilities proposed for Lower Aliso and the Santa Ana River floodplain in the original (1986) general plan have not yet been developed; nevertheless, elimination of these areas for consideration of such development represent a reduction in future recreational opportunities within the park. This reduction in recreational opportunities would not be expected to be significant in a regional context.

ALTERNATIVE 3: CORE HABITAT ZONE WITH TRAILS - "PREFERRED"

This preferred alternative is essentially the same as Alternative 2, with two exceptions. First, the Core Habitat Zone boundaries would include currently recognized established roads and trails that traverse this zone, thereby eliminating the impacts to recreation and public services associated with the Core Habitat Zone in Alternative 2. Second, a portion of the Core Habitat Zone (Water Canyon and Brush Canyon) would be designated as a natural preserve. Within the preserve area, resources would receive the highest level of protection. Impacts associated with the Alternative 3 are discussed under *Analysis of Environmental Effects* above.

Chino Hills State Park General Plan

APPENDICES

Purple sage

APPENDIX A

List of Sensitive Wildlife Species (January 1998) That Occur, or For Which Potential Habitat Exists Within Chino Hills State Park

TYPE	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STATUS*	PROBABILITY IN CHINO HILLS S.P.
AMPHIBIANS	*Taricha torosa torosa*	Coast Range newt	CSC	not likely
	Ensatina eschscholtzi eschscholtzi	Monterey salamander	CSC	**present**
	Batrachoseps nigriventris	black-bellied salamander	local concern	**present**
	Batrachoseps pacificus	pacific slender salamander	CSC	probable
	Aneides lugubris	arboreal salamander	local concern	**present**
	Scaphiopus hammondi	western spadefoot	CFP, CSC	**present**
	Bufo microscaphus californicus	arroyo southwestern toad	FE, CFP, CSC	not likely
	Rana aurora	red-legged frog	FT, CFP, CSC	not likely
	Rana muscosa	mountain yellow-legged frog	CFP, CSC	not likely
BIRDS	*Phalacrocorax auritus*	double-crested cormorant	CSC	not likely
	Ixobrychus exilis hesperis	western least bittern	CSC	not likely
	Plegadis chihi	white-faced ibis	CSC	not likely
	Pandion haliaetus	osprey	CSC	not likely
	Elanus leucurus	white-tailed kite	CFP	**present**
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus	bald eagle	FT, CE, CFP	not likely
	Circus cyaneus	northern harrier	CSC	**present**
	Accipiter striatus	sharp-shinned hawk	CSC	**present**
	Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	CSC	**present**
	Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	CT	**present**
	Buteo regalis	ferruginous hawk	CSC	**present**
	Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	CFP, CSC	**present**
	Falco columbarius	merlin	CSC	**present**
	Falco peregrinus anatum	peregrine falcon	FE, CE, CFP	possible
	Falco mexicanus	prairie falcon	CSC	**present**
	Charadrius montanus	mountain plover	CSC	possible
	Numenius americanus	long-billed curlew	CSC	possible
	Larus californicus	California gull	CSC	not likely
	Coccyzus americanus	western yellow-billed cuckoo	CE	possible
	Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	CSC	possible
	Strix occidentalis	spotted owl	FT, CSC	not likely
	Asio otus	long-eared owl	CSC	not likely
	Asio flammeus	short-eared owl	CSC	not likely
	Cypseloides niger	black swift	CSC	not likely
	Chaetura vauxi	Vaux's swift	CSC	**present**
	Empidonax trailii	willow flycatcher	FE, CE	**present**
	Eremophila alpestris actia	horned lark	CSC	**present**

APPENDIX A (continued)

TYPE	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STATUS*	PROBABILITY IN CHINO HILLS S.P.
	Progne subis	purple martin	CSC	possible
	Riparia riparia	bank swallow	CT	**present**
	Polioptila californica	California gnatcatcher	FT	**present**
	Lanius ludovicianus	loggerhead shrike	CSC	**present**
	Vireo bellii pusillus	least Bell's vireo	FE, CE	**present**
	Vireo vicinior	gray vireo	CSC	not likely
	Vireo huttoni	Hutton's vireo	local concern	**present**
	Campyforhynchus brunneicapillus	cactus wren	CSC	**present**
	Dendroica petechia	yellow warbler	CSC	probable
	Icteria virens	yellow-breasted chat	CSC	**Present**
	Piranga rubra	summer tanager	CSC	**present**
	Parus inornatus	oak titmouse	local concern	**present**
	Aimophila ruficeps canescens	rufous-crowned sparrow	CSC	**present**
	Ammodramus savannarum	grasshopper sparrow	local concern	**present**
	Amphispiza belli belli	sage sparrow	CSC	possible
	Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	CSC	possible
MAMMALS	*Sorex ornatus*	ornate shrew	CSC, FC/P	possible
	Scapanus latimanus parvus	broad-footed mole	CSC	**present**
	Macrotus californicus	California leaf-nosed bat	CSC	not likely
	Euderma maculatum	spotted bat	CSC	not likely
	Plecotus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	CSC	not likely
	Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	CSC	probable
	Eumops perotis californicus	western mastiff bat	CSC	**present**
	Lepus californicus benneti	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	CSC	not likely
	Perognathus longimembris brevinasus	Los Angeles pocket mouse	CSC	not likely
	Chaetodipus fallax	San Diego pocket mouse	CSC	not likely
	Chaetodipus californicus femoralis	California pocket mouse	CSC	probable
	Dipodomys stephensi	Stephen's kangaroo rat	FE, CT	not likely
	Dipodomys merriami parvus	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	CSC, FC/P	possible
	Onychomys torridus	southern grasshopper mouse	CSC	not likely
	Neotoma lepida intermedia	San Diego desert woodrat	CSC	probable
	Microtus californicus stephensi	Stephen's vole	CSC	??
	Bassariscus astutus	ringtail	CFP	possible
	Taxidea taxus	American badger	local concern	probable
	Felis concolor	mountain lion	CFP, CSC	**Present**

TYPE	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STATUS*	PROBABILITY IN CHINO HILLS S.P.
REPTILES	*Clemmys marmorata pallida*	southwestern pond turtle	CFP, CSC	**present**
	Coleonyx variegatus abbotti	San Diego banded gecko	local concern	possible
	Phyllodactylus xanti	leaf-toed gecko	CFP	not likely
	Phrynosoma coronatum	coast horned lizard	CFP, CSC	**present**
	Xantusia henshawi	granite night lizard	CFP, CSC	not likely
	Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis	Coronado skink	CSC	not likely
	Cnemidophorus hyperythrus	orange-throated whiptail	CFP, CSC	Probable
	Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus	coastal western whiptail	local concern	**present**
	Charina bottae umbricata	southern rubber boa	CT, CFP	not likely
	Lichanura trivirgata	rosy boa	local concern	possible
	Salvadora hexalepis virgultea	coast patch-nosed snake	CSC	**present**
	Coluber constrictor mormon	western yellow-bellied racer	local concern	**present**
	Lampropeltis zonata parvirubra	San Bernardino mountain kingsnake	CSC	not likely
	Lampropeltis zonata pulchra	San Diego mountain kingsnake	CFP, CSC	not likely
	Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis	red-sided garter snake	local concern	possible
	Thamnophis hammondii	two-striped garter snake	FT, CT, CFP	possible
	Diadophis punctatus modestus	San Bernardino ringneck snake	local concern	**present**
	Crotalus ruber ruber	northern red diamond rattlesnake	CSC	**present**
FISHES	*Gila orcutti*	arroyo chub	CSC	**present**
	Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni	unarmored three-spine stickleback	CE, FE	possible
	Rhinichthys osculus	Santa Ana speckled dace	CSC	possible
	Catostomus santaanae	Santa Ana sucker	CSC	possible

*Status Codes: FE = Federal Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened; FC/P = Federal Candidate/Proposal; CE = California Endangered; CT = California Threatened; CFP = California Fully Protected; CSC = California Species of Concern

APPENDIX B

System-Wide Planning Influences

Public Resources Code (PRC)
California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Policies, Rules, Regulations, and Orders of the California State Park and Recreation Commission and California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Parks and Recreation Operation Manual (DOM)
California Department of Parks and Recreation Administration Manual (DAM)
California State Park System Plan
California State Parks *Mission Statement*
California State Parks Access to Parks Guidelines
Resource Management Directives for the California Department of Parks and Recreation.
These directives amplify the legal codes contained in the PRC, the CCR, and the California State Park and Recreation Commission's Statements of Policy and Rules of Order. Specific Resource Management Directives that are particularly pertinent to the management of resources at Chino Hills State Park are:

#3 - Inventory of Features Updates
#5 - The Purposes of Developments in State Parks
#7 - Acquisition Boundaries
#9 - Boundaries and Developments in Natural Preserves
#27 - Establishment of Natural Preserves
#28 - Visitor-Use Impacts
#31 - Implementing Resource Elements
#33 - Exotic Plant Introduction
#34 - Exotic Plant Removal
#35 - Wildlife Management
#37 - Controlling Erosion
#43 - Water Diversion
#46 - Protection of Esthetic Quality
#58 - Cultural Resources
#59 - Underground Work
#70 - Archaeological Values
#72 - Archaeological Research
#74 - Recreational Resources

APPENDIX C

Comparison of Public Use Under Plan Alternatives

		Alternative 1 Existing Plan	**Alternatives 2 and 3 Revised Plan**
	Current Estimate	Projected Plan Scenario for Peak Use	Projected Plan Scenario for Peak Use
Peak Day-Use Vehicles	20-40	366	235
Peak Night-Use Vehicles	10-30	550	160
Walk- or Ride-In	155	205(3)	205
Peak number of People In Park (1)	365	2,925	1,310
Peak number of Trips per day (2)	165	1,923	945

(1) See calculations used in Appendix D – A Public-Use Scenario.
(2) Does not include use of easements by utility vehicles, which is presumed to remain the same.
(3) Not projected in original (1986) general plan.

APPENDIX D

A Public-Use Scenario

The following scenario represents a reasonable estimate of the type and size of public-use facilities that might be fully implemented within the parameters set by the *Plan Section* (Page 47) of this document. It is just one of a range of possibilities of types/sizes of facilities and is provided merely for the purpose of assessing the potential environmental impacts on the park and nearby properties and highways.

	Number of Parking Spaces	Turnover Rate	Peak Trips per Day*	Visitors/ Vehicle	Peak Number of Visitors in Park
Upper Aliso/Bane Canyon					
• Overnight Use (2 vehicles/campsite)	160	28%	240	3	480
• Day-Use Parking (inc. Visitor & Admin. Center)	120	50%	360	3	360
Boundary Trailheads					
• Day-Use Parking (5 locations)	75	50%	225	2.3	173
Lemon Grove					
• Day-Use Parking	40	50%	120	2.3	92
Walk-in					205
TOTALS	*395*		*945*		*1310*

*Trips per day is based on the following:
Day Use: 50% turnover rate = 3 trips x number of spaces
Overnight: 28% leave and return each day = 1.5 trips x number of spaces
A trip is defined as one-way travel over the entry road either entering or leaving

APPENDIX E

CEQA Review - Public Comments and DPR Responses

As a part of the public review process required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the preliminary (draft) of a General Plan document is made available for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. For the review process, each plan is assigned a unique number by the State Clearinghouse, located in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The State Clearinghouse number assigned to the preliminary general plan for Chino Hills State Park is No. 98101049.

At the close of the review period, all public comments which are received in writing, comments from individuals, organizations, and other public agencies, are evaluated by the Department's planning staff, which prepares written responses. The California Park and Recreation Commission reviews these materials as part of the process of evaluating and approving a general plan.

These comments and the resultant departmental responses are retained by the Department as part of the public record. Those wishing to examine these materials should contact the Department at its Sacramento headquarters or at the office of the District in which the park unit is located.

The mailing address of the Department's Sacramento Headquarters is:

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Chino Hills State Park General Plan

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Attachment 2: California Gnatcatcher, California Partners in Flight Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan

California Partners in Flight Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan

California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)

Photo by Peter Knapp

Prepared by: **Patrick J. Mock** (Patrick_Mock@URSCorp.com)

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Mock, P. 2004. California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*). *In* The Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan: a strategy for protecting and managing coastal scrub and chaparral habitats and associated birds in California. California Partners in Flight. http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/scrub.html

SHORTCUTS:

range map

action plan summary

references

SUBSPECIES STATUS:

Three subspecies recognized based on subtle morphological differences (*californica, pontilis, margaritae*; Atwood and Bontrager 2001). Mellnick and Rea (1994) restricted the *californica* subspecies to north of Ensenada and described *P. c. atwoodi* for the region between Ensenada and 30°N. Analysis of mtDNA shows little geographic structure or differentiation, suggesting no support for recognition of evolutionary-based subspecies (Zink et al. 2000). This species account will focus on the *californica* subspecies.

MANAGEMENT STATUS:

The *californica* subspecies (coastal California Gnatcatcher) has been listed as a Species of Special Concern in California and was listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993 (USFWS 1993). Critical Habitat designated in 2000; but the economic effects of this designation are under court-ordered review; California Gnatcatcher is a focal species under California's Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. Several subregional coastal sage scrub focused conservation plans are approved or in the late planning stages throughout southern California.

DISTRIBUTION:

HISTORICAL DISTRIBUTION:

Species restricted to Baja California, Mexico and coastal areas of southern California, USA. California populations described as "rather scarce and irregularly distributed (Grinnell 1898, Dawson 1923, Woods 1949). Habitat reduction noted by Grinnell and Miller (1944). Current loss of potential habitat in U.S. estimated at 70 to 90 percent (Westman 1981, MBA 1991).

CURRENT BREEDING DISTRIBUTION:

P. c. californica subspecies occurs north of 30°N in nw Baja California, Mexico to Ventura County. Limited to lower elevations (<500m) south and west of Transverse and Peninsular Ranges (Bolsinger and Atwood 1992). Highest densities occur in coastal areas of Orange and San Diego counties (Atwood 1993, Mock 1993, Preston et al. 1998a, Weaver 1998 USFWS 2002). Lower densities occur in western Riverside and southwestern San Bernardino counties and inland San Diego County (Davis et al. 1998, PSBS 1995, Mock 1998). Small, now disjunct populations documented for Ventura and Los Angeles counties (Atwood et al. 1998a, Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

"Core" population areas supporting 30 or more pairs of California Gnatcatcher include Palos Verdes Peninsula, Montebello, Coyote Hills near Fullerton, Puente/Chino Hills, El Toro Air Station, coastal (Upper Newport Bay to Dana Point Headlands east to Interstate-5), north-central and southern Orange County (Interstate-5 to base of Santa Ana Mountains, from El Toro to southern county Border), Camp Pendleton/Fallbrook, Oceanside, North Carlsbad, southeast Carlsbad, Southwest San Marcos, Rainbow/Pala, Olivenhain/Lake Hodges/San Pasqual, Poway, Upper San Diego River/El Capitan Reservoir, Mission Trails/Miramar, Lakeside/Dehesa, Sweetwater River Reservoir, Jamul Mountains, Otay Lakes/Mesa, Tijuana River mouth, Lake Elsinore Lake Skinner, and Temecula (Atwood et al. 1998a, Bontrager 1997, Mock 1993, PSBS 1995?, Dudek 2002).

Extensive areas of potentially suitable habitat lack California Gnatcatcher (Mock 1998). The distribution and abundance of gnatcatchers appears to be constrained by local winter weather patterns and sage scrub plant species composition (Mock et al. 1990, Bontrager 1991, Bontrager et al. 1995, Atwood et al. 1998a, Mock 1998, Weaver 1998, USFWS 2002).

ECOLOGY:

AVERAGE TERRITORY SIZE:

Highly variable correlated with distance from the coast, ranging from less than 1 ha to over 9 ha (Braden 1997, Preston et al. 1998a, Atwood et al. 1998b). Non-breeding season home range size about 80% larger than

breeding season home range (Preston et al. 1998a, Bontrager 1991).

TIME OF OCCURRENCE AND SEASONAL MOVEMENTS:

California Gnatcatcher is non-migratory. Post-breeding dispersal by fledglings occurs during late summer and fall. Natal dispersal distance typically documented at less than 3 km. Longest documented dispersal distance by juvenile is 16 km (Braden 1992). Dispersal across highly man-modified landscapes, including major highways and residential development, occurs often (Bailey and Mock 1998, Gavin 1998, Lovio 1996, Haas and Campbell 2003, Atwood unpublished data). Many examples of occupied habitat patches isolated by extensive development (e.g., Dana Point Headlands, Oceanside; Bailey and Mock 1998). Extensive movements by breeding adults are relatively rare (Bailey and Mock 1998). Longest documented dispersal distance by an adult is 9 km (Atwood and Bontrager 2001). Types of habitat used during dispersal are highly variable (Campbell et al. 1998).

FOOD HABITS:

FORAGING STRATEGY:

Ground- and shrub-foraging insectivore.

DIET:

Orthoptera, Araneae, Coleoptera, Homoptera (Burger et al. 1999); Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera larva (Grishaver et al. 1998), Arachnids (Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

DRINKING:

Obtains most of water through diet

BREEDING HABITAT:

Generally "prefers open sage scrub with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) as a dominant or co-dominant species (summarized in Atwood and Bontrager 2001). More abundant near sage scrub-grassland interface than where sage scrub grades into chaparral. Dense sage scrub occupied less frequently than more open sites. Mostly absent from coastal areas dominated by black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), white sage (*S. leucophylla*), or lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*). Nest placement typically in areas with less than 40 percent slope gradient. Gullies and drainages, when available within territory, used as nest sites. See also Braden et al. 1997.

NEST SUBSTRATE:

Use proportional to shrub species availability: typically California sagebrush, California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sunflower (*Encilia californica*), broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), and laural sumac (*Malosma laurina*). Many other less common sage scrub species used less frequently.

HEIGHT OF NEST:

Mean: 82 ± 2.9 SE cm (range 30-292, n = 101).

HEIGHT OF PLANT:

135 cm ± 3.6 SE (range 62-155, n=103).

NEST CONCEALMENT:

Nests placed lower than 70 cm above the ground less successful than higher placed nests. Nest success varied significantly between host shrub species (Grishaver et al. 1998. See also Braden et al. 1999.). Site selection affects risk of nest predation (Sockman 1997).

VEGETATION SURROUNDING THE NEST:

AVERAGE SHRUB COVER:

Typically between 20 and 60 percent. Inter-shrub gap 153 to 176 cm (Bontrager 1991, Mock and Bolger 1992, Grishaver et al. 1998).

DOMINANT SHRUB SPECIES:

California sagebrush dominant or co-dominant.

SLOPE:

Prefers nesting in areas with less than 40 percent slope gradient (Mock and Bolger 1992, J.L. Atwood, unpublished data).

NEST TYPE:

Open cup.

BREEDING BIOLOGY:

DISPLAYS:

Preferentially sings from taller shrubs (e.g., *Malosma larina*) (Mock and Bolger 1992; Preston et al. 1998b).

MATING SYSTEM:

Monogamous.

CLUTCH SIZE:

Mean varies between site and year, influenced by rainfall prior to egg laying (Grishaver et al. 1998, Patten and Rotenberry 1999). Clutch size typically 3 or 4 eggs (summarized in Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

INCUBATING SEX:

Both sexes incubate; female incubates 61 percent of time during day, Female on nest at night. Female controls duration of incubation shifts (Grishaver et al. 1998).

INCUBATION PERIOD:

14 ± 0.13 SE days from completion of clutch (Grishaver et al. 1998).

DEVELOPMENT AT HATCHING:

Altricial, naked, blind, uncoordinated.

NESTLING PERIOD:

13.3 ± 0.29 SE days after hatching, range: 10 to 15 days (Grishaver et al. 1998).

PARENTAL CARE:

Both parents feed young. Male brings food more frequently (Grishaver et al. 1998)

POST FLEDGING BIOLOGY OF OFFSPRING:

Offspring disperse from natal territory 3-4 weeks after fledging to unoccupied habitat. Young-of-Year typically paired and with established territories by October (Mock and Bolger 1992, Preston et al. 1998a, Grishaver et al. 1998).

POST BREEDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR:

Remain on territory throughout the year, expand home range during non-breeding season. Forage with neighboring individuals in habitats not defended (Preston et al. 1998a, Grishaver et al. 1998).

DELAYED BREEDING:

Young of year breed during spring following birth.

NUMBER OF BROODS:

Highly variable between sites and year. Very persistent breeder. Typically 3 or 4 clutches laid per pair per year; maximum number: 10 nests per season. Number of successful broods per successful pair ranges from 1 to 3 (summarized in Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

BROOD PARASITISM:

Nest have been parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). Both abandonment and the raising of cowbird young have been observed. Demographic effects of nest parasitism may be small due substitution for typically high natural rates of predation on gnatcatcher nests (Braden et al. 1997). Reduced number of nesting attempts in a season likely an adverse effect of nest parasitism.

LANDSCAPE FACTORS:

ELEVATION:

Sea Level to 500 m (Atwood and Bolsinger 1992). Most core populations in coastal counties below 300 m (Mock 1993).

FRAGMENTATION:

Occurrence or nest success of California Gnatcatcher is not reduced near edges with human development (Mock 1993, San Diego County Bird Atlas 2002, Mock and Preston 1995, Lovio 1996, Atwood 1998, Atwood et al. 1998b).

PATCH SIZE:

Presence of California Gnatcatcher not related to patch size in coastal areas of range, although smaller patches less consistently occupied over time (Atwood et al. 1998). Successful breeding reported from patch as small as 0.2 ha. Larger patch size requirements in inland portions of range (Mock and Bolger 1992, Famarlaro and Newman 1998, Preston et al. 1998a).

DISTURBANCE: (natural or managed):

Disturbances that reduce shrub cover, such as frequent fire, mechanical disruption, livestock grazing, off-highway vehicle use, and military training activities appear to reduce habitat suitability for California Gnatcatcher (Bontrager et al. 1995b, Mayer and Wirtz 1995, Beyers and Wirtz 1997, Wirtz et al. 1997, Atwood et al. 1998c). Construction monitoring studies suggest California Gnatcatchers are tolerant of adjacent construction activities (Atwood and Bontrager 2001) and high noise levels (Famarlaro and Newman 1998, Awbrey 1993, Awbrey et al. 1995, Awbrey and Hunsaker 1997, URS Corporation 2004).

ADJACENT LAND USE:

Abundance not reduced near urban edges (see "fragmentation" above).

PREDATORS:

Like most other open cup nesters, California Gnatcatchers are extremely vulnerable to nest predation. Snakes, birds, rodents, medium-sized mammals, and ants are reported nest predators. Nest predation rates vary from 26 to 68 percent of nests monitored (summarized in Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

EXOTIC SPECIES INVASION/ENCROACHMENT:

In coastal scrub habitats, increased fire frequency can cause extensive habitat conversion to grassland (Zedler et al. 1983), and reductions in gnatcatcher populations (Bontrager et al. 1995a, Atwood et al. 1998c).

DEMOGRAPHY AND POPULATION TRENDS:

AGE AND SEX RATIOS:

Equal sex ratios at birth.

PRODUCTIVITY:

Varies between sites and year: Palos Verdes: 3.0 ± 0.62 SD fledglings per female per year (n = 5 years); Orange Co.: 2.5 ± 0.48 SD (n = 5); San Diego Co.: 2.4 ± 1.48 SD (n = 4); Riverside Co.: range 1.4 to 3.8 at 3 sites during 3 years Summarized in Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

SURVIVORSHIP:

Palos Verdes, First-year survivorship 29 ± 5.4 SE percent (n = 4 years); Adults: 52 ± 10.2; Orange Co., Adults 57 ± 7.2 SE (n = 4 years). Mortality greatest during winter and immediately after fledging (Atwood and Bontrager 2001, Atwood et al. 1998a, Grishaver et al. 1998, Mock 1998, Erickson and Miner 1998).

DISPERSAL:

Majority of relocated banded juveniles found within 3 km of banding location; maximum juvenile dispersal distance reported: 16 km (Braden 1992). Longest documented dispersal distance by an adult is 9 km (Atwood and Bontrager 2001). Gnatcatcher distribution in isolated habitat patches suggest that maximum long-range dispersal could extend to nearly 22 km (Braden 1992, Mock and Bolger 1992, Gavin 1998, Bailey and Mock 1998, Atwood and Bontrager 2001).

POPULATION TREND:

In California, BBS analysis of 52 routes shows no significant trend between 1966 and 2000. However, for individual regions in California, there is too little BBS data available (4-12 routes per region) to reliably estimate trends (http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/). Based on estimates of suitable habitat and survey data, U.S. population likely exceeds 3,000 pairs and maybe as high as 5000 pairs during years with favorable weather conditions (USFWS 1996, Mock 1993).

MANAGEMENT ISSUES:

FIRE AND EXOTIC VEGETATION:

Fire frequency and the invasion of exotic vegetation, especially grasses and annual forbs, interact to pose potentially serious threats to suitable gnatcatcher habitat. In much of coastal southern California, where these exotic plants are well-established and where the irreversible conversion of shrublands to grasslands is likely, fire frequency and burn size should be kept low. Where possible, flammable exotics should be removed or reduced in shrubland habitats. The recent series of wildfires in 2003 in southern California affected 4% of known

gnatcatcher occurrences, 16% of designated critical habitat acreage, and 28% of USFWS modeled habitat for the California Gnatcatcher (Bond and Bradley 2004).

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION:

California Gnatcatchers do not appear to be especially sensitive to fragmentation and development at the landscape scale. Primary concern is the chronic reduction in habitat carrying capacity due to development and need to develop a network of habitat reserves linked by habitat linkages. A sufficient number of "core" populations for California Gnatcatcher are extant to allow for a viable network of habitat reserves to be conserved though NCCP/HCP subregional planning processes that are ongoing throughout southern California.

PREDATION:

Predation is the most common cause of gnatcatcher nest failure. Information is lacking as to whether this predation rate is influenced by anthropogenic factors, although typical edge effects on gnatcatcher breeding is not evident (Atwood 1998).

ASSOCIATED SPECIES:

Greater Roadrunner, Bewick's Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Wrentit, Cactus Wren, California Towhee, San Diego pocket mouse (Chase et al. 2000).

MONITORING METHODS AND RESEARCH NEEDS:

Trend monitoring: The BBS method does not monitor California Gnatcatchers well in the areas of California where they are most likely to be declining due to habitat loss and degradation. Off-road monitoring methods should be applied in coastal scrub habitats in coastal California. Monitoring plans for NCCP efforts in southern California includes the monitoring plots of conserved California Gnatcatcher populations.

Demographic monitoring and research: Nest success and the factors that influence it should be monitored directly (through nest monitoring) in replicate sites to evaluate management options. Additional data on survivorship, productivity, and dispersal capability could be obtained from color-band re-sightings. Confirmation of assumed metapopulation and source-sink dynamics, and sensitivity to local weather conditions would be valuable (Mock 1993, Akçakaya and Atwood 1997, Mock 1998).

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

SPECIES: California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)

STATUS:

One subspecies occurs in the California shrublands covered by this plan. The coastal California Gnatcatcher (*P. c. californica*) is a characteristic coastal sage scrub bird found mainly in the coastal plain of southern California. Given the amount of loss of habitat in coastal California (Atwood 1993), its distribution in coastal scrub habitat has been reduced. The coastal California Gnatcatcher has been listed as a Species of Special Concern in California and a federal Threatened Species.

HABITAT NEEDS and CONCERNS:

California Gnatcatcher requires variable amounts of semi-open sage scrub co-dominated by California sagebrush on shallow slope gradients. Too frequent fires in sage scrub habitats can convert shrubland habitat to grassland and has probably contributed to the decline in California Gnatcatcher throughout southern California. Other disturbances that eliminate shrubby vegetation should also be avoided or minimized. Large areas of suitable habitat should be conserved to benefit California Gnatcatcher populations. Reduced localized productivity due to nest predation and nest parasitism is a cause for concern.

OBJECTIVES:

· Maintain current distribution.
· Conserve healthy, interconnected local breeding populations that exceed 50-100 pairs (Mock 1993).
· Guide conservation planning efforts to benefit California Gnatcatcher.
· Improve trend and demographic monitoring efforts (Atwood 2000).
· Gather information on the effects of management practices, habitat restoration, and dispersal capacity (Rotenberry and Scott 1998).

ACTION:

Habitat protection recommendations:

Habitat preservation for the Bells' Sage Sparrow should focus on coastal sage scrub associations that have California sagebrush as a co-dominant species. The habitat and area requirements of California Gnatcatcher should be addressed in multi-species conservation planning efforts (NCCPs and HCPs) throughout the range in southern California.

Management and restoration recommendations:

Manage fire frequency and other disturbances to maintain a semi-open shrub structure in coastal scrub.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH NEEDS:

As is true of many coastal shrubland bird species, California Gnatcatchers are not well monitored by Breeding Bird Survey counts. Given their sensitivity to habitat degradation, monitoring to determine population trends and demographics should be a high priority. Further studies of gnatcatcher dispersal capability through man-modified landscapes will help in the design of adequate habitat linkages between core populations.

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Attachment 3: Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Center for Biological Diversity

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SAVING THE COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER

Sometimes called the canary in Southern California's proverbial coal mine, the coastal California gnatcatcher with its kitten-like mew of a call is a prime indicator of ecosystem health. In the coastal sage scrub that once stretched unbroken from Ventura County to northern Baja California, this tiny gray songbird's habitat now lies amid a patchwork of freeways, shopping malls, and farmlands. Ninety percent of Southern California's coastal sage scrub has already been lost to development, and remnant patches have been hit hard by unnaturally frequent wildfire.

The Center is protecting the coastal California gnatcatcher from threats posed by transmission lines like the proposed Sunrise Powerlink (http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/energy/sunrise_powerlink/index.html) that would extend through gnatcatcher habitat and increase the risk of fire, as well as development — like the Coyote Hills development, approved for the site of one of the largest coastal California gnatcatcher populations. In late 2007, we announced our intent to sue (http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/esa/pdfs/60-day-notice-sw-corridor.pdf) over the designation of the Southwest National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor, which would allow for the fast-track approval of utility and power lines through the habitat of several endangered species, including the gnatcatcher.

Since the gnatcatcher was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act — soon after Center staffer David Hogan filed a listing petition — the Center has been challenging sprawling projects that would bulldoze coastal sage scrub, whittle away at gnatcatcher habitat, and keep the bird's death toll on the rise. We successfully pressed for improved conservation measures for the bird under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation

Plan, won a landmark settlement to protect the gnatcatcher and other species on Southern California's four national forests, and compiled a database documenting the federal authorization of “taking” coastal California gnatcatchers, which has so far resulted in the killing of at least 1,280 gnatcatcher pairs.

KEY DOCUMENTS

2007 Critical habitat designation (http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2007_register&docid=fr19de07-26)
2007 Notice of intent to sue over Southwest Energy Corridor (../../../campaigns/esa/pdfs/60-day-notice-sw-corridor.pdf)
1993 Endangered Species Act listing (http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr2253.pdf)

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROFILE (endangered_species_act_profile.html)

ACTION TIMELINE (action_timeline.html)

NATURAL HISTORY (natural_history.html)

MEDIA

Press releases (../../../news/press_releases/search.html?cx=006464995654994533830%3Akwj3rw_lnja&cof=FORID%3A11&q=%22California%20gnatcatcher%22)Media highlights (media_highlights.html)
Search our newsroom for the coastal California gnatcatcher (../../../news/media-archive/search_results.html?cx=006464995654994533830%3Au4kkgjchupg&cof=FORID%3A11&q=%22California%20gnatcatcher%22)

RELATED ISSUES

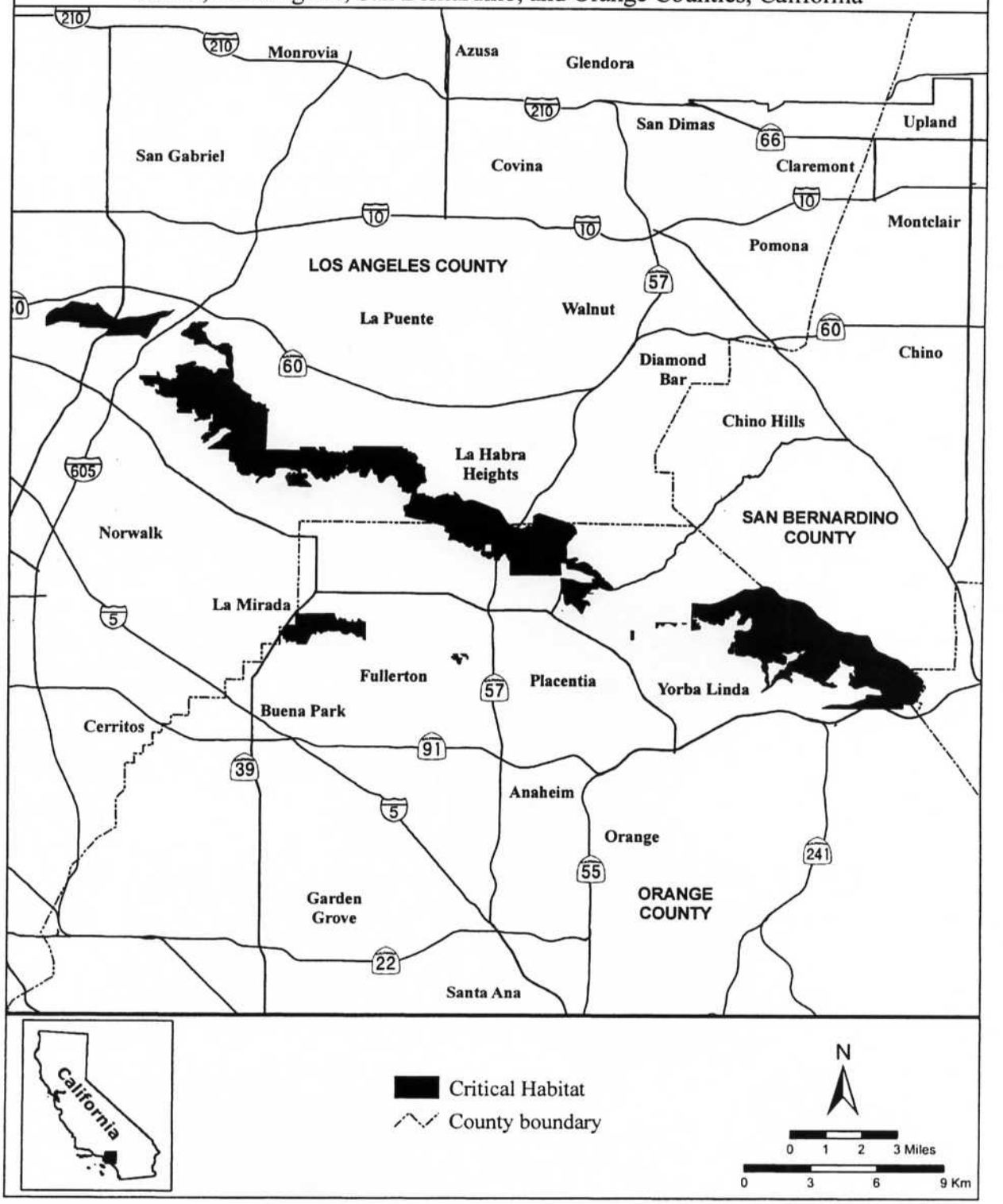
Golden State Biodiversity Initiative (../../../campaigns/golden_state_biodiversity_initiative/index.html)
California Environmental Quality Act (../../../campaigns/ceqa/index.html)
Southwest National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (../../../programs/public_lands/energy/southwest_national_interest_electric_transmission_corridor/index.html)
Sunrise Powerlink (../../../programs/public_lands/energy/sunrise_powerlink/index.html)
Transmission Lines (../../../programs/public_lands/energy/transmission_lines/index.html)
Endangered Species Act (../../../campaigns/esa/index.html)

Contact: Lisa Belenky (mailto:lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org)

Photo by B Moose Peterson, USFWS

Attachment 4: Critical Habitat Map excerpted from 72 Fed. Reg. 72182

Map 9
Critical Habitat for Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), Unit 9, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties, California



BILLING CODE 4310–55–C

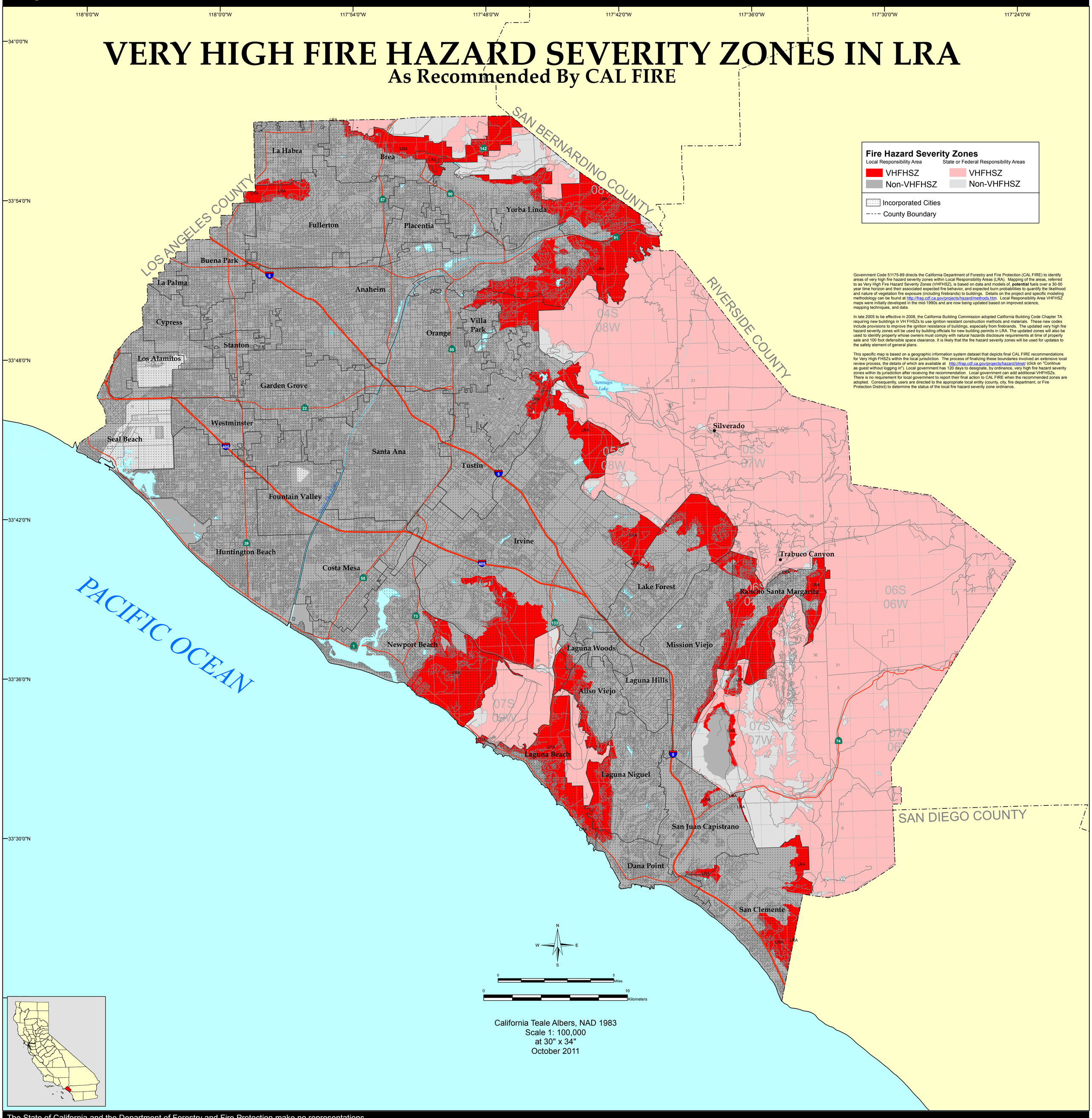
Attachment 5: Orange County Fire Hazard Severity Zone

ORANGE COUNTY

Fire and Resource Assessment Program
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN LRA

As Recommended By CAL FIRE



Government Code 51175-89 directs the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to identify areas of very high fire hazard severity zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). Mapping of the areas, referred to as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), is based on data and models of, **potential** fuels over a 30-50 year time horizon and their associated expected fire behavior, and expected burn probabilities to quantify the likelihood and nature of vegetation fire exposure (including firebrands) to buildings. Details on the project and specific modeling methodology can be found at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/methods.htm. Local Responsibility Area VHFHSZ maps were initially developed in the mid-1990s and are now being updated based on improved science, mapping techniques, and data.

In late 2005 to be effective in 2008, the California Building Commission adopted California Building Code Chapter 7A requiring new buildings in VH FHSZs to use ignition resistant construction methods and materials. These new codes include provisions to improve the ignition resistance of buildings, especially from firebrands. The updated very high fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials for new building permits in LRA. The updated zones will also be used to identify property whose owners must comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale and 100 foot defensible space clearance. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used for updates to the safety element of general plans.

This specific map is based on a geographic information system dataset that depicts final CAL FIRE recommendations for Very High FHSZs within the local jurisdiction. The process of finalizing these boundaries involved an extensive local review process, the details of which are available at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/hazard/btnet/ (click on "Continue as guest without logging in"). Local government has 120 days to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones within its jurisdiction after receiving the recommendation. Local government can add additional VHFHSZs. There is no requirement for local government to report their final action to CAL FIRE when the recommended zones are adopted. Consequently, users are directed to the appropriate local entity (county, city, fire department, or Fire Protection District) to determine the status of the local fire hazard severity zone ordinance.

California Teale Albers, NAD 1983
Scale 1: 100,000
at 30" x 34"
October 2011

Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov
For more information, contact CDF-FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939.

Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California
John Laird, Secretary for Resources, The Natural Resources Agency
Ken Pimlott, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MAP ID: OrangeCo

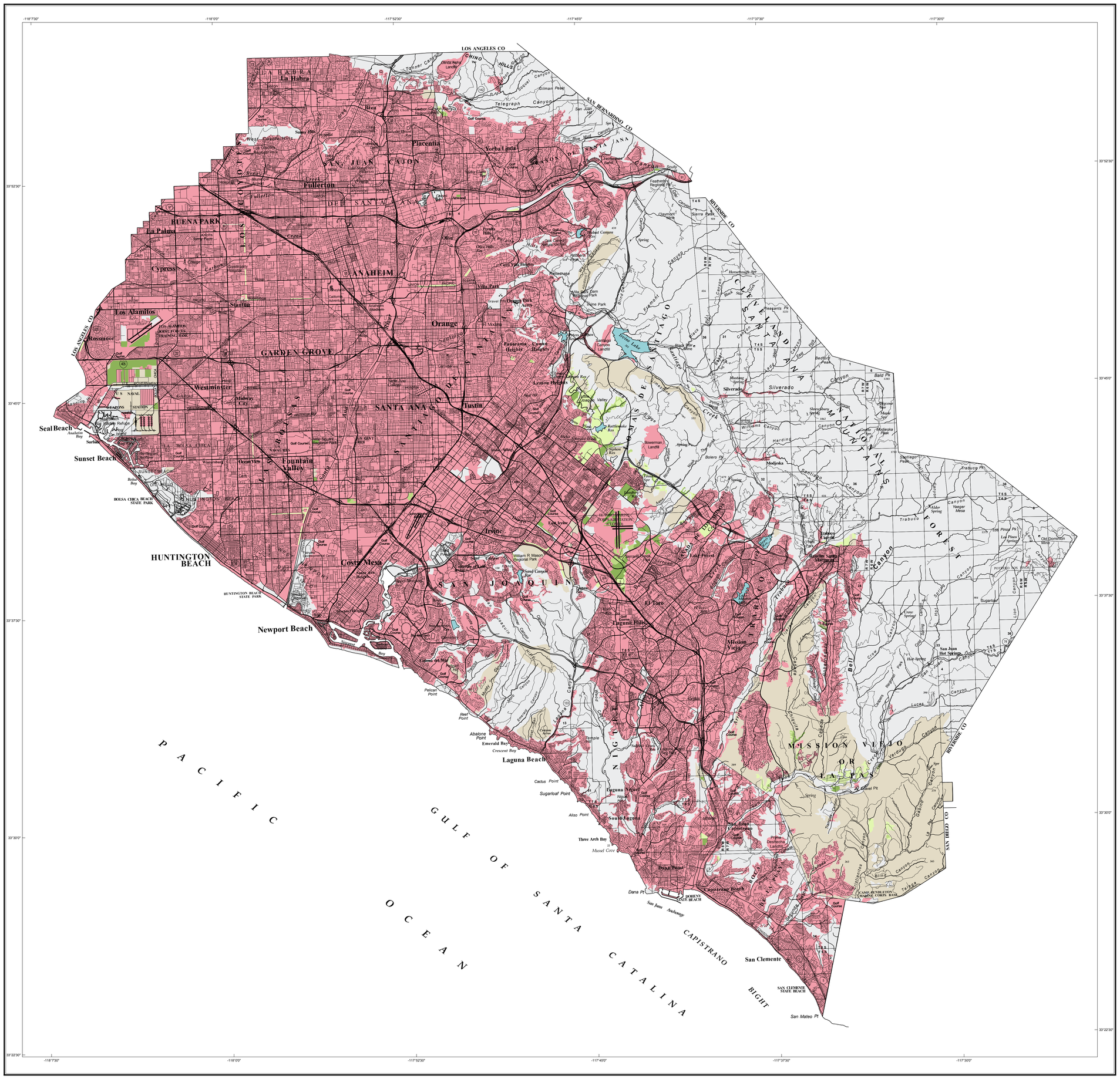
DATA SOURCES
CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZL06_1)
CAL FIRE Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA - Orange (c30fhszl06_3)

Attachment 6: Orange County Important Farmland 2016

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*
THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
John Laird, *Secretary*
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
David Bunn, *Director*

ORANGE COUNTY IMPORTANT FARMLAND 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM



PRIME FARMLAND

PRIME FARMLAND HAS THE BEST COMBINATION OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL FEATURES ABLE TO SUSTAIN LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THIS LAND HAS THE SOIL QUALITY, GROWING SEASON, AND MOISTURE SUPPLY NEEDED TO PRODUCE SUSTAINED HIGH YIELDS. LAND MUST HAVE BEEN USED FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AT SOME TIME DURING THE FOUR YEARS PRIOR TO THE MAPPING DATE.

FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE IS SIMILAR TO PRIME FARMLAND BUT WITH MINOR SHORTCOMINGS, SUCH AS GREATER SLOPES OR LESS ABILITY TO STORE SOIL MOISTURE. LAND MUST HAVE BEEN USED FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AT SOME TIME DURING THE FOUR YEARS PRIOR TO THE MAPPING DATE.

UNIQUE FARMLAND

UNIQUE FARMLAND CONSISTS OF LESSER QUALITY SOILS USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE STATE'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL CROPS. THIS LAND IS USUALLY IRRIGATED, BUT MAY INCLUDE NONIRRIGATED ORCHARDS OR VINEYARDS AS FOUND IN SOME CLIMATIC ZONES IN CALIFORNIA. LAND MUST HAVE BEEN CROPPED AT SOME TIME DURING THE FOUR YEARS PRIOR TO THE MAPPING DATE.

GRAZING LAND

GRAZING LAND IS LAND ON WHICH THE EXISTING VEGETATION IS SUITED TO THE GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK.

URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND

URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND IS OCCUPIED BY STRUCTURES WITH A BUILDING DENSITY OF AT LEAST 1 UNIT TO 1.5 ACRES, OR APPROXIMATELY 6 STRUCTURES TO A 10-ACRE PARCEL. COMMON EXAMPLES INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES, CEMETERIES, AIRPORTS, GOLF COURSES, SANITARY LANDFILLS, SEWAGE TREATMENT, AND WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES.

OTHER LAND

OTHER LAND IS LAND NOT INCLUDED IN ANY OTHER MAPPING CATEGORY. COMMON EXAMPLES INCLUDE LOW DENSITY RURAL DEVELOPMENTS, BRUSH, TIMBER, WETLAND, AND RIPARIAN AREAS NOT SUITABLE FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING, CONFINED LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, OR AQUACULTURE FACILITIES, STRIP MINES, BORROW PITS, AND WATER BODIES SMALLER THAN 40 ACRES. VACANT AND NONAGRICULTURAL LAND SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES BY URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND GREATER THAN 40 ACRES IS MAPPED AS OTHER LAND.

WATER

PERENNIAL WATER BODIES WITH AN EXTENT OF AT LEAST 40 ACRES.

SCALE: 1:100,000
1 inch represents approximately 1.6 miles

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Kilometers

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

10 40 160
1 mile

The minimum land use mapping unit is 10 acres, except Water, which is mapped to a minimum of 40 acres.

1 square mile = 640 acres.

Total County Area - 509,717 acres
Mapped Area - 509,717 acres

Important Farmland Maps are compiled by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) pursuant to Section 65570 of the California Government Code. To create the maps, FMMP combines current land use information with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data. Soil units qualifying for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance are determined by the NRCS. Changes to soil profiles subsequent to publication of NRCS Gridded Soil Survey Geographic (gSSURGO) Database for California, November 29, 2016 are not reflected on this map. This map was developed using NRCS gridded digital soil data (gSSURGO) and may contain individual soil units less than one acre.

Land use status is determined using current and historic aerial imagery, supplemental GIS data, and field verification. Imagery sources may include public domain datasets, web-based information, and commercially purchased data, depending on data availability. Supplemental data on land management status is obtained from federal, state, and local governments. Map reviewers at the local level contribute valuable information with their comments and suggestions. Please refer to FMMP field analyst reports for each county to obtain specific citations.

County boundaries for the 2016 Important Farmland Series are from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assesment Program (FRAP) 2009 version of California Counties GIS data.

Cultural base information for the Important Farmland Maps was derived from public domain data sets, based upon design of the U.S. Geological Survey, with updates generated by digitizing over current imagery.

This map should be used within the limits of its purpose - as a current inventory of agricultural land resources. This map does not necessarily reflect general plan or zoning designations, city limit lines, changing economic or market conditions, or other factors which may be taken into consideration when land use policies are determined. This map is not designed for parcel-specific planning purposes due to its scale and the ten-acre minimum land use mapping unit. Classification of important farmland and urban areas on this map is based on best available data. The information has been delineated as accurately as possible at 1:24,000-scale, but no claim to meet 1:24,000 National Map Accuracy Standards is made due to variations in the quality of source data.

The Department of Conservation makes no warranties as to the suitability of this product for any particular purpose.

Additional data is available at www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp, including detail on the program, full size PDF maps, map categories, statistics, field summaries, and GIS data for download. Contact the:

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 324-0850
e-mail: fmmp@conservation.ca.gov

Map published September 2018.

City of La Habra

"A Caring Community"

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

110 E. La Habra Boulevard
Post Office Box 337
La Habra, CA 90633-0785
Office: (562) 383-4100
Fax: (562) 383-4476

January 18, 2019

Ms. Maribeth Tinio
Senior Planner
City of Brea
Planning Division-Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, California 92821

Re: Brea 265 Specific Plan

Dear Ms. Tinio,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan. As you are aware, the California Environmental Quality Act allows potentially affected agencies to comment on proposed projects that may cause significant environmental impacts to their community. We would offer the following comments on the environmental document:

1. In 2015, La Habra and Brea coordinated efforts to synchronize Lambert Road to allow for improved flow of traffic, a decrease in the number of stops, and a reduction of greenhouse gases throughout the communities. The construction of 1,100 residential units could affect the signal synchronization related to vehicular trips to and from La Habra. The Transportation and Traffic Section of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) should analyze the potential impacts to La Habra.

2. The City of La Habra requires developers to pay "fair share" traffic impact fees towards intersections that require improvements, in order to maintain acceptable Levels of Service ("LOS") for existing and future conditions. The DEIR should at a minimum study the intersections of Lambert Road/Palm Street, Lambert Road/Harbor Boulevard, La Habra Boulevard/Harbor Boulevard, and Harbor Boulevard/Imperial Highway based on the trip distribution pattern identified in the Traffic Study as appropriate. A condition should be placed on the project that requires the developer to contribute their "fair share" traffic impact fees for any incremental project impacts at these intersections in La Habra as required by the La Habra Municipal Code.

3. Imperial Highway in the City of La Habra is on the Orange County Congestion Management Program (CMP) Highway System. Furthermore, the intersection of Imperial Highway/Harbor Boulevard is a monitored intersection on the Orange County CMP system. The DEIR should address CMP impacts at this intersection.

We are prepared to assist you in addressing the above concerns. We would request that when the DEIR is completed, a copy be provided to the City of La Habra for review and comment. Additional comments may be generated based on that review.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 383-4100.

Sincerely,

Carlos Jaramillo
Deputy Director of Community Development

cc: Jim Sadro, City Manager
Chris Johansen, City Engineer
Michael Plotnik, Traffic Manager
Andrew Ho, Director of Community and Economic Development

From:	Jennifer Ward
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Cc:	M Kenji Coleman; Craig Wojciak; Ryann Higashi; Kelley Lee
Subject:	City of Brea - Brea 265 Specific Plan Draft EIR
Date:	Wednesday, January 02, 2019 2:13:42 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Good afternoon Maribeth,

I received a copy of a NOP of a draft EIR for the subject project. I would like to know if the development will cause any of SCE's facilities (mainly 50kV and above) to be relocated? If so, we should chat as our scope of work should be covered in the EIR. We have certain CPUC exemptions we can use for our work under General Order 131D, however if SCE's work is not in the project EIR, SCE may have to prepare their own CEQA and that could delay the project (if SCE relocation work is required).

Please give me a call at your convenience.

Jennifer Ward
Project Manager
Transmission Project Management / T&D
T. 714-973-5418 | M. 714-269-7172

1444 E. McFadden Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92705

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON® | Energy for What's Ahead™

From:	Michael Ennabe
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Brea 265
Date:	Monday, December 17, 2018 10:53:18 AM

Hi Maribeth,

I was recently made aware of this project and I would like to voice my support for the project. I live at 4362 Bob White Rd. which would be directly impacted by the development.

However, I did have some questions/concerns. To what extent is the developer improving Carbon Canyon park? It would be great if they could expand access as well as more open space. I believe they will also be building out a few other small parks which is very important. Also, I would request that some infrastructure improvements be included in the project. Specifically, Lambert Rd. east of Valencia. As I'm sure you know there is a huge bottleneck as you enter Carbon Canyon particularly in the afternoons. Although I rarely drive through the Canyon it takes me sometimes as long as 15 minutes to go from Valencia to Brea Hills Ave. This problem will only be exacerbated with the new development.

With that said, the fact this project is relatively low density when taking into account the scope of the project - around 260 acres - this would be a great project for the area. I believe what is currently on the site is an eye sore with chain link fencing and oil rigs. I think the development would be great for the community and generate badly needed tax revenue.

Again, my only recommendations would be to add as much outdoor space for parks and other recreational activities and to help ease traffic both on Lambert east of Valencia and the general traffic around the subject property. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

--
Michael Ennabe, Esq. LL.M.
SVP & General Counsel
Ennabe Properties, Inc.
BRE: 01962256 SBN: 282809
11310 Valley Blvd.
El Monte, CA 91731
Office: (213) 388-2125
Fax: (213) 388-2194

From: Mike Cocos
To: Tinio, Maribeth
Subject: Brea 265
Date: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 3:36:04 PM

Dear Maribeth,

Some of my thoughts and suggestions for the new proposed development. Brea 265.

As with any project like this, safety, traffic and traffic mitigations has to be considered.

I could see the residents of the East of Valencia Ave. parcel having issues accessing their homes during the afternoon time traffic or when the 91, 57 or 60 freeway have a traffic issue. This traffic is terrible now and will not change. See how the Brea Hills neighborhood is coping with this now.

Some General suggestions or would like to have.

1. Dedicated road from North bound Rose to East bound Carbon Canyon.

2. Dedicated lane from North bound Valencia Ave. to East bound Carbon Canyon East

3. Green traffic arrow for North Rose to North Valencia turn.

4. Two right turn lanes from North Rose to North Valencia.

5. Dedicated turn lanes in to all neighborhoods in Brea 265.

6. Regularly followed scheduled of sweeping Valencia Ave. (not like the random cleaning that occurs now)

7. Strongly enforce Commercial vehicle traffic and codes on Valencia, Lambert and Santa Fe.

8. Minimize cut through traffic.

9. Trail, bike, kids access across East Lambert Road.

10. Trail, bike, kids access across Valencia Ave.
(For kids to be able to travel safely to the school or parks.)

11. Connect the Tracks at Brea to this project.

12. No gates. There are minimal gated communities throughout North Orange County. Gates at this project would not portray the inclusive look or statement that we would want for this area of Brea.

13. Build as fire safe as possible.

14. Find a way to prevent vehicles lining up at the signal to go straight on North Valencia Ave. from cutting and turning right into East bound Carbon Canyon Road

traffic. (not using the existing right turn merging lane to east Carbon Canyon road.)

Sincerely,

Mike Cocos

From:	Dennis Pritchett
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Comments on Aera Energy Project
Date:	Sunday, December 23, 2018 5:14:13 PM

Maibeth Tino:

I live in the North Hills neighborhood of Brea and I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Aera Energy Project.

1) The addition of 1,100 homes in Brea will greatly stress traffic in an area that already has insufficient infrastructure to support what will certainly be over 2,000 additional vehicles. Valencia, Rose, Lambert, and Imperial Highway are already very conjested during the peak traffic hours. Long waits occur on all of these streets now.

2) The additional traffic will also add to the noise and air pollution in Brea. We need to focus on reducing carbon emissions not add to them with additional homes in the city of Brea.

3) Brea only has one high school and one middle school. These schools cannot handle the new students from developments already underway at Valencia Avenue and Imperial Highway, Central and Site Drive, and the Aera project.

4) Additional homes will have a negative impact on animal life in one of the few open spaces currently in Brea. Small animals and birds abound in the area proposed for development.

5) This newly planned development will also have a negative impact on the redwood grove which is within several hundred yards of the beautiful trees. They are still in a fragile development stage and their growth and survival will be hampered by this development.

6) This development will also tax the Brea landfill and water requirements for the city of Brea

Please investigate all of these issues when developing the Enviromental Impact Survey.

Dennis Pritchett
761 Oak Knoll St.
Brea, CA 92821

From:	Se Choi
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Brea 265 Plan
Date:	Wednesday, December 26, 2018 1:13:40 PM

Hi,

My name is Se Choi, and I am a resident of the Walden Estates in Brea, off of Lambert Rd. The proposed Brea 265 Plan would be directly adjacent to my neighborhood, and I have concerns on the impact to the already congested traffic on Lambert by the addition of 1,100 dwelling units.

Also, I would like clarification into what exactly a "medium density" and "high density" residential housing means, in terms of language I can relate to, such as:
- 3BDR, 1500-2000 sq ft homes (<- is this medium density?)
- 2/3BDR 1000-1300 sq ft condo / townhomes (<- is this high density?)

Or, are the "high density residential" still Single Family detached homes?

Thank you, and Happy Holidays/Happy New Year.

-Se Choi

Dec 26th 2018

Marjorie Eason
370 Vesuvius Drive
Brea, CA 92823-6343

City of Brea Planning Committee,

I am a 54 year resident of Vesuvius Dr in Brea. I received the notification of the plan to build residences along Rose Dr. This is a very impacted road way right now. The Sa Idoreto developers considered the impact to the residences in our area and did not have an exit onto Rose Drive. Valencia and Lambert and Carbon Canyon are also impacted due to the traffic coming over the Brea Hills from Chino on a daily basis. I hope this traffic is considered before adding to the problem.

My other concern are the fires that occur from time to time. The last one ten years ago forcing an evacuation for all residences off of Rose Drive. I have lived through 8-10 fires and evacuated for 2. The wind through Carbon Canyon caused the fires to burn through Carbon Canyon Park and down to Vesuvius Dr. The trees are just now growing back. The Orange

2) County Fire Service is in control of Rose Drive closing it completely without notice. People have been stranded in their homes.

The Edison company intends to shut off the electricity to all homes with "above ground wiring." This includes the 65 homes in our tract. I see people getting gridlocked trying to evacuate their homes on Rose Drive. We do not want another "Paradise" to happen ~~there~~ here.

What are your plans to alleviate the traffic problem on Rose Dr.? What are your evacuation plans for people living off of Rose Drive in the Brea area?

I think our neighborhood should be considered in your study. I do plan on attending your meeting on Jan 16th

Thank you,

Margie Eason

MARGIEEASON@MAC.COM 714-524-0480

From:	Forrest Hatfield
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Brea 265 Specific Plan
Date:	Friday, January 11, 2019 1:08:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

After reading the subject plan proposal I want to express my surprise that anyone would suggest putting homes in this area. Thousands of cars travel these three roads { Lambert Road/ Carbon Canyon Road, Rose Drive, Valencia Ave } everyday day of the week and to suggest that more residents be put in the middle of these streets is asking for more traffic that backs up for hours a day already. People traveling these three roads would be subjected to additional delays, not to mention the new residents trying to get in and out their new homes.

I am adamantly against this proposed plan to bulld any new homes in this area because of the great negative impact it will have on the existing traffic problem that we already have on these three streets!

Sincerely,

Forrest Hatfield
3618 Rose Drive
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From:	Duane Thompson
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Cc:	Crabtree, David
Subject:	Brea 265 Specific Plan
Date:	Tuesday, January 22, 2019 4:15:07 PM

I have some comments I would like to submit regarding Brea 265.

The maps on display did a great job of showing lots of green space and trail connectivity.

What was missing was what impact these trails would have on traffic, as most each connection crosses either Lambert or Valencia or Rose and would include an intersection.

I would like to have the planners consider avoiding direct impacts to these streets as much as possible.

Would it be possible to access Rose from the existing traffic signal at Vesuvius Drive or at least synchronize with that existing signal?

Would it be possible to access Lambert via Sunflower St., which already has a signal.

Would it be possible to access Naranjal Dr. then Santa Fe?

That would connect traffic from Kraemer to Santa Fe to Naranjal and keep traffic off of Lambert.

Peak hour traffic is miserable on SH142 and will only get worse.

Any trails that cross these roads should have under passes or over passes.

I think all of these routes are within the scope of the development area.

You may have other suggestions that would achieve the same benefits.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Duane Thompson
275 Verbena Ln.
Brea, 92823

Ms. Tinio
Senior Planner
City of Brea, Planning Division

In reference to the 265 Specific Plan Residential Project NOP, the EIR should analyze the following:

Land use. In that the proposed project is vast, it will be easier to discuss this topic in two areas; The portion currently on unincorporated land (OC Part) and the part in Brea city (Brea Part). The Brea Part will be addressed first.

The Brea Part is currently zoned HR for single family dwelling use and not medium or high density residential use. Applicant proposes to develop in the Brea Part medium and high density residential units with high density residential as dense as up to 24.99 dwelling units per acre. To the west of the Brea Part is the mixed use La Floresta complex that includes a mix of uses and densities including high density residential units near the intersection of the Imperial Highway and Valencia. The Applicant proposes to develop high density residential units at the southern end of the Brea Part which is in an area surrounded by single family residences.

While the adjacent La Floresta development establishes a precedent for mixed residential densities including high density residential units in the wider general location of Applicant's development, the Applicant's proposal for its high density residential units is not similarly situated as the Applicant's proposed site of the Brea Part for high density residential units would be next to mostly all existing single family dwellings and parklands rather than medium density residential and retail units. The question of whether the zoning of the Brea Part should be changed or varied to include high density residential use should be analyzed in the context that it would be contrary to the existing General Plan and not in conformance with the well-established neighborhood consisting of single family dwellings and parklands.

As to the OC Part, the question is whether Brea should incorporate the OC Part which would be logical from the viewpoint of the Applicant and maybe Brea, so the entire proposed project would be fully integrated under one jurisdiction with respect to its development. However, before that decision should be made, the threshold question is whether that part should even be developed before determining whether it should be annexed. There are also various other critical considerations besides land use that require analysis before that question can be answered, but for this NOP the focus will be on land use, and in particular the OC Part that is west of Valencia to be referred to as OC Part West, where Applicant proposes to develop medium and high density residential units. The zoning in Brea nearest this OC Part West currently has no high density residential units and is not zoned for such use, and the nearest zoned areas are the ORSP or Olinda Ranch Specific Plan with all single family dwellings directly to the east, THSP or Tonner Hills Specific Plan to the northwest which includes medium and low density residential units and R-1 (Eagle Hills) single family units to the west. The question is why should this OC Part West be zoned for high density residential use when all other adjacent areas are established as either low or medium density residential use, and so will Applicant's proposed development to the east of Valencia which is proposed to also be low density residential. There is no indication of how high the high density residential unit buildings will be, but based on the

proposed number of units and area described, it is estimated that the buildings will be at least three stories which would be higher than any of the residential units in the adjacent areas.

It is not known whether the Applicant applied for a density bonus under the various California new affordable housing laws enacted since 2017, but it is unconceivable that Applicant would qualify for a density bonus that would essentially convert current zoning from single family residential use to high density residential use. As such, it is even more important that the Applicant be able to justify its proposed project.

Air quality. In particular, the high density residential structures will result in additional burden to air quality compared its current zoning where applicably zoned with its carbon and nitrogen footprint from car trips generated by residents and workers at the proposed project and the use of carbon fuels for heating water and likely living spaces. Though state mandated solar energy usage for the proposed project will reduce this impact, the net impact still must be determined using reasonable assumptions. While the NOP does not specify the number of parking spaces for the proposed project with respect to the high density residential units, there should be a reasonable estimate of the average of number of cars per unit which may be parked on or offsite.

Population and housing. The proposed project will add a proposed 1,100 new housing units and a related number of residents to the site. Assuming the average household in Orange County has 3.0 people per household, this proposed project would add an additional 3,300 people to the population in Brea. Why should the General Plan be amended or varied to allow such high density residential development when it would be inconsistent with established medium and low density residential use? While Brea is in need of more housing, the question is what is the impact to the environment due to this increase in residential units and people living therein, especially when the current General Plan specifies a lower density residential use for the land in the Brea Part.

Noise. The proposed project will likely generate 5,000 or more motorized vehicle trips per day generating significant additional noise that would affect the fauna in nearby parks and uninhabited areas. In addition, there will be residents who have non-standard mufflers on cars, trucks and motorcycles that will create additional noise above what factory made vehicles would emit. The additional noise in decibels throughout the day should be determined along with its effect on humans and nearby resident fauna.

Public Services. To what extent will the proposed project have on the need for additional public services, the cost of such services, and how those services will be paid for not only in terms of upfront development fees but also long term estimated costs needed to provide future services to the extent not covered by upfront development fees or direct payment through specific funds for such services such as from a CFD for the proposed project?

The proposed project will generate significant runoff of rainwater into storm drains as open land is being replaced by hard surfaces and less permeable surfaces, so the extent of additional storm drains needed and upgrade of arterial storm drains must be determined. While the Applicant indicates that there will be catchment basins related to the project, the sufficiency of such basins needs to be determined in light of the increasing extreme weather events such as the “Pineapple

Express" which is becoming less rare due to climate change. There is a concern that existing FEMA flood maps are outdated for lack of consideration of climate change. The same needs to be determined for waste water as well as infrastructure for utilities supplied by the city, road and related lighting maintenance.

The additional police, fire, paramedic, traffic and maintenance services required will need to be determined based on the estimated number of additional residents and units. In particular, it is expected that traffic along Lambert and Valencia will be much heavier and may require more dedicated police services to ensure smooth traffic flow despite the recent widening of that intersection to accommodate increased traffic volume and flow.

The geography of Brea is such that a long range of hills (Puente and Chino) along its northern border. There are only a few north to south highways that go through these hills, namely Brea Canyon Road, the 57, and Carbon Canyon Road. Due to the differential in (1) wages and (2) market value per square foot of residential housing between the Inland Empire and Orange County, many worker-commuters travel southbound in the morning to work and northbound to go home in the evening during rush hour, with many using Carbon Canyon Road which goes directly through the proposed project, in particular the intersection at Carbon Canyon Road (Valencia) and Lambert. While some may argue that many of those worker-commuters may move to the proposed project to shorten their drive, this will be unlikely unless they can afford Brea housing costs and want to pay that price, thus it is more likely there will not be very many of those that will move to the proposed project.

The additional students including special needs students that will result from the proposed project also needs to be determined along with its effect on the existing enrollment and number of campuses. In particular, Brea has only one middle and high school and while the number of additional students may possibly be accommodated in the existing schools, there needs to be a focus on the impact of additional traffic that will be generated on Lambert Road during the school start times. There is already near gridlock conditions at the Lambert and State College intersection at school start times, and with Hines and Central developments operational in the near future, the further impact of the proposed project will need to be determined as to whether it will be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back causing total gridlock to exist at key intersections in Brea along Lambert Road, State College and Birch. As to elementary school capacity, it is likely that current declining enrollment will result in students from the proposed project being assigned to existing schools besides Olinda Elementary, in which case would cause more traffic at school start and end times.

It should be mentioned that as part of the Hines project, smart signals will be installed to alleviate and mitigate traffic congestion, but it is my opinion that smart signals will have little effect in Brea during heavy traffic times. This is because (i) the aforementioned key intersections will have so much traffic in all directions that little if any efficiency will be gained by timing differentials in the order and duration of the different signal lights and arrows, especially when (ii) those same intersections are so close to the 57, Imperial Highway and other state controlled intersections where Brea has no jurisdiction to control because traffic flow on state routes is takes precedent over traffic flow on city roads. Gridlock will have a serious and

possibly lethal consequence for residents of Brea that will need emergency medical services and are unable to receive those services in a timely manner.

Special mention needs to be made of the additional risk created by high density residential units with respect to fire. In 2008, during a Santa Ana wind event, a couple of hours after the start of the Freeway Complex, a fire started allegedly by malfunctioning electrical equipment in the area very close to the proposed project merged with the Freeway Complex Fire that destroyed over 200 homes including homes nearby in Carbon Canyon and Yorba Linda. Fierce winds drove the fire west, all the way to the 57 and across it before airdrops by the OFCA and ground efforts by BFD were able to stop its westward spread to dense housing. The proposed project located at the base of the Carbon Canyon is susceptible to windy conditions and heightened fire danger. With high density residential units proposed for the area, even assuming the zoning would allow for such, unless special safeguards are to built into these structures such as wide greenbelts, plaster boxed eaves, tiled roofs, etc., then these housing units will be like matchboxes that would be a threat to the entire Brea community.

Transportation and circulation. There is no efficient mass transit in Brea or Orange County, meaning transportation by car is still the primary means of traveling to work and school, unless work or school is within walking distance of the proposed project. Traffic in Brea is heavy during the rush hours, and the proposed project may add a significant amount of traffic, especially on Valencia and Lambert. These concerns have been also addressed at length in the earlier topics. So the impact of the proposed project on circulation should also be evaluated as to whether the additional volume of traffic will surpass the maximum volumes of existing roads for efficient traffic flow at or near the existing speed limits, and it should also be evaluated the estimated average time during rush hour it will take to reach the 57 from the proposed project. It should also be estimated, the time cars will have to wait to enter the 57 southbound in the morning due to the signals at the on-ramps. It would be very sad, if that on ramp will become like on ramps in other areas like Corona where the wait during morning rush hour averages 10-15 minutes or more. Finally, the impact on other Brea residents due to the added traffic burden to Lambert, Kramer and Birch should be determined by estimating future traffic counts at different key intersections in Brea.

Conclusion. As a longtime resident of Brea, it has been difficult to acknowledge the adverse changes that resulted from growth in Brea, but growth and change are inevitable. Brea has adopted a General Plan providing for controlled growth in Brea that is and has been in the best interests of all stakeholders, and there is no reason to change that now.

Tom Kwan
Brea

From:	dale knudtson
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Brea 265 - "comment card"
Date:	Friday, January 18, 2019 11:13:48 AM

I wanted to give you my concerns, which I am confident are shared by residents in my neighborhood, as you accumulate information for the EIR report for the Brea 265 project. I live in the Eagle Hills neighborhood. This neighborhood is already negatively impacted by the adjoining elementary school by families utilizing our neighborhood as a “parking lot” and “drop off point” for their kids. Rather than navigating the traffic at the school itself or affording themselves the many parking spaces available at Brea Sports Park, many take the “closer / less congested option” and impact our neighborhood. Every morning and afternoon, Flower Hill street is overrun with cars and with people crossing the street mid block at their convenience – in addition, often parents choose to gather on the sidewalk in front of houses to “chit chat”, so not only is our neighborhood a “parking lot” and a “drop off point”, but you can add “meeting place” to the unintended consequences to the homeowners when the school was approved.

The Eagle Hills neighborhood is also used a “short cut” from the congestion of surrounding streets (Valencia, Santa Fe, Lambert, Birch) – off of Lambert, cars turn onto Starflower and speed through the neighborhood on Flower Hill to the intersection at Birch. From Birch (or after dropping off kids at "the eagle”), cars speed through the neighborhood on Flower Hill to Lambert in order to get to the arterial street to the 57 Fwy (rather than continuing on Birch to Kraemer and then to Lambert, thereby keeping traffic out of the residential area). Even the school bus utilizes this route as a short cut to the school each day. I doubt that when this neighborhood was developed there was the intention that Flower Hill was to be a traffic bearing street to this extent, but with surrounding development and no mitigating requirements that is what it has become.

Brea 265 now proposes to add 1100 more units (with accompanying thousands of people and cars) to the immediately surrounding area without any new streets to handle the increased travel to the already overly congested roads (Valencia, Santa Fe, Lambert, Birch). I submit that any approval of this magnitude has to also include a condition for mitigating traffic to the surrounding area. Some possible suggestions include: prohibiting left turns at Starflower from Westbound Lambert during particular times of the day (prohibiting extra traffic in the neighborhood); right turn only at Lambert from Northbound Starflower (residents can still access Lambert by exiting the neighborhood on Birch, travelling to Kraemer, turning North to Lambert) - eliminates using the neighborhood as "short cut" to get to a main street to the freeway after "school drop offs"); require “school drop offs” at the school or utilize the Brea Sports Park for parking (this could be reinforced by instituting resident permit parking only on Flower Hill and/or “no stopping signs” for the first several hundred feet on Flower Hill) – all of the preceding options would require police enforcement at the two critical times of day to “get the message out”; speed bumps on Flower Hill to reduce vehicle speed; a stop light at Flower Hill (twice a day it is very difficult to get out of the neighborhood due to the increased school traffic) – if Brea 265 is approved, the

amount of traffic will increase where the difficulty to exit might exist all day rather than only twice a day). It may obviously take more than one of these solutions/suggestions to resolve some of the problems given here. And some of these mitigation measures are needed *whether the Brea 265 project goes forward or not*. These concerns are specifically for the Eagle Hills neighborhood – I am certain there are similar types of concerns in other surrounding neighborhoods that are impacted by current traffic issues on the surrounding streets that will only be exacerbated by the Brea 265 project without appropriate mitigation traffic measures.

Currently Eagle Hills is one of Brea's biggest "bragging rights" with the annual Christmas light displays in this neighborhood. The neighborhood participates even though individual households have to endure the expense of landscape damage, broken sprinklers, trash, added utility cost, restricted access to the neighborhood and our homes. With the school & the annual light display viewings, this neighborhood already shoulders a disproportionate share of traffic issues, probably more than any other neighborhood in the city. Please give traffic mitigation a priority in any discussion pertaining to this project. I also request that these issues outlined above be reviewed for remediation regardless of what transpires with the Brea 265 project.

Dale Knudtson

From:	Nancy Stevens
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	: Brea 265 response
Date:	Sunday, January 20, 2019 12:14:23 PM

Re: Response to proposed EIR for Brea 265
From: Nancy Stevens, 3620 Rose Dr. Yorba Linda, CA 92886, ylns5281@aol.com
land line 714-528-9272

My personal introduction: I have lived in the same house since May 1972 on Rose Dr., S of Blake on E side of street.
I am not so naïve as to not expect some changes in all these years, however I do believe I am capable of offering some valuable information about this area. I offer my observations to this proposed project in Brea.

FIRE---The proposed information lies in a very high fire area. Over the many years I have lived here we have been threatened many times by fires . I have had mandatory evacuation situations as well as voluntary. There have been MANY fires in this immediate area as proposed. On that alone---------building in the proposed area should be limited dramatically.in interest of existing residents as well as future residents..

FALSEHOODS---over these many years, and by a huge variety of sources, longtime residents have been told information that seems to be untrue. I do not like to point fingers, nor do I like to use the word LIES, however, over time I have a multitude of reason to believe this as I have observed.

FLOOD---Repeatedly over these years we all have been told by the Army Engineers responsible for Carbon Canyon Dam that nothing could be built, for reference purposes, where the strawberry field currently exists, yet It appears that the proposed plan calls for HIGH DENSITY development. Would seem that 'someone has been led down the primrose path.'

STREET DESIGNATION---For many years residents have been told that Rose Drive was a SECONDARY ARTERIAL HIGHWAY and then, out of the blue, we were told it was designated as a PRIMARY ARTERIAL HIGHWAY. When you are dealing with increasingly UNSAFE situations on Rose Drive negatively affecting the residential areas-------this becomes a really BIG DEAL as with the primary designation there are many restrictions to deal with, further complicated by being influenced by several jurisdictions---------Brea, Placentia, Yorba Linda and county. I honestly do not know when the designation changed. Who lied?
.

OIL FIELDS---part of this proposed project involves a still producing oil field. What I know from following other proposed developments in Yorba Linda these functioning oil wells require a huge amount of consideration to reduce negative impacts on

environment as well as humans. Therefore, I believe that a goodly portion of proposed project would need to be reduced to accommodate safety for all.

EXISTING NEIGHBORS---much of this proposal is not compatible with residences that are zoned for horses, both in Yorba Linda and some in Placentia.

ACCESS TO CARBON CANYON----there has been access to Carbon Canyon Park from Rose Drive for many------cyclists, joggers, walkers, equestrians. This proposed project should include continued access.

RESPONSIBILTY FOR TRAFFIC IMPACTS---for a very long time and because several jurisdictions are involved it is very important that a great deal of consideration is given to the dangers created by any increase in traffic on Rose Drive. Brea needs to step up to the plate and make some effort to divert Brea traffic onto Valencia which is capable of handling the traffic. This is called cooperation with ALL jurisdictions.

NATURE-- this proposed development location would have a negative impact on a huge amount of wildlife that exists in Carbon Canyon Park and Chino Hills State Park. Much of this wildlife filters into the existing nearby neighborhoods. Limits need to be made to accommodate both wildlife and the humans who are invading their space. As we invade the space of the wildlife with more housing we are generating bigger problems for existing residents. There are rules/;laws that we have to follow. From my experience vector and animal control offer residents very little help. It becomes our responsibility to deal with the creatures coming into our area--------I must tell you, it is expensive to rid one's property of invading creatures. Every year I spend a lot of my budget managing this problem. I will not go into further detail--------I support the philosophy of HILLS FOR EVERYONE. I urge you to consider this.

I am willing to accept change----------IF it is well thought out and that ALL nearby residents are considered and that our quality life is preserved. I love this area-------PLEASE CONSIDER MY QUALITY OF LIFE AND THAT OF MY NEIGHBORS.

Thanking you in advance for allowing me to contribute my thoughts. I would appreciate verification that this information was received by the right person.

Nancy Stevens

From:	Deanna Kuper
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Written Comments for Brea 265 Specific Plan
Date:	Monday, January 21, 2019 4:12:55 PM
Attachments:	Brea 265 Comment.docx

Dear Maribeth,

Thank you very much for answering my earlier questions regarding the Brea 265 Project. I would also like to thank you for the informed individuals who assisted at the scoping meeting. I have attached my written comments that I would like included in the preparation of the EIR. Please respond to this email to let me know that you have received my comments for inclusion in the report.

Thank you,

Deanna Kuper
3516 Rose Dr.
Yorba Linda CA 92886

(714) 983-7196

Written Comments on Brea 265 Specific Plan

Submitted to Maribeth Trinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea

Submitted by: Deanna M. Kuper
3516 Rose Dr.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Date: January 21, 2019

Please submit my comments as written in their entirety for review and analysis for the EIR for the Brea 265 Specific Plan.

Introduction:

I am a resident of Yorba Linda. My address of 3516 Rose Dr. Yorba Linda is property that runs along Blake Rd, which will be directly impacted by the Brea 265 Specific Plan. Areas PA1 and PA2 will have a direct and significant impact on my and my neighbors properties and quality of life.

A. General Comments

1. Although the project is in only the NOP phase, I am deeply concerned that guidelines are not being followed regarding notification of the project. Our residence lays within the 300 ft contiguous to the project site, yet no notification was mailed. Additionally, there has been no posting on or off site for the proposed area near our residence. Both of these are requirements of CEQA, and although the official EIR has not been filed, I find it troubling that we were only made aware of the project when the OC Register was flying a drone over the area—this was weeks after the NOP was opened.

2. I am unclear about how the City of Brea has gained a "Sphere of Influence", and has decision-making powers for "Unincorporated Orange County" areas laying within the proposed Brea 265 Plan, as well as how zoning changes were made from Agricultural to Hillside Residential and Low and High Density Residential by Brea's General Plan—without notification to residents or neighboring cities. Our home, as well as our neighbors' homes are zoned for horses and livestock. We have horses, goats, chickens, and other animals that would seem to be at odds with High Density Residences in our vicinity. Also, the area nearest to the Carbon Canyon Dam currently serves as a water retention basin. Although the Brea 265 Plan shows PA2 as having a water retention basin, I am unclear how the area can serve as both a water retention basin and a "High Density Residence" area. Additionally, Carbon Canyon Creek currently runs through PA2. This creek seems to have disappeared from the map as it is no longer indicated on the Brea 265 Project map.

3. As Brea (and neighboring Placentia and Yorba Linda) have continued to develop and grow economically, they have not made any effort to improve the deteriorating conditions to our neighborhood due to this continued development. The conditions of most concern are: increased and continuous traffic, loss of accessible passage in and out of our residences by vehicles; **loss of safe passage** of pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists from our residences to urban and open spaces; and the loss of critical habitat for native California species.

B. Traffic Concerns on Rose Dr., specifically between Imperial Hwy and Valencia.

1. Traffic along Rose Dr. has increased dramatically over the last several years. The Imperial to Rose to Birch (and Birch to Rose to Imperial) route has become the commuters choice—it not only allows bypassing of the main section of Imperial, it is the primary route for commuters going to Carbon Canyon Rd, Lambert, and to access freeways. This same route has become the "short cut" for weekday and weekend drivers to reach the Brea Mall and Downtown Brea. The volume of traffic has increased to the point that there is rarely a break in the flow of traffic. The speed of cars continues to exceed posted limits. Many cars pass over the center divider line as they take the curve near Blake Rd., and many cars drift into the narrow bike lane as they pass the curve. As a resident I find it is extremely difficult to exit or enter our property. Cars do not stop to allow us to exit. Returning from work I have waited 15 minutes for traffic to slow (usually only because the Vesuvius light has changed) allowing me to access my property. There is extremely limited parking in our area. Residents currently must park along Rose Dr. and along Blake Rd. Entering and exiting our cars is difficult and dangerous. The attempt to divert La Floresta Project traffic from Rose Dr. was not successful. The addition of the Brea 265 Plan will put even more pressure on an already overused road. The placement of high density housing at the Rose Dr./Blake Rd. intersection places an extreme demand on the area that is already most impacted by traffic. Additionally, our proximity to Carbon Canyon and Chino Hills State Park places us near a high fire risk area. More housing with no additional roads out of the area is irresponsible.

C. Loss of Safe Passage for Pedestrians, Equestrians, and Bicyclists

1. Despite the significant and dangerous traffic, Rose Dr. is still used by pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle traffic. It is a primary point of entrance for Carbon Canyon, and therefore walkers, runners, and hikers continue to use the road. **For local residents, it is the only available walking option out of the neighborhood.** Dogs and children are kept close as cars speed past exceeding 50 mph. Our neighborhood continues to be zoned for horses. Again, the only option for equestrians out of the neighborhood is along Rose Dr. Although equestrians and hikers had access to Carbon Canyon and open space for decades via the trails in fields along Rose Dr., Aera Energy recently blocked all access to these trails, without notice or community input. At this time, equestrians from the local neighborhood, as well as those riding in from other equestrian neighborhoods in Yorba Linda and Brea must take horses onto the street alongside the fast-moving traffic. No past development of Brea, or neighboring communities has taken the equestrian issue into consideration in their planned development. **The Brea 265 Specific Plans must address this specific, important, and necessary component**. Equestrians must continue to have access to trails that lead into Carbon Canyon, into Chino Hills State Park, and into the connecting trails of Yorba Linda.

D. Loss of Critical Habitat, Agricultural Land, and Cultural Resources

1. The most significant threat to species globally is the loss of habitat. The continued encroachment of development on open spaces is causing species to become endangered, and extinct, at an alarming rate. The areas proposed for development in the Brea 265 Specific Plan currently provide habitat, breeding areas, and wildlife corridors critical for many species. Along with coyotes, raccoons, possums, skunks, and rattlesnakes, a small sample of the additional species that I have personally observed in the proposed project area includes: Barn Owls, Great Horned Owls, Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, California Quail, Roadrunners, Juncos, Gnatcatchers, Cactus Wren, California Kingsnake, California Ringneck snake, Garter Snakes, Gopher Snakes, California toads, Western Fence Lizards, Monarch Butterflies, Swallowtail Butterflies, bats, and bees, as well as migrating birds and butterflies. The habitat in the proposed area is also critical to local bee operations. Decreasing bee populations are significant not to just honey, beeswax, and pollen industries, but sustaining bee populations is critical to the pollination of a significant percentage of our food crop, and critical to the pollination of indigenous plants needed to sustain plant and wildlife populations. **Significant is the fact that migrating birds (I believe in the Sandpiper family, possibly Long-billed Curlews) use PA1 as a stopover site during their migration. These birds are present for a few weeks every year. Any development in this area would permanently destroy the habitat used by these birds.**

2. Another impact to the environment caused by the Brea 265 Project is the loss of agricultural land. A significant part of the proposed project impacts land currently zoned and used as agriculture. Both Peltzer Pines Christmas Tree Farm and Manassero Farms have agricultural investments in the proposed project area. The loss of this land for this use will continue to push the production of food and products further from population hubs. The loss of access to some of the locally grown food and trees will force people to drive further for these resources, or cause the producers to transport these resources further distances, thus increasing the use of fossil fuel, and further contributing to issues such as global warming.

3. The Peltzer Pines Christmas Tree Farm has operated in Brea for decades. It is a cultural resource that serves not only the local community, but provides trees for people around Southern California. **The loss of this resource would be a tremendous cultural loss for the community**.

4. The residents of our local area chose our homes because they met specific requirements. In addition to the access to hiking and equestrian trails, and proximity to open space, Carbon Canyon Regional Park, and Chino Hills State Park, **our homes were selected for the aesthetics the area offered**. Brea 265 as proposed will permanently end our proximity to agriculture and open space, and will transform our view of agriculture and open space to one of houses, and most probably to a wall. This will not only negatively impact our property values, it will negatively affect our emotional, mental, and physical well-being.

From:	Emily Chen
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Brea 265 Specific Plan - NOP of DEIR - Comment Letter
Date:	Monday, January 21, 2019 3:01:14 PM
Attachments:	1.21.19 Brea 265 Specific Plan NOP of DEIR.pdf

Hi Ms. Maribeth Tinio,

Thank you for providing the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) with the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Brea 265 Specific Plan.

Attached is OCTA's comment letter. A hard copy is also being sent by post.

Thank you!

Emily Chen
Planning Intern
Orange County Transportation Authority
(714) 560-5912

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

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T: (415) 552-7272 F: (415) 552-5816
www.smwlaw.com

GABRIEL M.B. ROSS
Attorney
Ross@smwlaw.com

January 23, 2019

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Maribeth Tinio
Senior Planner, City of Brea
Planning Division, Level 3
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821
E-Mail: maribethT@cityofbrea.net

Re: Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Scoping Meeting for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Ms. Tinio:

On behalf of Hills For Everyone, thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for the Brea 265 Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report. Hills For Everyone is a non-profit organization that works to protect, preserve, and restore the environmental resources and natural environs of the Puente-Chino Hills and surrounding areas for the enjoyment of current and succeeding generations. The organization has been working in the region since 1978, and was instrumental in the creation and expansion of Chino Hills State Park.

As proposed, the Brea 265 Specific Plan ("Project") would provide 1,100 residential units on a 260-acre site currently used for oil production and agriculture. Thirty percent of the acreage would be covered by low-density residential development, 11 percent by medium-density, and 21 percent by high-density. Twenty-eight percent of the acreage would be earmarked for parks and open space and 10 percent for roadways. The Project also includes the remediation of all oil wells and facilities.

While much of the site is currently occupied by oil operations, it is also home to the Peltzer Pines Christmas Tree Farm and the Manaserro Farms and Farm Stand—two locally-beloved businesses. Additionally, Carbon Canyon Regional Park borders the site to the east and connects via trail to Chino Hills State Park. The proposed Project will create a new trail network connected to this regional system. To ensure that

the Project is sized properly and becomes the development that Brea needs, the City must thoroughly assess and mitigate the Project's significant impacts.

The recently released NOP is required to provide adequate and reliable information regarding the nature of the proposed Project and its probable environmental impacts, in order to "solicit guidance from public agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR." California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines § 15375; *see also* CEQA Guidelines § 15082(a)(1).

The CEQA Guidelines specify that an NOP shall include a description of the probable environmental effects of the Project so that reviewers can provide a meaningful response. CEQA Guidelines § 15082. By providing only a list of the issue areas that will be analyzed in the EIR, this NOP fails to meet CEQA's mandate. No assessment of probable environmental effects is provided. Moreover, we understand that the City was unable to provide relevant information during the scoping meeting on January 16, 2019. The public has thus been unable to consider the required scope of environmental review for the Specific Plan or to provide complete comments.

These failures are problematic given the broad scope of likely environmental effects associated with the proposed Brea 265 Specific Plan. Hills For Everyone details its specific concerns below and expects to be actively involved in the planning and environmental review of the Brea 265 Specific Plan.

I. Probable Environmental Impacts

As noted above, rather than providing a description of probable environmental effects of the Project, the NOP simply lists each of CEQA's issue areas contained in Appendices F and G of the CEQA Guidelines. Based on the limited project description, Hills For Everyone believes the impacts to the areas below will likely be significant.

A. Recreation

A potentially significant recreation impact occurs when a project would "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." CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G § XV. Hills For Everyone is concerned that such an impact will occur here.

The Project proposes to link its neighborhoods together through "an extensive trail network" connected to the regional trail system. Volunteer trails from

Carbon Canyon Regional Park already extend into the Project site. On the other side of the regional park, these trails directly connect to the trail system within Chino Hills State Park. The Project will introduce thousands of new residents to the area and offer convenient access to both parks. New residents will take advantage of the trail connections and explore both the regional park and the state park. This increase in use will overburden the already burdened parks and accelerate their deterioration. Therefore, the EIR must examine this impact and propose and adopt mitigation.

Hills For Everyone encourages the use of these beautiful public spaces for all users, but stresses that they must be kept in good condition, which includes preserving the natural resources the State Park is tasked with protecting. The Project's new residents will make such protective maintenance significantly more difficult and expensive.

As it develops mitigation for the recreation impacts, the City must consider the funding and staffing situation at Chino Hills State Park. Only two rangers are currently staffed to protect over 14,000 acres and they are also responsible for managing Citrus State Historic Park thirty-one miles to the east. This is barely sufficient to care for the park now; with the increased use from the Project, it will be plainly insufficient.

Given the staffing and funding issues, Hills For Everyone therefore proposes that the Project should include mitigation fees earmarked specifically for Chino Hills State Park. These fees would prevent deterioration of the park from increased use by providing funding for maintenance and improvements. They could also be used to increase park staffing and provide education about and enforcement of park regulations. The state park land immediately adjacent to the county park is also part of a Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP") developed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Shell Western E&P Inc., which requires an even higher level of care.[1] The HCP was created to protect and restore coastal sage scrub habitat used by the California gnatcatcher.[2]

B. Biological Resources: Coastal California Gnatcatcher

The coastal California gnatcatcher is a federally-listed threatened species and a California-listed species of special concern.[3] Its coastal sage scrub habitat once

[1] Chino Hills State Park General Plan at 39, included as Attachment 1.
[2] *Id.*
[3] Patrick Mock, California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) (2004), *in* The Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan: a strategy for protecting and managing

stretched from Ventura County to Northern Baja California but now lies fragmented around suburbs, cities, and freeways.[4] The Puente-Chino Hills remains a core population area.[5] And part of the site itself is potentially critical habitat for the gnatcatcher.[6] Gnatcatchers have been sighted near the Project site by community members. The Project site may be used during the breeding season for nesting pairs, or it may be used during the off-season because habitats during the post-breeding-season dispersal are highly variable.[7] Therefore, the EIR must include both a breeding-season survey and an off-season survey. Surveys are required to check both for the birds and for their potential habitat, and mitigation will be required if the site contains either.

Given that biologists recognize the Puente-Chino Hills as a core population area, critical habitat, and prime habitat for the gnatcatcher, mitigation should be tailored toward permanent protection of habitat in the Project vicinity. The development proponent owns several inholdings within and adjacent to Chino Hills State Park. These parcels are likely suitable habitat for the gnatcatcher, and mitigation for impacts at the Project site to the gnatcatcher or its habitat could include the transfer of these inholdings to the state park.

C. Wildfire

The majority of wildfires in California are started by human activity. Consequently, the EIR must thoroughly assess the increased wildfire risk associated with bringing more visitors, equipment, motor vehicles, utility facilities, and machinery into this area. The property is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity zone, according to CalFire.[8] The Project will increase the size of the area's wildland-urban interface, and the EIR must evaluate the impacts of increased risk of fire to the surrounding environment, including the adjacent parks, to local and state fire and emergency service providers, and to the current and future residents of the region.

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coastal scrub and chaparral habitats and associated birds in California, California Partners in Flight, http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/species/scrub/california_gnatcatcher.html, included as Attachment 2.

[4] Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Center for Biological Diversity, https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/coastal_California_gnatcatcher/index.html, included as Attachment 3.

[5] Patrick Mock, California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*).

[6] *See* Critical Habitat Map excerpted from 72 Fed. Reg. 72182, included as Attachment 4.

[7] Patrick Mock, California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*).

[8] *See* Orange County Fire Hazard Severity Zone map, included as Attachment 5.

D. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Under CEQA, an impact is potentially significant if the project would create a significant hazard to the public or environment through the transport or disposal of hazardous materials. CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G § VIII. The Project will include the remediation of 190 wells and associated production facilities, and will necessarily involve the transport and disposal of the hazardous byproducts and/or contaminated soil. The EIR must evaluate and mitigate the impacts of this hazard to the environment and to the current and future residents of the region.

E. Agriculture

Conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use creates a significant impact. CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G § II. According to the Orange County Important Farmland 2016 map, prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, the Project site contains Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Grazing Land.[9] The conversion of this resource to a residential development will be a significant impact that must be disclosed, analyzed, and mitigated in the EIR. Importantly, the converted farmland would include Peltzer Pines Christmas Tree Farm and the Manaserro Farms and Farm Stand. These local business are important to the community and are a surviving piece of Orange County's once-widespread agricultural economy. The developer should be encouraged to maintain them onsite, perhaps by increasing density elsewhere thus making room for legacy agricultural operations.

F. Cumulative Impacts

The NOP fails to indicate that it will consider the cumulative impacts of the Project. CEQA Guidelines section 15130 requires that an EIR "discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable." The City must examine the impacts of this project in combination with other projects causing related impacts.

[9] *See* Orange County Important Farmland 2016 map, included as Attachment 6 (this is the most recent year for which this data is available).

II. Project Alternatives

The City's evaluation of alternatives to the Project will be a critically important exercise. An EIR must describe a range of alternatives to a proposed project, and to its location, that would feasibly attain a project's basic objectives while avoiding or substantially lessening a project's significant impacts. Pub. Res. Code § 21100(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines § 15126.6(a). A proper analysis of alternatives is essential for the City to comply with CEQA's mandate that significant environmental damage be avoided or substantially lessened where feasible. Pub. Res. Code § 21002; CEQA Guidelines §§ 15002(a)(3), 15021(a)(2), 15126.6(a); *Citizens for Quality Growth v. City of Mount Shasta*, 198 Cal. App. 3d 433, 443–45 (1988). As the California Supreme Court explained in *Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of University of California*, "[w]ithout meaningful analysis of alternatives in the EIR, neither the courts nor the public can fulfill their proper roles in the CEQA process. . . . [Courts will not] countenance a result that would require blind trust by the public, especially in light of CEQA's fundamental goal that the public be fully informed as to the consequences of action by their public officials." (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376, 404.

Unfortunately, the NOP fails to define the specific objectives for the proposed Project. Without a thorough understanding of the proposed Project's purpose, it is all but impossible for the City to identify and evaluate reasonable and feasible Project alternatives. Nor is it possible, in the absence of clearly defined Project objectives, for members of the public or public agencies to identify or provide meaningful input on alternatives or the scope of the EIR. The City must clearly articulate the Project objectives, in order to systematically identify and analyze the significant effects of the proposed Project and the feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that will avoid or substantially lessen such significant effects. These objectives should include the preservation of open space onsite and maintaining legacy agriculture.

The City's NOP does not identify a single alternative to the proposed Project. It simply explains that CEQA requires a description of reasonable alternatives to the Project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives but would lessen the Project's significant impacts. The City must ensure that the EIR includes a robust discussion of additional alternatives that would lessen the significant impacts of the Project.

In developing project alternatives, the City should consider an alternative with fewer acres devoted to low-density residential housing. The area taken out of housing could be used for larger tracts of open space, especially in the hillier, north-eastern portion of the site adjacent to Carbon Canyon Regional Park, for agriculture, or

for a combination of the two. This analysis could evaluate various other options for meeting housing demands, looking toward higher-density housing. Such solutions must be considered as alternatives and would likely lessen the Project's impacts on recreation, biological resources, and greenhouse gas emissions.

III. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Brea 265 Specific Plan NOP. We have submitted this letter and the attachments via email. For convenience, a hard copy of the letter and a thumb drive with the attachments is following via U.S. Mail. We request that this firm and Hills For Everyone receive a copy of the DEIR when it is released. We also request that the City keep us informed of all contracts, notices, hearings, staff reports, briefings, meetings, and any other events related to the Project.

Sincerely,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

Gabriel M.B. Ross
Caitlin F. Brown

cc: Claire Schlotterbeck, Hills For Everyone

Attachments
Attachment 1: Chino Hills State Park General Plan
Attachment 2: California Gnatcatcher, California Partners in Flight Coastal Scrub and Chaparral Bird Conservation Plan
Attachment 3: Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Center for Biological Diversity
Attachment 4: Critical Habitat Map excerpted from 72 Fed. Reg. 72182
Attachment 5: Orange County Fire Hazard Severity Zone
Attachment 6: Orange County Important Farmland 2016

1079282.11

From:	Toneman1@gmail.com
To:	Tinio, Maribeth
Subject:	Question on Brea 265 Specific Plan
Date:	Tuesday, January 22, 2019 7:58:38 PM

Dear Maribeth,

Two questions:

1) I'm curious as to how this fairly substantial development will affect traffic on Lambert.
It's already quite annoying trying to make it through the Lambert/57 interchange. For several hours each morning and from 3-6pm each day, that area is best avoided.

2) High density, low density etc are a bit ambiguous terms. Can anyone give an estimated price range of the structures that are planned? Are these residential homes, apartments, townhouses, condos, what?

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anthony A. Kerhin
1135 Orangewood Drive
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

I would like to see an amphitheater, a community garden (or several) and a farmer's market. Firepits, barbeques and parks with swings and shade over the play areas. Also a roof top deck area, a bocce ball court, and other community recreational spaces. Especially more flexibility with the Community clubhouses, supported by HOA's and

Name: Ann Smith

Address: 44 Mallorca Ln, Brea, CA. 92823

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

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JAN 2 3 2019
BY: CH

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

Thank you!

often limited in their use due to high fees. Maybe a theater room where residents could show movies for a group of friends, no alcohol, and little fee or something where there is a space residents can use for gatherings without the high costs, let's have it user friendly and user affordable! A gathering place for residents. Landscape with primarily CA/natives, minimal sod. Walkability!! Elevators as an option! What is school availability, what will be the impact? Is fire planning happening considering the canyon in particular? Are there homeless people camped out in the area, will they likely come down what might be done? Make it a showpiece!! Design is #1!!

Also a problem we've had at La Floresta is package theft. Maybe by the time Brea 265 is built everyone will be happy to let delivery people inside their homes, though if not, maybe there is a solution you can offer your residents.

The other thing: more guest parking! We are quite limited and it's a hassle!

Fans or balconies? More fans generally!

LED in kitchens and bathrooms - we have some horrible florescent bulbs, very difficult to change.

Storage!

Little Libraries!

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

traffic is the biggest issue - Lambert, Valencia, Carl Road, Rose intersections are all overloaded - not sure how that can be mitigated.

Name: THERESA ULLRICH

Address: 1160 Buck Thorn Dr. Brea

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print): Suggestion:

Let the citizens of Brea vote on the approval of this project, it affects their daily lives

Name: Keith Fullington

Address: P. O. Box 8787
Brea 92822

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

Driveways need to be long enough to fit a car.

Preserve tree farm & strawberry farm

Name:

Address:

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

1) Horse Trail To China Hills State Park.

2) Full Size ST, Sidewalk on Rev. Side, walk, keep ST. Single Side loaded.

3) City Sewer + Storm Drain.

Name: Ross McCune

Address: 16822 Blake Rd.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

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City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

4) Access to Rev. from Rose Pl. La Floresta Rd not provide access from Rose Pl.

5) Widening of Rose Pl.

6) Consider 2ac and Horse Estates 1/3 to 1/2 Acre Property sites.

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

Too much traffic. Would like to see traffic deflected to Valencia instead of Rose Dr. Need trails to include horses. Need horse trail from Blake Rd to Carbon Canyon Park. Don't like high density in the strawberry field. Prefer horse property estates

Name: Kristy Foster

Address: 3542 Rose Dr C/C

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

Affordable housing is a serious problem in Brea. I waited 3 years to get into affordable housing while I went to grad school w/ my child. I had to live in, I'm 3 years

Name: Keri Knopke

Address: 315 N. Associated Rd #1315 Brea, CA 92821

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

My name never moved on the list. We must do better in our city.

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

Save the Strawberry Patch. Its hard to get around the traffic will continue to be an issue. Where will these kids going to school this will effect elementary, junior high & high school. Lambert is a problem now

Name: Liz Hall

Address: 147 S Star flower Brea Ca 92821

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
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1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

CARBON CANYON DAM
OBJECT TO ANY BUILDING BASE
OF DAM – FLOOD PLANE AREA

Name: GARY E. KAIN

Address: 195 BUCKTHORN DR BREA, CA 92823-7004

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

I have very large concerns about the traffic impact on Rose drive and also the crime impact from the high density housing. I can already barely get out of my driveway as it is.

Name: Nic Estanislau

Address: 2501 N Rose drive Placentia CA 92870

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
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1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

1. Please consider traffic impact on Lambert, Imperial, Rose, Santa Fe and Birch. Take into account potential MOU landfill extension and 2035 Carbon Canyon traffic growth.

2. Please consider the City of Brea purchasing some land (while available) to expand the following services: New Junior High, New Community Center (Directed For Youth), Pool, Rec hall, etc; New Library

Name: James Ribbe

Address: 3648 Mockingbird Lane Brea CA.

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

A. Please consider for the landfill MOU changing the time for trash delivery to 9am - 2pm to reduce/mitigate traffic.

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

1. Notice mailed to Residents within 300 ft / Posted notices per CEQA – Not adhered to
2. Rezoning (Agric. to Residential) – how? No public input
3. Increased traffic congestion on Rose, high volume, excessive speeds
4. No access for equestrians to Carbon Canyon and open spaces
5. Loss of local & cultural resources – Peltzer Farms, Manassero
6. EIR accounting for migratory bird species – if EIR is not open long enough to identify such species

Name: Deanna Kuper

Address: 3516 Rose Dr.
Yorba Linda CA 92886

Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

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Brea, CA 92821

COMMENT CARDS

January 16, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM – Brea 265 Specific Plan Scoping Meeting

Please let us know your comments/concerns regarding the Brea 265 Specific Plan Project EIR (please print):

I live in Olinda Village, in the canyon. I have lived there for 25 years and have watched the traffic become more and more congested. I cannot imagine how much worse it will get with this development right at the entrance to the canyon. (entrance to the bottleneck)

Name: Giulii Kraemer

Address: 190 Lilac Lane Brea

- Please return this card to Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner, City of Brea – Planning Division, at the end of the Scoping Meeting or mail to:

Place Stamp Here

City of Brea – Planning Division, Level 3
Attn: Maribeth Tinio, Senior Planner
1 Civic Center Circle
Brea, CA 92821

What plans do you have to alleviate this added traffic as a result of all these new dwellings? Currently, the traffic backs up from Kraemer on Lambert, and from Birch on Valencia. It can take 1/2 hour to get home from Lambert + 57 fwy. Are there any plans for any new roads?

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- Traffic on Lambert & Valencia & Rose – So many multiple uses on these arteries such as commuters using 142, ~~xxxxx~~ dump vehicles on Valencia, homeowners getting kids to schools on Birch & Lambert and those using the Sport Park on Birch. It is a lot of people added to an already busy area.

Name: Kelly Reed

Address: 200 Verbena Lane.

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- Safety – Oil lands safely mitigated as it relates to emissions, ground water, etc.

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