



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (“State Parks”) protects and preserves California’s most significant natural and cultural resources while delivering public spaces to bring families and friends together. California’s state parks provide a wide array of recreational opportunities for everyone’s benefit and enjoyment. State Parks’ legal mandate is articulated in its mission “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.”

With 280 state park units, over 340 miles of coastline, 970 miles of lake and river frontage, 15,000 campsites, and 4,500 miles of trails, State Parks manages the most extensive and most diverse recreational, natural, and cultural heritage holdings of any state agency in the nation. Core values at State Parks include cultural diversity, accessibility, and belief in the right of all Californians to have access to recreational opportunities and enjoy the cultural, historical, and natural resources found in our state parks. As public land managers, State Parks works with other state and federal regulatory agencies with shared goals of protecting California’s natural and cultural resources, increasing accessibility, advancing equitable access to the coast, and providing high-quality recreation for the public. State Parks must be nimble to adapt to changing environmental and recreational conditions while remaining true to its mission.

In 1982, the California Coastal Commission (“CCC”) approved a Coastal Development Permit (CDP 4-82-300) for Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (“Oceano Dunes SVRA”). The CDP has been amended several times since 1982 and set in motion a 40-year debate over access to and recreation at Oceano Dunes SVRA. State Parks is attempting to synthesize permitting and provide solutions to this 40-year challenge through the draft Public Works Plan (PWP).

State Parks and the CCC jointly agreed on the idea of a PWP as a viable option to examine future operations and management at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The PWP includes Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach, which constitute State Parks’ Oceano District (“the District”), and is a long-range land use management plan for compliance with the California Coastal Act (“Coastal Act”) that is reviewed and approved by the CCC. The PWP allows for a comprehensive permit for large or multi-phase projects and examines future operations and management decisions holistically.

During the two-year-plus PWP planning process, State Parks received significant input and engagement on a wide range of complex management issues associated with operations and potential impacts at these popular, and at times controversial, jointly managed park units. Some of these management issues were related to other regulatory mandates such as those pertaining to federal and state recognized sensitive and endangered species, and regional air quality. These non-Coastal Act issues are addressed in the PWP, including recommended management actions beyond the Coastal Act’s scope to effect comprehensive operational improvement and best management practices.

State Parks worked diligently to prepare a draft PWP that will balance these complex management issues with operational goals such as increasing equitable public access to the coast through recreational opportunities, facilities and low-cost accommodations. The draft PWP also seeks to enhance the preservation of the



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cultural and natural resources, identify compatibility and actions for Local Coastal Plan (LCP) compliance, and become the District’s long-term management plan. The CCC’s approval of the PWP will not affect any authority or vested rights afforded State Parks from statute or previous CDPs and amendments. This PWP intends to resolve outstanding and long-standing issues from CDP 4-82-300 (as amended). As directed by its mission and statute, State Parks’ draft PWP proposes a balanced solution to competing mandates in order to provide continued protection, preservation, and recreational opportunities at these parks for future generations.

## **ES.1 Summary of PWP Proposed Development Projects and Operational Changes**

The recreational patterns at the District and the way the public accesses the recreation area have remained mostly unchanged since 1982. As such, the PWP presents a unique opportunity for State Parks to make long-term infrastructure and operational changes and improvements. The PWP will guide park improvement projects and management decisions for the next 20-30 years, improving resource protection and enhancing public access to the coast. Given the long tenure of the PWP, it utilizes strategies that allow for adaptive management as geographic conditions and habitat needs change over time.

The PWP proposes a foundation for more manageable and regulated recreational experiences at Oceano Dunes SVRA. The PWP includes long-term management needs, specific improvement projects, and future development projects that will necessitate updating or replacing existing facilities and improving park operations.

### **ES.1.1 Protect and Enhance Natural Resources**

A primary goal of the PWP is to strike an acceptable balance between motorized recreation and protection of natural resources while complying with the Coastal Act. State Parks’ mission and statutory authority are to provide both high-quality recreational opportunities and resource protection. As part of this effort, State Parks is simultaneously undertaking a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) and a Biodiversity Management Plan (BDMP) in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) to analyze and address the District’s natural resource mandates and management standards.

Due to the dynamic nature of these concurrent planning and compliance documents, the PWP will not attempt to duplicate conditions, treatments, or mitigation measures. Instead, the PWP requires compliance with these plans and relies on those documents for specific recommendations, actions, and standards.

#### **ES.1.1.1 Habitat Conservation Plan**

State Parks released the draft HCP for public CEQA review in spring 2020 and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in fall 2020. Both comment periods have closed, and State Parks is in the process of evaluating and responding to comments. The HCP intends to cover federally listed species at the District, including the western snowy plover, California least tern, California red-legged frog, and tidewater goby. The four federally listed plant species include Marsh sandwort, La Graciosa thistle, Nipomo Mesa lupine, and Gambel’s watercress. Several of the covered species are also listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The primary purpose of the HCP is to ensure that



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management, maintenance, and development activities protect these threatened and endangered species consistent with the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA).

### **ES.1.1.2 Biodiversity Management Plan**

In the fall of 2020, State Parks and CDFW collaborated to develop a new Biodiversity Management Plan. The BDMP describes the unique biological diversity of the District, management goals and objectives to conserve this biodiversity, and the recommendations to achieve these goals. It also provides guidance on the process and procedures for short and long-term management actions. Planning and management will address potential impacts of park uses on vegetation and plant communities, sensitive and protected habitat areas, and wildlife species.

An example of some of the more complex issues addressed within the BDMP include:

- Arroyo Grande Creek crossing management
- Endangered shorebird nesting plans
- Assessment of nighttime vehicle activity
- Establishment of a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)

The BDMP brings together the expertise and knowledge of the two mission-based resource management agencies and natural resource management efforts at the District. BDMP recommendations include short-term actions and long-term management efforts, including regular agency consultation and collaboration, scientific studies, restoration projects, or more formal agreements such as the NCCP.

Additional natural resource protection and enhancement measures are addressed later in the Ongoing Management Issues and Opportunities section of this Executive Summary.

### **ES.1.2 Address Regional Air Quality Issues**

Oceano Dunes SVRA lies within the much larger Guadalupe-Nipomo dune system that stretches from southern San Luis Obispo County to northern Santa Barbara County. This dune system formed over tens of thousands of years by natural sand supply and onshore winds. The region has very high Particulate Matter 10 air pollution in late spring when powerful onshore winds blow across the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. For several years State Parks has been working with the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (“SLO APCD”) on regional air quality issues.

#### **ES.1.2.1 Particulate Matter Reduction Plan**

In May 2018, State Parks entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement (SOA) with the SLO APCD. Under the SOA, State Parks agreed to implement numerous dust control measures, including closing sections of the open riding area to motorized recreation and camping, installing track-out devices at the entrances at Grand and Pier avenues to reduce track-out of sand onto paved, public roadways, and preparing a Particulate Matter Reduction Plan (PMRP). The PRMP is further discussed in Volume 2, Dust Control Management and Maintenance.

Due to the in-process and dynamic nature of the PRMP, the PWP will not attempt to duplicate its conditions, treatments, or mitigation measures. Instead, the PWP requires



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compliance with the PRMP and relies on this plan for specific recommendations, actions, and standards.

### **ES.1.3 Incorporate Sea-Level Rise Strategy for Coastal Resilience**

State Parks manages nearly a third of California’s coastline. With 128 coastal park units, including those at the District, providing coastal access and recreational opportunities to over 50 million people from all over the world, State Parks has an obligation and an opportunity to play a leading role in building California’s resilience to sea-level rise and coastal hazards. Driven by these considerations, State Parks formed an internal multi-disciplinary Sea Level Rise Working Group in May 2018 to develop a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy. The strategy articulates State Parks’ approach to coastal management in an era of sea-level rise and recommends actions and tools to build sea-level rise considerations into existing planning and project development processes. The strategy considers the most recent science, guidance, and adaptation approaches taken by agencies, municipalities, and organizations across California. State Parks anticipates releasing a public summary of the strategy in early 2021.

All PWP development projects will be reviewed under the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy to address, accommodate, and adapt to potential sea-level rise effects before implementation. The PWP further discusses coastal resilience and sea-level rise efforts in Volume 1, Chapter 2, Sea-Level Rise.

### **ES.1.4 Increase Coastal Access and Lower-Cost Coastal Accommodations**

The PWP proposes projects that will enhance motorized and non-motorized access to the District, create new opportunities for lower-cost coastal accommodations, and increase visitor engagement opportunities. Highlights include:

#### ***ES.1.4.1 Oso Flaco Improvement Project (Initial)***

This project will expand coastal access, lower-cost coastal camping opportunities, and non-motorized recreational facilities, including primitive camping, a new entrance kiosk and restrooms, a formal parking area, a group gathering area, a paved concession area, and facilities for park operations and educational programs. The project will also include new pedestrian trails and linkages, a bike loop, and extensive restored natural areas, including meadows and uplands. This project focuses on improving non-motorized recreational opportunities and providing additional camping access to the coast.

#### ***ES.1.4.2 Oso Flaco Improvement Project (Future)***

The future Oso Flaco Improvement Project builds on the enhancements made under the initial project, further developing camping by adding 100 drive-in campsites for tent camping, 20 cabins, and approximately 200 new RV campsites, with the potential for group use. The project would compensate for the reduction of campsites on the beach and potentially provide an OHV access route from the campground inland (away from the Oso Flaco Lakes) to the north to the back dunes riding area. This project would require an amendment to the Oceano Dunes SVRA general plan. All proposed improvements at Oso Flaco (Initial or Future) convert existing parkland disturbed under agricultural use to new and improved recreational park uses. Buffers and treatments are proposed between improvements, adjacent agricultural properties, and existing natural habitat areas such as Oso Flaco Lakes.



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### **ES.1.4.3 Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project**

If the property becomes available for acquisition, the PWP proposes constructing new District operational facilities, including a day-use parking and staging area, camping area, facilities for educational programs, OHV safety training, concessions, special events, visitor engagement, and additional OHV and non-motorized recreation. Benefits of the project include potentially providing a dedicated OHV access and staging area into the SVRA; reducing traffic pressure and impacts from the Pier and Grand Avenue entrances in Oceano and Grover Beach; redirecting OHV traffic crossing away from Arroyo Grande Creek; providing a critical section for the OHV access route from the Oso Flaco Improvement Project (Future); creating new pedestrian and equestrian trails; enhancing habitat and resource protection, and developing new science and cultural education opportunities.

### **ES.1.4.4 Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project**

This project will replace, rearrange, and improve existing developed campsites to enhance circulation and park maintenance access. The project will plant new native trees, shrubs, and groundcover to provide shade and privacy and improve stormwater management.

### **ES.1.5 Create Operational Efficiencies to Better Serve Visitors**

Throughout the planning process, State Parks received input regarding the need for better operational efficiencies at the District. The PWP proposes infrastructure improvement projects that will enhance the visitor experience and create opportunities to serve visitors better. Highlights include:

#### **ES.1.5.1 Corporation Yard Improvement Project**

This project will rearrange facilities and increase parking in the existing Corporation Yard to accommodate the increased operational needs and staffing.

#### **ES.1.5.2 Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances & Lifeguard Towers Project**

This project will construct lifeguard towers over the existing restrooms near the entrance kiosks at Pier and Grand avenues to provide lifeguards with an unobstructed half-mile view of the beach.

#### **ES.1.5.3 North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project**

This project will construct a new, ADA-compliant entrance kiosk at the North Beach Campground to improve working conditions for staff and allow staff to assist park visitors better.

### **ES.1.6 Enhance Pismo State Beach Access and Education Opportunities**

To better balance access and educational needs within the District, the PWP proposes infrastructure projects to enhance and expand unique opportunities available at Pismo State Beach. Highlights include:

#### **ES.1.6.1 Monarch Butterfly Grove Public Access Project**

This project aims to enhance the Monarch Butterfly Grove's ecological function and improve visitor-serving amenities.



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### **ES.1.6.2 Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project**

This project will install a new 1.1-mile public access boardwalk south of Grand Avenue to provide additional pedestrian access for visitors to Pismo State Beach. The new boardwalk will also have two small loops that extend inland, providing an alternative to the main boardwalk. Development projects are described in more detail in Volume 1, Chapter 3, PWP Development Projects. Where applicable, concept or preliminary design drawings for these projects are included in Volume 1, Appendix A, Design Drawings. Volume 3, Draft Environmental Impact Report, analyzes these projects and potential impacts associated with implementation.

## **ES.2 Address Ongoing Management Issues and Opportunities**

The PWP proposes to address long-standing management issues through park management programs and recommendations. While State Parks has already taken action on some of these items, others will be implemented over time. The CCC also articulated these issues during the PWP planning process. State Parks provided quarterly updates to the CCC on these management issues and received feedback incorporated into the draft PWP.

The draft PWP offers a suite of management recommendations that lay the foundation to address the complex and competing operational issues at the District. A summary of the PWP recommendations to address long-standing management issues is highlighted below and detailed further in Volume 1, Chapter 3, The Plan.

### **ES.2.1 Vehicle and Camping Use Limits**

Park use limits for beach camping (1,000 sites), street-legal day-use (2,580), and OHV day-use (1,720) were authorized in CDP-4-82-300-A5, as amended in 2001. The 2005 carrying capacity study also supported these use limits. The PWP recommends:

- Implement year-round interim vehicle use limit reductions to 500 beach campsites, 1,000 street-legal vehicles, and 1,000 OHVs per day.
- Conduct an independently peer-reviewed carrying capacity study to determine appropriate limits for beach camping and day-use by OHVs and street-legal vehicles and update use limits accordingly.
- Designate a beach camping area and evaluate for additional measures, including establishing maximum campsite square footage per reservation and a maximum number of vehicles, users, and OHVs per site.

#### **ES.2.1.1 Exceptions to Use Limits**

State Parks eliminated the Exceptions to Use Limits practice in 2001. The PWP does not propose to re-instate any use limit exceptions.

### **ES.2.2 Predator Management**

The PWP will enhance and expand predator control measures. See Volume 1, Chapter 3, Trash Enclosure at Post 2/Beach Trash Management, for additional proposed trash enclosure and trash management actions. Highlights of measures include:

- Replacement and ongoing management of trashcans and dumpsters – maintaining lids on trashcans throughout the District.



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- Replacement of open dumpsters at Post 2 with enclosed dumpsters.
  - Development of an enclosed dumpster collection area, in addition to utilizing enclosed dumpsters, to deter wildlife and predators.
  - Year-round predator monitoring to include surveys, trapping, and annual reporting.

### **ES.2.3 Night Riding**

The PWP proposes to incorporate recommendations contained in the BDMP developed with CDFW. Recommendations include:

- CDFW and State Parks will conduct a joint study to gather site-specific information and foster adaptive management concerning the impacts of night riding on natural resources and species.
- Prohibit night riding over a specified period during the study.

### **ES.2.4 Arroyo Grande Creek Crossing**

The PWP proposes to incorporate recommendations contained in the BDMP developed with CDFW. Recommendations include:

- Close creek crossing to all vehicular traffic when flows reach a specific depth.
- Investigate options for installing a temporary bridge over the creek when it flows.

### **ES.2.5 Shorebird Management and Nest Exclosures**

CDFW outlines several recommendations in the BDMP regarding shorebird nesting, wintering, and exclosure actions. Examples of recommendations from the BDMP include:

- Increase buffer zones around western snowy plover and California least tern nesting sites, including the main seasonal exclosure.
- Utilize an adaptive management and intense monitoring method.
- Close the area of shoreline in front of the newly established 48-acre foredune to public access when nests are present.
- Establish an NCCP that considers the populations (both plants and wildlife and the habitats they rely on) as a whole and accommodates additional management actions.

### **ES.2.6 Improve Fencing Program**

The PWP proposes to enhance State Parks' fence management program, which includes over 35 miles of fencing. Highlights of measures include:

- Increased monitoring, inspections, and maintenance of installed fencing to quickly identify and remedy fence maintenance issues.
- Continued maintenance of fence operational efficacy, for example, by moving large amounts of sand that accumulate along fence lines impacting the integrity and effectiveness of fencing.



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- Install wind fencing.
  - Continue ongoing studies with monitoring, data collection, and analysis.

### **ES.2.7 Operational Enforcement**

The PWP proposes to increase operational enforcement. Highlights of measures include:

- Construct a new observation tower at the Grand Avenue entrance to provide additional oversight and enforcement and decrease response times.
- Upgrade entrance stations at Grand and Pier avenues with modern facilities that can apply new technology to help manage visitor use and better track visitor numbers, including vehicle counts.
- Increase staff hours at the entrance stations.
- Install additional regulatory signage at entrance stations and throughout the parks.
- Continue recruitment efforts to increase law enforcement staffing capabilities.

### **ES.2.8 Enhance Public Outreach**

State Parks is currently conducting three separate outreach efforts, one each for the PWP, the SOA with the SLO APCD, and the HCP with the USFWS. In addition, District staff recently implemented a permanent public outreach and community engagement plan. One of the main goals of State Parks' community engagement programming is to continue outreach efforts beyond the PWP. Highlights of additional measures proposed in the PWP include:

- Improve existing educational facilities at, and provide bus access to, the Oso Flaco Day Use Area.
- Install interpretive facilities, such as educational panels, kiosks, audio tours, and multi-language materials.
- Actively engage local individuals and organizations to improve park operations and visitor experiences and build relationships to establish an ongoing community outreach program.
- Enhance community outreach and engagement efforts to underserved communities and non-traditional park users using in-person, technology, and social media techniques.
- Actively engage with partners for input and assistance to increase access to quality interpretative programs for underrepresented groups.

### **ES.2.9 Special Events Protocols**

Highlights of PWP recommendations include:

- Identify the most appropriate areas in the District for special events and adapt those areas as appropriate to limit activities to specific locations where management of events and mitigation of potential impacts are feasible.



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- Continue to require CEQA review and regulatory permitting as appropriate.
  - Special events shall not exceed use limits.

### **ES.2.10 Evaluate Entrance Modifications**

The PWP recommends:

- Modify entrances to maximize access for people and vehicles.
- Enhance monitoring and control of vehicle entries.
- Identify and construct a new, year-round entrance in the southern portion of the park.
- Develop and implement best management practices (BMPs) to prevent dust and sand accumulation in the Grover Beach and Oceano communities and incorporate those BMPs into the District's maintenance programs.
- Implement the Sand Track Out project at Pier and Grand avenues to remove sand from the vehicles exiting the beach and reduce sand moving onto the avenues.
- Enhance the ongoing street sweeping program to provide contracted services three days a week on the county roads and in-house services five days a week on park property.

### **ES.2.11 Allow for Future Closures for Required Dust Control**

The PWP proposes to address future dust control projects through the Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Measures approved in CDP 3-12-050-A1.

### **ES.2.12 Evaluate Phasing Out of OHV**

An EIR alternative to consider phase out of OHV recreation was included upon request of CCC staff and some stakeholders (see Volume 3, Chapter 2, Alternatives). Under this alternative, use of any vehicle identified in CVC § 38010 and 38012 as an OHV would be phased out and eliminated over a prescribed period of five years. Consequently, street-legal vehicles would be allowed to access the beach in both parks from Grand Avenue south to the SVRA boundary. This alternative conflicts with State Parks' responsibility to manage state park land in a manner consistent with governing laws (PRC § 5008, § 5090.2(b), § 5090.35(a)) while promoting accessible recreation, and would not meet the statutory mandate of managing Oceano Dunes SVRA under its current classification (PRC § 5090.14.1). The legal issues and approvals required for such a change are outlined in Volume 3, Chapter 2, Alternatives.

## **ES.3 The Plan Overview**

The PWP is organized into three volumes. Volume 1 is the plan, providing the vision and direction for future operations. It consists of an introduction; purpose statement; legal authorities; descriptions and preliminary designs for proposed development projects; programs and plans for future management; information on the PWP review, approval, and implementation process; a consistency analysis of Local Coastal Plans; and related appendices. The CCC would certify this volume.

Volume 2 contains detailed descriptions of the existing conditions in the District. It includes an introduction; description of the planning area; background, land



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use, and park history; discussion of the current operations, maintenance, visitor services, and resource management programs; a summary of related regional, state, and federal plans; and related appendices.

Volume 3 consists of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and related appendices.

### **ES.3.1 Benefits of the Public Works Plan**

This PWP provides a comprehensive and efficient process for Coastal Act compliance. It addresses long-term management concerns, capital improvement projects (e.g., new facilities and visitor amenities), and development projects that will result from the need to update or replace existing facilities at the parks. It is considered a management plan under the State Parks' planning structure and builds on the goals and guidelines of the parks' general plan and amendments. It will provide State Parks with management direction for operational authorities not related to the Coastal Act and regulatory mandates such as those for the protection of natural resources and air quality. The PWP does not affect or remove State Parks' vested rights as a State agency that were codified in CDP 4-82-300 relating to park use, or other State laws and codes.

The PWP fulfills both the State Parks' mission to create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation and significant resource preservation and the Coastal Act's mandate to provide full access and recreational activities while protecting coastal resources.

### **ES.3.2 Public Involvement**

Volume 1, Chapter 2, Planning Process, describes the outreach process used to provide the public and stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to become actively involved in developing the PWP. State Parks introduced the PWP planning project to the public in November 2017. The PWP planning team held three sets of meetings and workshops with the public, in addition to regular meetings with stakeholders and agencies. The public meetings and workshops were held at locations near the parks in San Luis Obispo County and at locations in the Central Valley near the population centers user groups. For example, the initial CEQA scoping meetings took place in both Arroyo Grande and Fresno in May 2018. From the onset, State Parks staff consulted regularly with CCC staff, San Luis Obispo County planning staff, State and local agencies, stakeholder groups, and Native American Tribes to gather input and provide updates on the PWP planning process.

Project outreach efforts included:

- Quarterly PWP planning updates at CCC and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission meetings.
- PWP project website with information on the PWP, including project overview, timeline, document library, and FAQs.
- A 2018 visitor survey, a 2020 camping survey, and a 2020/2021 residents survey.
- Regular project updates through email and mail to PWP subscribers, Spanish and English language media, and agencies.



State Parks worked to ensure meaningful engagement and participation in the process with underserved and underrepresented communities to ensure

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provision of increased coastal access, removal of barriers, and lower-cost accommodations. Following State Parks' Native American consultation policy and Coastal Act requirements, community engagement and outreach efforts included regular consultation with Native American tribes including the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, and the Yak Tityu Tityu Yak Tilhini community.

District staff are involved in the communities served by the parks, including neighboring as well as more distant communities where many visitors reside, such as those in the Central Valley of California. The PWP planning team built upon State Parks' community engagement strategies and educational programs to connect with non-traditional park users during the PWP planning process.

Unfortunately, much of the efforts to fully engage local communities in the PWP planning process were hampered by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited in-person meetings across the state. Although in-person meetings are the preferred method for community engagement, COVID-19 has temporarily challenged this conventional way of conducting meetings. The PWP planning team shifted its approach from in-person community engagement to on-line and other digital outreach to create contacts and gather data from local communities during this period. Alternatives such as video conferencing and webinars can still produce productive community input. However, webinars require high-speed internet, equipment, and technical training, which can be a barrier in communities that may lack digital connectivity.

The PWP commits to continuing innovative efforts for long-term community outreach and engagement using strategies and lessons learned from successful community engagement efforts at Los Angeles State Historic Park and the Proposition 68 Statewide Park Program, directing over \$650 million in grant funding to create new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California.

The PWP recommends the creation and development of a long-term community engagement program, which is already underway. State Parks' community engagement goal is to make connections and build relationships with community members, organizations, and institutions. Engaging local individuals and organizations to improve park operations and visitor experiences and build relationships is key to establishing a community outreach program. Therefore, the community engagement program will continue these efforts beyond the PWP. Partners from Oceano and other local communities will be vital to establishing a successful program. This program will help implement State Parks' statewide goals for better serving these communities while also addressing Coastal Act mandates aimed at embodying the fundamental principles of environmental justice.

### **ES.3.3 Environmental Justice**

California Government Code Section 65040.12 (e) defines environmental justice as:

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

State Parks is committed to applying environmental justice to its planning efforts to serve all Californians equally. State Parks also manages about one-third of California's



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coastline and recognizes the importance of the CCC's policy in providing equitable access to coastal resources. PWP development has followed the CCC's Statement of Environmental Principles and State Parks' guidance regarding environmental justice when planning and developing the PWP's goals, principles, programs, and projects. The following highlights some of the environmental justice principles that are integrated throughout the PWP.

- Native American consultation was conducted during the planning process and will continue through the implementation of the PWP.
- The PWP advances equitable access to the coast by proposing projects that enhance low-cost accommodations, recreational facilities and amenities, and affordable access to the District.
- The PWP builds upon the District's existing interpretation and educational programs to enhance connections with traditional and non-traditional audiences.
- In coordination with State and local transportation agencies, the PWP recommends improving access to park entrances and destinations, connecting recreational trails to local and regional networks, and improving public transportation to the parks.
- PWP Development Projects were designed to minimize the effects of sea-level rise, where possible, and improve access to recreation, the beach, and dunes.
- To improve air quality, the PWP recommends reducing visitor-related vehicle use, installing sand track-out devices, and strategies to reduce emissions and further comply with the PMRP.

State Parks is committed to ongoing engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities to ensure their participation in decisions that will affect their communities. By implementation of the PWP, State Parks enhances access by creating meaningful outdoor and recreational opportunities, increasing coastal access and lower-cost overnight accommodations, and improving environmental conditions such as air and water quality. These protocols are summarized in more detail in Volume 1, Chapter 2, Environmental Justice.

#### **ES.4 Plan Implementation**

Following certification of this PWP, State Parks can implement the identified projects without submitting separate CDP applications, provided the development actions are consistent with the PWP. Subsequent projects require a notice of consistency with the certified PWP (Notice of Impending Development or NOID) to be provided to the CCC, other State agencies, and other interested persons, organizations, and governmental agencies. See Volume 1, Chapter 5 for detailed information about implementation, amendments, and emergency authorizations.

The California Natural Resources Agency and its departments, including State Parks, adopted an Access for All initiative as a key priority rooted in the belief that all Californians have a right to access recreational opportunities and enjoy the cultural, historic, and natural resources found across the state. The CCC also adopted a goal to maximize public coastal access and recreation for all in its 2021-2025 Final Strategic Plan, which includes partnering with State Parks to explore new public access opportunities and lower-cost coastal accommodations.



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The PWP provides recommendations to resolve management issues such as the replacement or upgrade of outdated facilities, improvements to visitor services, and the reduction of impacts to the northern entrance areas. The plan also identifies options to address increasing public demand for coastal recreational opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized trails and day-use areas, additional coastal camping facilities, and expanded interpretation and educational facilities. Finally, the PWP establishes measures to enhance natural resource preservation programs and protection of valuable coastal resources.

The PWP provides the public, stakeholders, local, state, and federal agencies the ability to comment and engage on issues facing the District in an interconnected and comprehensive way. Each issue and proposed solution are components of an overall solution. The PWP offers a range of options necessary to bring the long-standing, overlapping, and highly complex issues facing the District to a sustainable resolution. The recommended actions protect natural and cultural resources while providing access and high-quality recreation to California's coast. The meaningful solutions offered embody State Parks' mission to provide high-quality outdoor recreation while preserving significant resources as well as fulfilling the Coastal Act's mandate to protect coastal resources while providing access to the coast.



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